



## **THTR 105 INTRO TO SCREEN ACTING**

**Units: 2**

**Spring 2023—Day—Time: WEDNESDAYS 8:00-9:50am**

**Location:** SHR 105 Shrine Auditorium

**Instructor: Kevin McCorkle**

**Office:** [kmccorkl@usc.edu](mailto:kmccorkl@usc.edu)

**Office Hours:** Upon Request open

**Contact Info:** [kmccorkl@usc.edu](mailto:kmccorkl@usc.edu) [21kactor@gmail.com](mailto:21kactor@gmail.com) Cell 310-569-0460 call/text

### **Course Description**

Introduction to the theoretical and foundational practices, techniques and strategies specific to screen acting in relation to the basic dynamics of acting for the stage. THTR 105 is an exploration of the practice of recorded performance as a career. Students will become aware of the artistic elements and practical elements of starting and growing a career as an Actor of recorded work. Whereas stage acting is performed live and experienced in the moment never to be viewed in the exact way again as the live performance is presented, Screen Acting (recorded performance) lives on for as long as the recording and means to view it exists. In this class we will explore the process of how performance in a recorded media differs from live performance and how it is similar. Class will cover the art, technique, vocabulary, practical application and behavior, protocols and rules utilized on a film set and when recording a performance. Preparation, the audition process, work on set, post production expectations and career continuity will be part of the learning and “doing” process of this class. Outside work and time devoted to the goals of this class are absolutely required and must be accomplished. Discipline, commitment and follow through are key for the class and individual student as well.

### **Learning Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this class, students will have a practical working knowledge of both the theoretical and foundational techniques and strategies for auditioning, working and navigating the process of acting in recorded media as a career. Students will be recorded in class and will learn to record themselves and each other outside of class in simulated auditions (self tape) and work situations (content creation.)

### **Course Notes**

The grading type for this course will be A, B, C, D, F unless a student opts for pass/no pass. Class will be live with lecture, lab (on camera work), zoom and live guests. Video viewing and analysis in and outside of class will occur. Assignments and progress will be posted on Blackboard.

## Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Homework assignments will include filming monologues or scenes. No special equipment is necessary. Assignments may be filmed on your phone or iPad. If you do not have a device to record on, please contact me directly so I may assist you.

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

**DIRECTING ACTORS 25th Anniversary Edition** Judith Weston (Available for purchase online)

## Optional Readings and Supplementary Materials

**ACTIONS: THE ACTORS' THESAURUS** Marina Caldrón

**SANFORD MEISNER ON ACTING** Sanford Meisner & Dennis Longwell

**A LIFE IN PARTS** Bryan Cranston

Other optional books TBD.

## Description and Assessment of Assignments

Work assignments will be both practical and academic. Quizzes, tests and exams of conceptual material presented will be given, recorded performances will be assigned as well as written assignments to determine the students understanding and comprehension of the subject matter and execution.

## Participation

Participation is mandatory.

## Grading Breakdown

Assessment Tool (assignments)	Points	% of Grade
Quizzes	10	10
Participation	15	15
Homework	10	10
Mid-Term	25	25
On Camera Work	15	15
Final	25	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

## Grading Scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

## Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments must be submitted on time.

## Grading Timeline

Grading will be updated every two weeks.

## Course Specific Policies

If you have a fever or are sick stay home. Please email me directly if you going to miss class.

## Classroom norms

Phones should be silenced during class. Pay attention to your fellow students when they are performing. Discussions should be on topic and shared with the entire class.

## Zoom etiquette

As this is an acting class, all students are expected to have their camera on during any zoom class that may occur. Please contact me directly before the class if you have a challenge being on camera.

## Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

### **Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies**

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. ([Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook](#), page 13).

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings/Homework</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
<b>Week 1</b> 1/11/23	Syllabus, 2 minute intro Lecture: intro D.A. Anthony Hopkins Video Discuss Tomorrow or Out Spot	Chapter 1 D.A. read for week 2 Monologue Rachel McAdams Audition	1/18/23 Record Monologue Tomorrow or Out Spot
<b>Week 2</b> 1/18/23	Lecture: Review Chapter 1 D.A. Review Rachel McAdams Discuss <b>5 Easy Pieces</b>	Chapter 2 D.A read for week 3 <b>5 Easy Pieces</b> Monologue assignment Review link Dacre Montgomery audition	1/25/23 Record reading <b>5 Easy Pieces</b> in class Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Select Scene from Ivana Chubbuck link or any other outside source
<b>Week 3</b> 1/25/23	Record reading <b>5 Easy Pieces</b> Lecture: Ch. 2 D.A. Discuss Scene Choices	Chapter 3 D.A. Read Screen Acting Terminology Connect with scene partner on rehearsal times	2/01/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Standard Take Home Quiz
<b>Week 4</b> 2/01/21	Quiz in by 8:10 Video Warm Up: The Close Up Record Reading <b>Scene 1</b> Lecture: including Ch 3 D.A & Screen Acting Terminology	Chapter 4 D.A. Rehearse Scene 1 with Partner Take Home Quiz on Terminology	2/8/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Turn in take home Quiz
<b>Week 5</b> 2/08/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm up: Physical Behavior Lecture: Ch. 4 D.A. Guest	Chapter 5 D.A. Rehearse Scene 1 Select Scene 2	2/15/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Be prepared to <b>shoot Scene 1</b> Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 6</b> 2/15/23	Quiz in by 8:10 Warm Up <b>Shoot Scene 1</b>	Chapter 6 D. A. Take home quiz on D.A. Chapters 1-5 Rehearse <b>Scene 2</b>	2/22/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Turn in take home Quiz
<b>Week 7</b> 2/22/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm Up: Two Emotions Record Reading <b>Scene 2</b>	Chapter 7 D. A. Rehearse <b>Scene 2</b>	3/01 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 8</b> 3/01/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm Up Lecture: Question and Answer GUEST	Chapter 8 D.A Rehearse <b>Scene 2</b>	3/08 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Standard Take home Quiz

<b>Week 9</b> 3/08/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm Up: Finding an Object Lab: <b>Scene 2</b> Rehearsal Discuss Mid-Term	Chapter 9 D.A. Study for Mid-Term Chapters 6-8	3/22 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 10</b> 3/22	<b>Mid-Term</b> Guest	Chapter 10 D.A. Rehearse <b>Scene 2</b> Select <b>Scene 3</b> Writing Assignment: Reflection - Write 200 words on how the class is going for you	3/29 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Be prepared to <b>shoot Scene 2</b> Writing Reflection due Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 11</b> 3/29/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Writing Reflection due by 8:10am Warm Up: Death On Camera <b>Shoot Scene 2</b>	Chapter 11 D.A. Rehearse <b>Scene 3</b>	4/05/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Be prepared to read Scene 3 Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 12</b> 4/05/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm Up: Emotion Flow Record Reading Scene 3	Chapter 12 D.A. Rehearse <b>Scene 3</b>	4/12/23 Prepare bullet points/ questions from reading Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 13</b> 4/12/23	Quiz in by 8:10am Video Warm Up Lab: Scene 3 Rehearsal	<b>Rehearse Scene 3 on camera</b> with partner Writing Assignment: write 100 words about your character and their objectives in the scene	4/19 Prepare questions about acting/ being on set for Guest Speaker Turn in Writing Assignment on Character Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 14</b> 4/19	Quiz in by 8:10am Writing Assignment on Character due 8:10am Video Warm Up Terminology Trivia Guest	Rehearse <b>Scene 3</b> with partner	4/26 Be prepared to shoot <b>Scene 3</b> Standard Take home Quiz
<b>Week 15</b> 4/26	Quiz in by 8:10am Warm Up <b>Shoot Scene 3</b> Discuss Final	Study for Final: Chapters 9-12 and Acting Terminology 2 minute Video Diary on your experience in class	Video Diary Due: 5/8 by 11:00am
<b>FINAL</b> 5/8	<b>Monday 5/8</b> <b>11am-1pm</b>		Refer to the final exam schedule in the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at <a href="https://classes.usc.edu">classes.usc.edu</a> .

## Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

### Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, comprises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

### Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [osas.usc.edu](http://osas.usc.edu). You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at [osasfrontdesk@usc.edu](mailto:osasfrontdesk@usc.edu).

### Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis

centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or [otfp@med.usc.edu](mailto:otfp@med.usc.edu)

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.