

THEA 80A-Theory and Technique of Acting for the Camera  
Winter 2024  
De Anza College

Instructor: Liz Stimson  
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Class Meets: T/TH 9:30-12:15 in MLC 226  
Office Hours: T/TH 12:15-12:45 in MLC 226 & by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will introduce students to the basics of on camera acting. We will cover vocabulary, behind the scenes work, performance preparation, on camera performance and basic auditioning and marketing information. Through on camera interviews, auditions, improvisations and scene study the student will develop an understanding of the actor's relationship to the camera.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Recognize the process by which actors are interviewed, auditioned, and cast for all forms of on media production.
2. Practice and distinguish effective body movement and voice modulation as it pertains to camera acting styles, camera angle and shot size and continuity of takes.
3. Demonstrate the basic skills in the practice and performance of scripted work for the camera and the subsequent critiquing of the work including self evaluation.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the camera media from an actor's perspective.
2. Analyze, rehearse and perform scripted material on camera.
3. Develop an awareness of studio layout, studio personnel and vocabulary.
4. Learn the skills to create, develop and perform a character.

Recommended Text: Acting for the Camera: Back to One by Peter Allen Stone  
*(Available in De Anza library reserves)*

**POLICIES:**

**Late Work:** Assignments are due on the date listed in the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the instructor (email or office hours) if an extension is needed.

**Dropping:** It is the student's responsibility to add or drop the class. Please see [De Anza College Academic Calendar Winter 2024](#) for specific dates.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including invisible ones, are encouraged to communicate with the instructor their needs and appropriate accommodations. [De Anza Disability Support Services](#)

**Participation:** Please wear clothing which does not restrict movement. Expect to be physically active.

**HELPFUL SERVICES:**

**De Anza College Library Website:** [De Anza College Library](#)

**Online tutoring and workshops available at:** [De Anza Student Success Center](#)

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**JANUARY 15**

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday - no classes, offices closed

**FEBRUARY 16-19**

Presidents' Holiday - no classes, offices closed

**MARCH 1**

Last day to drop classes with a W

**MARCH 25-29**

[Final exams](#)

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students who present the work of others without giving proper credit (citation), will receive an “F” grade for that assignment which cannot be made up. If you feel that you are having trouble with an assignment and require assistance please meet with me during my office hours or schedule an additional time to meet.

[Academic Integrity De Anza College](#)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

100 points out of the total 400 points for the class are for class participation.

- First two absences (excused or unexcused) no points taken off from participation
- Each tardy counts as ½ of an absence.
- I **will** accept excuses for illness, religious holidays and family emergencies. Please contact me ahead of time in these cases. No points taken off.
- You will **not** pass the class if you miss more than 6 class meetings (for ANY reason).

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Recording #1	40 points
Recording #2 (Midterm)	60 points
Recording #3 (Final)	100 points
Character Analyses	50 points total (2 @ 25 points each)
Film Review	50 points
Participation	100 points
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>400 points</b>

**GRADING:**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Equivalent</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>400-372</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>371-360</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>359-348</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>347-332</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>331-320</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>319-299</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>298-280</b>
<b>D+</b>	<b>279-268</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>267-252</b>
<b>D-</b>	<b>251-240</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>239-0</b>

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: THEA 80A–Winter 2024

In Class	Assignments (available in Canvas)
<b>Week 1 (1/9, 1/11)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome, syllabus review, etc</li><li>• Warm-ups and Improvs (back to one)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Complete Discussion in Canvas</b></li><li>• <b>Read articles in Canvas</b></li></ul>
<b>Week 2 (1/16, 1/18)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm-ups and Improvs</li><li>• Slate introduction</li><li>• <b>Recording #1: Slate &amp; Interview</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Read articles in Canvas</b></li></ul>
<b>Week 3 (1/23, 1/25)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phasic Relaxation</li><li>• Basic Shots</li><li>• Scene work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Assignment: Choose commercial (due 1/30)</b></li></ul>
<b>Week 4 (1/30, 2/1)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm-ups &amp; Improvs</li><li>• Rehearsals: Memorization Strategies, Imagination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cold Reading Commercials</b>–bring hard copy to class</li><li>• <b>Character Analysis Commercial</b>–will do in class 2/1--no analysis = no rehearsal</li></ul>
<b>Week 5 (2/6, 2/8)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm-ups &amp; Improv Sense Memory</li><li>• Rehearsals</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Commercial memorized/off book</b>–(2/6)</li></ul>

**Week 6 (2/13, 2/15)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recording #2:</b> Commercial</li> <li>● Discuss Final Scene Selection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recording #2:</b> Commercial</li> <li>● <b>Final Scene Selection</b> Hard copies (3) (due 2/20)</li> </ul>
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**Week 7 (2/20, 2/22)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cold readings, rehearsals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Character Analysis--Scene--will do in class 2/22--no analysis = no rehearsal</b></li> </ul>
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**Week 8 (2/27, 2/29)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Eyeline, Hitting your mark</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Assignment: Film Review</b> (due 3/12)</li> <li>● <b>Assignment: Chroma Key Image</b> (due 3/5)</li> </ul>
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**Week 9 (3/5, 3/7)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Blocking, Business/Activities</li> <li>● Rehearsals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Chroma Key Image</b> (due 3/5)</li> </ul>
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**Week 10 (3/12, 3/14)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rehearsals</li> <li>● Off book</li> <li>● <b>Recording #3: Final Scene</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Memorized/off book</b> (due 3/12)</li> <li>● Recording of final scene</li> </ul>
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**Week 11 (3/19, 3/21)**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Recording #3: Final Scene</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recording of final scene</li> </ul>
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**Week 12 (3/26)**

<b>Final: Tuesday March 26th: 9:15-11:15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Viewing of final scenes</li> </ul>
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