

LMC 3062 Syllabus

Film Acting Workshop

3 Credits

TR, 2:00-3:15 Skiles 002

Instructor

Prof. Philip Auslander

Email

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Office Hours & Location

T,Th 11:30-12:15
365 Skiles and online

General Information

Over the past several years, Atlanta has become a hub for film production at all levels, ranging from local independent productions all the way up to high-budget Hollywood film and television productions, creating significant opportunities for those interested in working in this industry.

This workshop-based course is intended for the student who is interested in exploring these opportunities, especially from the actor's point of view.

Topics to be explored include:

- Acting for the Camera
- Script Analysis
- Casting/Auditioning
- The Actor's Tool Kit (Head Shot, Resume, Reel, etc.)
- The Structure of the Film Industry and the Actor's Place in it
- The History and Techniques of Film Acting

Class sessions will be divided between hands-on workshop sessions, lecture/discussion sessions, and individual consultation with the instructor. Required work will include both written and performance assignments.

Course Modality

This course will take place in person. If you wish to wear a mask, please do, but you must be comfortable removing it when performing.

Pre-Requisites

ENGL 1102

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Develop their acting skills
- Develop their knowledge of the history of film acting
- Develop their textual analysis skills by analyzing scripts and film performances
- Develop their knowledge of film acting as a profession and part of an industry

Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
Acting Diagnostic 1	Jan. 24	5 points
Acting Diagnostic 2	Feb. 2	10 points
Self-Taped Audition 1	March 1	10 points
Monologue Performance 1	March 14	5 points
Script Analysis	March 17	25 points
Film Performance Analysis Presentation	April 11	15 points
Acting Technique Reflection Paper	April 26	25 points
Monologue Performance 2	April 18	20 points
Self-Taped Audition 2	April 18	15 points
Piazza Posts	12 dates	20 points

Description of Graded Components

More detailed descriptions appear in the Assignments section of the Canvas website.

Acting Diagnostic 1: You will prepare a 2-3 minute audition video from a script provided by the instructor.

Acting Diagnostic 2: A revision of the video following feedback from the instructor.

Self-Taped Audition 1: A 2-4 minute audition video from a script provided by the instructor.

Self-Taped Audition 2: A revision of the video due at the end of the semester following feedback from the instructor and incorporating all the acting techniques you have explored in the course.

Monologue Performance 1: With advice from the instructor, you will select two 2-4 minute monologues to perform live in class.

Monologue Performance 2: At the end of the semester, you will perform your monologues again reflecting feedback from the class and instructor and incorporating all the acting techniques you have explored in the course.

Script Analysis: You will annotate the scripts for your Filmed Audition and Monologues according to instructor's instructions. Your final performances of these projects should reflect your analysis.

Film Performance Analysis: You will select a short scene from a film and analyze one actor's performance in an in-class presentation.

Acting Technique Reflection Paper: Two weeks of this course are devoted to an overview of the history of film acting. In this paper, you will respond to this question: Out of all of the ideas and specific techniques you have encountered during your tour, which ones stand out to you as being particularly useful for addressing your current needs as an actor?

Piazza Posts: 12 times during the semester, you will post your reflections on the preceding week's work as an actor's journal. The sign-up link for Piazza is on the home page of the Canvas website.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

Total: 150 Points

A	135 Points and Above
B	120 - 134 Points
C	105 - 119 Points
D	90 - 104 Points
F	89 Points and Below

According to policy, grades at Georgia Tech are interpreted as follows:

A	Excellent (4 quality points per credit hour)
B	Good (3 quality points per credit hour)
C	Satisfactory (2 quality points per credit hour)
D	Passing (1 quality point per credit hour)
F	Failure (0 quality points per credit hour)

See <http://registrar.gatech.edu/info/grading-system> for more information about the grading system at Georgia Tech.]

Course Texts (available through the Canvas website)

John Howard Swain, *The Science and Art of Acting for the Camera*

Marina Calderone and Maggie Lloyd-Williams, *Actions: The Actors' Thesaurus*

Additional Materials/Resources

Additional reading and viewing material is available on the home page of the Canvas site.

Course Website

All information about this course will appear and all assignments will be accepted through the website on Canvas.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Work Ethic and Expectations

1. Punctual completion of all assignments.
2. Type all written work. Elements of form (e.g., legibility, organization, punctuation, grammar, etc.) and overall quality of your writing will affect your grade as well as your mastery of skills.
3. Actively participate in all class discussions and be fully prepared for each class. Full preparation means that you are focused and ready to participate in the day's work. If you are performing, have your lines fully memorized and your approach to the scene fully worked out. As the great acting teacher Sanford Meisner says in another context, "Don't come in empty!"
4. Critically evaluate all work presented in class. While you should always strive to be open and honest in your critique, you should be aware of the power of words. I expect our critiques and discussions to be constructive, cordial, and sensitive.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance and Participation

Since this is a workshop-based class, attendance is critical. Grading is based on regular attendance and punctuality; enthusiastic participation in daily class activities/exercises; consistent discussion of exercises and presentations; and successful completion of all outside assignments. Any unexcused absences shall impact seriously on your grade.

Given the emphasis on developing a professional work ethic and responsibility to each other and the work-at-hand, you are allowed only THREE unexcused absences. In addition, habitual lateness will NOT be tolerated and will result in a lowering of your overall grade at my discretion. Please note that two tardies (more than 10 minutes late) will equal one absence. Furthermore, I reserve the right to fail any student who misses 50 percent or more of our class meetings. Absences in addition to the permitted ones related to illness, emergencies, and required GT business will be excused only if documented by the Dean of Students' Office. Please notify me regarding any anticipated absences as soon as possible.

Collaboration & Group Work

You are permitted and encouraged to assist other students in the class on performance projects. Other work such as papers and presentations are to be entirely your own independent work.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Missed presentations, and performance projects cannot be rescheduled under any circumstance. In addition, students who are not prepared to present when called on in class will receive a zero for that activity or performance. Deadlines are firm, but you may have an extension of 48 hours on **one** assignment during the semester if you let me know at least 24 hours before the assignment's deadline. Please note that this policy does not apply to all assignments. In-class performances and presentations are not eligible, for example. Please check with me regarding a particular assignment.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

In articulating the values of the Georgia Institute of Technology, the Strategic Plan makes the following statement regarding the nature of the Georgia Tech community as an environment in which we work, live, learn, and play. It says:

“We believe in and want to be known for having the following enduring values...: project a welcoming, inclusive culture; demonstrate mutual respect among faculty, staff, and students; celebrate uniqueness in thought, background, perspectives, and intellectual pursuits.” (9)

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts enthusiastically embraces these values. We take as inherent in all that we do that our policies and practices will demonstrate respect for all human beings, regardless of how those people may differ. The rights of all people to function with dignity are crucial, whether we are interacting within this vibrant intellectual community or with others across our streets and around the globe. We recognize that engendering a spirit of inclusiveness and respect and creating, thereby, a climate in which we can all thrive requires each of us to be socially conscious and culturally well-informed, and to operate with a keen sense of ethical responsibility. We believe that, when we accept that human excellence has the capacity to emerge from many, many sources, a strong and enabling sense of community can be set in motion, a belief that makes quite real an enabling of our greatest expectations. At Georgia Tech and in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, we expect high performance and world-class achievements in research, education, and public action, and we believe that with an inclusive culture, these expectations become, not just possible, but predictable and sustainable.

Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

The use of laptops and tablets for the purpose of taking notes is permitted. Such use is not permitted while people are performing. At those times, you are to watch and learn. The use of cell phones is not permitted. If you know you are going to receive or need to make an urgent call during class time, please let the instructor know at the start of class and excuse yourself at the appropriate time.

Campus Resources for Students

The Communication Center

The Communication Center is located in Clough Commons, Suite 447. It is an excellent resource for any student (undergraduate or graduate) who wants help with a communication-related project. You can visit the center for help at any stage of the process for any project in any discipline. The knowledgeable and friendly tutors are available to help you develop and revise your projects. They are not available to “fix” your projects. Please do not ask the tutors to proofread or edit your projects. For information on making an appointment please visit this website: <https://communicationcenter.gatech.edu/make-appointment>. If you need assistance with the appointment system, you can call 404-385-3612 or stop by the center. All services are free and confidential.

Students with Temporary/Emergency Needs

Sometimes students have needs that affect their performance in class, but have nothing to do with class itself. If you find you need clothing for job interviews, food between paydays, temporary housing, or interest-free emergency loans, GT will help you through STAR Services (Students’ Temporary Assistance & Resources), (<https://studentlife.gatech.edu/content/star-services>) which is part of Student Life. There is no shame in using these services. Helping our students meet all of their needs (in and out of the classroom) is part of what being the GT community is all about.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading, Notes, due dates, and more
1/10	Introduction to the Course	
1/12	The Film Casting Process	Read Materials on Home Page
1/17	Self-Tape Auditions	
1/19	Objectives	Read Materials on Home Page I will distribute sides for the Diagnostic Video
1/20		Piazza Post #1 due
1/24	Moment Before	Read Swain, Ch. 8 Diagnostic Videos due by 11:59 PM
1/26	Group Discussion of Diagnostic Videos	
1/27		Piazza Post #2 due
1/31	Audition Monologues.	Read Materials on Home Page
2/2		Diagnostic Video Re-Dos Due by 11:59 PM
2/3		Piazza Post #3 Due
2/7	Discoveries/Emotions	Read Swain, Ch. 9
2/9	Beats, Tactics, and Actions	Read Swain, Ch. 10 and Calderone & Lloyd-Williams, pp. 12-39
2/10		Piazza Post #4 Due
2/14	Acting for the Camera 1	Read Materials on Home Page
2/16	Acting for the Camera 2	Read Materials on Home Page
2/17		Piazza Post #5 Due
2/21	Acting for the Camera 3	
2/23		Monologue Choices due by 11:59 PM I will distribute sides for self-tape sides
2/24		Piazza Post #6 Due
2/28	Headshots, Resumes, Reels, Websites	Read Materials on Home Page
3/1		Self-Tape Audition (first iteration) Due by 11:59 AM
3/2.	Group Discussion of Self-Tapes	
3/3		Piazza Post #7 Due
3/7	On Camera Workshopping of Self-Tape Sides	
3/9	On Camera Workshopping of Self-Tape Sides	
3/10		Piazza Post #8 Due
3/14	Monologues 1	You will perform your monologues in class
3/16	Monologues 2	You will perform your monologues in class

3/17		Script Analysis Assignment and Piazza Post #9 Due by 11:59 PM
3/21-23		Spring Break!
3/28	History of Film Acting 1: 19th Century and Silent Film Acting.	Review materials on Canvas
3/30	History of Film Acting 2: Stanislavski	Review materials on Canvas
3/31		Piazza Post #10 Due
4/4	History of Film Acting 3: Modern Acting	Review materials on Canvas
4/6	History of Film Acting 4: Method Acting	Review materials on Canvas
4/7		Piazza Post # 11 Due
4/9		
		Post Film Analysis Scenes by 11:59
4/11	Film Scene Analysis Presentations	
4/13	Film Scene Analysis Presentations	
4/14		Piazza Post #12 Due
		You may use this post as a pre-write for the paper due on 4/19 if you wish.
4/18	Final Individual Meetings. You will perform your two monologues live, we will watch and discuss both versions of your self-tape audition (the second version must be uploaded before class time), and we will talk about your progress in the course.	
4/2	Final Individual Meetings	
4/26	TBD	Acting Technique Reflection Paper Due by 11:59 PM