

Common Course Outline

MCOM 135/THTR 135

Acting for the Camera

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

MCOM 135/THTR 135 – Acting for the Camera introduces students to the performance demands and technical aspects of acting in front of the camera for film, video, television, and other media.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. review, describe, and demonstrate fundamental and intermediate acting techniques;
2. articulate and demonstrate differences and similarities between stage acting and on-camera acting;
3. apply a fundamental knowledge of film and video production to their acting;
4. analyze the technical language of cinematography and videography;
5. determine and demonstrate knowledge and awareness of procedures of preparation for acting scene takes;
6. demonstrate basic operation of equipment, including cameras, microphones, and lights;
7. assess the impact of on-camera acting and portrayals in today's society;
8. research and assess opportunities for finding and creating acting projects/gigs; and
9. collaborate with fellow actors, directors, and technical crews.

Major Topics

- I. Review of fundamental acting techniques and acting styles
- II. Similarities and differences of acting techniques between stage and media
- III. Cinematography and video techniques
- IV. Film and video equipment overview
- V. Script analysis
- VI. Scene rehearsal
 - A. Understanding how to build a character
 - B. Understanding the vision of the director
 - C. Understanding the actor's role in shot composition, including framing and hitting marks, awareness of camera placement
- VII. The actor's role in cinematic aesthetics, including thematic and emotional portrayals.
- VIII. Technical terminology and scene/shot execution

- IX. Acting in and recording scenes
- X. Analysis of takes and final projects

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Grading/exams

- Attendance and active participation in class
- Selection, review, and analysis of on-camera acting clips
- A minimum of one practical exercise or assignment covering film/video terminology and techniques
- A minimum of one monologue performance
- A minimum of one collaborative scene work assignment, including script analysis, blocking, and characterization
- A minimum of one written research assignment and/or presentation that may include one or more of the following: comparing stage and on-camera acting, researching career and other opportunities for on-camera acting, actors and social responsibility, impact of actor portrayals, or history of on-camera acting

Written assignments: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is a Communication and Media Studies elective and a Theatre elective.

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