

# USC School of Dramatic Arts

**Filmmaking for Actors**  
**THTR 516**

**Units: 2**  
**Spring 2024**

**Tuesdays 3pm-5:50pm**  
**MCC 108**

**NTARE GUMA MBAHO MWINE**  
[mwine@usc.edu](mailto:mwine@usc.edu)

## **Office Hours**

Thursdays 3pm-5:50pm

**IT Help:** Prakash Shirke  
**Contact Info:** Shirke@usc.edu

## **Course Description and Overview**

The course is designed to help the actor demystify on camera acting and be self-sufficient at self-taping auditions. Through a series of on camera games and exercises acting students will deepen their understanding and relationship with the camera.

## **Course Objectives**

Students will conduct on camera exercises and have the opportunity to focus on individual and group projects, which will be shared with the class as a whole at the end of each session. The students will regularly write, edit and star in videos throughout the course that will strengthen their relationship and understanding of acting on camera.

## **Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required**

Students will be required to film and edit their own video projects. They may record videos on their phones, tablets, laptops, point and shoot cameras, DSLR or any other video recording device.

Students may edit using I movie, Final Cut, Adobe Premiere or any other video editing software available.

### **Participation**

This course is more practical than lecture based. Students will be required to produce, write, act and edit their own videos on a weekly basis.

### **Optional Readings and Supplementary Materials**

*Play: How it Shapes the Brain, Opens Imagination and Invigorates the Soul*  
Written by Stuart Brown, M.D., with Christopher Vaughan founder of National Institute for Play.

Available for purchase at Amazon.com

### **Grading Policy**

A work of excellent quality  
B work of fair quality  
C work of substandard quality  
D work of dire quality

### **Assignment Submission Policy**

Students will be required to turn in their video assignments as instructed on a weekly basis. Work can be submitted online via a private link or by directly projecting their work on the tv monitor in class for group viewing.

### **Grading Timeline**

Students will receive detailed feedback on a weekly basis per assignment.

### **Attendance Policy:**

This is ensemble-based work; therefore, it is a requirement for the entirety of the ensemble to be present for every class. **Absences** will directly affect your grade and standing in the program. A **lateness** will be counted as an **absence**. A **lateness** is anything after a 5 minute grace period at the official start time of class. Anything further will result in an expulsion from the class.\*

All latenesses and absences need to be documented by the student at fault via email. The student must email the professor of the class they are missing, David Warshofsky and Natsuko Ohama. Further, the professor must report these events to David Warshofsky

and Natsuko Ohama. These occurrences must be catalogued and grading must be reflected as follows -

**Grading Policy:**

THREE (3) absences will result in a demotion of your grade. The totality of 3 absences results in a **full letter grade** demotion. If you miss a total of FIVE (5) classes, you fail the class. Any failed class will result in academic probation.

**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).

**SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities\* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

\*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

### **Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

	<b>Topics/Daily Activities</b>	<b>Readings and Homework</b>	<b>Deliverable/ Due Dates</b>
Jan 19th, 2024	Self tape audition	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Jan 16th, 2024	Self tape audition	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Jan 23rd, 2024	Self tape audition	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Jan 30th, 2024	TBD Exploring yin yang on camera for the actor.	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Feb 6h, 2024	TBD Actors will film and present dailies of yin yang on camera for review and discussion. Continue filming	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Feb 13th, 2024	Actors will film and present dailies of yin yang on camera for review and discussion. Continue filming.	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
Feb 20th, 2024	Continue of yin yang exercise for review and discussion.	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD

Feb 27th, 2023	TBD	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
March 5th, 2024	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
March 19th, 2024	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
March 26th, 2024	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
April 2nd, 2024	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
April 9th, 2024	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
April 16th, 2023	TBD final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD
April 23rd, 2023	Present 5 week final project	Required on camera work outside of class	TBD

**Final Exam**

Presentation of film

**Statement on 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](#).

## **Statements 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, compromises 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).

### **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:**

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

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### **SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:**

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and

offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

### **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.