

**COMMON COURSE OUTLINE**  
**MCOM 135/THTR 135**  
**Acting for Television and Motion Pictures**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Acting for Television and Motion Pictures

Provides the opportunity for students who wish to enter media production in some aspect to discern and develop the ability to perform in the unique milieu of acting before the camera; involves an examination of these elements within the technical and performance demands of television and film production

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Review, describe, and demonstrate fundamental and advance acting techniques.
2. Differentiate, explain, amortize, and apply a fundamental knowledge of floor and booth equipment and functions of that equipment in a TV studio.
3. Analyze and determine the cue language of acting for TV and film.
4. Determine and demonstrate knowledge and awareness of procedures of preparation for acting scene takes in TV and film.
5. Restate, perform, comprehend, and determine the language and techniques of TV studio direction and cinematography.
6. Understand and operate equipment “off-screen,” including cameras, switchers, editors, monitors, recorders, etc.
7. Assess the impact of TV and film media upon society today, especially regarding the contribution of the actor.

**Major Topics in Acting for Television and Motion Pictures**

- I. Review of fundamental acting techniques and acting styles.
- II. Similarities and differences of acting techniques between stage and media.
- III. Video and cinematography techniques.
- IV. Television studio equipment and protocols.
- V. Script analysis.
- VI. Scene rehearsal: Understanding building a character out of scene sequence.

- VI. Scene rehearsal: Understanding the vision of the director.
- VII. Scene rehearsal: Understanding and integrating finding and hitting marks, keeping in frame, awareness of camera placement, and positioning for visual aesthetic to match thematic and emotional portrayals.
- VIII. Technical and visual aesthetic terminology: ls, ms, cu (Long Shot, Medium Shot, Close-Up {ecu [Extreme cu]}); Pan; Tilt; Directional Continuity; Thematic Continuity; booth switching and editing terms.
- IX. Acting in and recording the scene.
- X. Observation of results and re-takes.

**Course Requirements**

- 1. Attendance and active participation in class.
- 2. A minimum of 1 review acting exercise and presentation.
- 3. A minimum of 1 written examination covering TV studio and equipment, TV cue language, and cinematography technique.
- 4. A minimum of 2 beginning videotaping acting exercises.
- 5. A minimum of 3 videotaping acting exercises, involving full process of script analysis, blocking and placement, finding and hitting marks, characterization and emotional truth, review, re-takes.
- 6. A minimum of 1 occurrence wherein student operates a camera, and equipment in booth.
- 7. At least 1 written review-critique of a (one-hour or made for TV movie) television show.
- 8. Collaborative project, in which the class, or groups in the class, will produce a complete scene including final taping/recording, and showing.

**Other Course Information**

Credit for either MCOM or THTR 135, but not for both. THTR 135 may satisfy partial completion of Suggested Pattern Electives required for Departmental certification in Theatre.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, as a career, and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, complete all homework, preparation assignments, participation in class activities, and preparing for tests. As the semester unfolds, and this course becomes increasingly dependent upon collaboration, in a learning centered environment, it becomes incumbent upon each student to support projects in consistent attendance and practice.

