

COURSE SYLLABUS

THAR 63: Acting for Film, Television and Voiceover

Section: 6177

Prerequisite: THAR 10A

Monday & Wednesday 12:00pm-2:20pm, [TV Studio/4224 Doyle Hall](#)

INSTRUCTOR: Vincent Sassone Spring 2017

Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30–3:30pm by Appointment, TV Studio

Phone: 707 527-4999, ext 5394

Email: vsassone@santarosa.edu

Mailbox: Theatre Dept. Office, 208 Burbank Auditorium

FINAL: Wednesday, May 24th, 2017, 10:00AM-12:45PM

REQUIRED TEXT: ACTION!: Acting for Film and Television by Robert Benedetti

ISBN-10: 0321418255 Longman

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:

Students will need access to a secure digital memory card as well as a smart phone, tablet, or other handheld device for recording and editing video.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- This class is designed to introduce the actor to the challenges of film, television, and voiceover acting, with additional focus on 21st century tools. General topics include: how to adjust the theatrical acting process for camera and microphone and producing a web-ready acting demo reel for casting and self-promotion.
- Core assignments include single camera film, 3-camera TV and voice-over work with an emphasis on single camera work in the first half of the semester and an emphasis on three camera TV broadcast and both narrative and character style voice over work in the latter half of the semester.
- This is a hands-on, lecture-light, activity-heavy class experience. Students will focus on learning the filmmaking process and the actor's role in it; re-imagining stage performance techniques for camera and microphone; using the elements of the filmmaking process to craft a successful screen performance; adjusting for three camera and audio recording; understanding commercial, broadcast and voice-over styles.

- Students will be required to perform in a variety of work in class including scripting and shooting a single camera commercial spot, shooting a single camera film scene, a three camera TV broadcast spot and recording both a narrative and character voice overs.
- This class will be taught in conjunction with the Media 21 filmmaking class. Theatre Arts 63 students are required to audition for and perform in two short films that will be shot during specified production time-periods outside of class. It is the student's responsibility to make time for these projects along with other homework. These films will be produced by both Media 20 (beginning level) and Media 21 (advanced level) students.
- Footage from these film performances along with in class assignment footage gathered by the student throughout the semester will be used as the basis for creating a demo reel that will serve as the student's final project and exam.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon completion of this course students will be able to

- Audition and perform for various digital and film media.
- Utilize fundamental techniques of voice, movement, and the actor's craft adjusted to those media.
- Produce and market an effective demo reel for casting, self-promotion, social-media broadcasting and audience building.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Participate in classroom work, exercises and rehearsals in and out of class
- Completion of homework assignments
- Create audio and video recordings as assigned by instructor
- Digitally record monologues and scenes that may be assigned by the instructor
- Participate in camera interviews conducted in class.
- Report on reading material.
- Rehearse / Shoot on-camera and voice-over material in class.
- Create a demo reel
- Perform assigned in-class production responsibilities
- Audition for and act in two Media 21 student short films

ASSIGNMENTS & DUE DATES:

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| • Script/Shoot/Critique Commercial | January 25th – February 8th |
| • Shoot M21 Film Audition 1 | February 6 th |
| • Rehearse / Shoot M21 Film 1 | Weekends of February 10 th & 17 th |
| • Choose/Shoot Single Camera Scenes | February 17th – March 27th |
| • Read /Write/Present "Action" Essays | Feb 10th, 22nd and March 16th |
| • Choose or Create/Shoot 3 Camera TV Spot | April 3rd – 19th |
| • Choose/Create V/O Scripts | April 24th – May 17th |
| • Shoot M21 Film Audition 2 | March 27 th |
| • Rehearse / Shoot M21 Film 2 | Weekends of April 7 th & 14 th |
| • Demo Reel Due | May 17th |
| • Final: Screen / Critique Demo Reels | May 24 th , 10AM-12:45PM |

GRADING:

Opportunities for extra credit may be offered in addition to:

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| • M21 Film and Auditions 1 & 2 | 10% |
| • Single Camera Commercial | 10% |
| • Single Camera Scene (on and off camera work) | 20% |
| • Three Camera TV Broadcast | 10% |
| • Narrative & Character V/O's | 10% |
| • "Action" Essays | 10% |
| • Demo Reel | 20% |
| • Attendance and Participation | 10% |

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Following is the DEPARTMENT ATTENDANCE POLICY for ALL ACTING CLASSES. Santa Rosa Junior College allows for a stricter policy when other students' grades are dependent on your attendance. Woody Allen once said that the key to success in film is to show up, on time, ready to work. In this class, as in any professional film, TV or voice over setting, you will be working collaboratively in teams and you are expected to show up, on time, ready to work, every day. If you do not, you are affecting the work of your scene partner and the film, TV or VO crew working with you, all of whom are getting graded. With that in mind, here is what's expected of you:

- An attendance sheet will be placed near the entrance to the classroom. Be sure you sign-in each day by marking your initials on the sheet alongside your name. If you arrive late, the sheet will not be available. In that case it's your responsibility to see me after class late so that I may mark you late.
- Class starts at 12:00 PM promptly. Plan on being here for the entire 140 minutes. Do not leave the studio until the end of class. We'll end at 2:20 PM so you will have 10 minutes to get to your next class.
- 10% of your grade for the course will be determined by the number of classes attended. This is calculated cumulatively on Canvas. However, your final grade will be reduced one full letter grade after your fourth absence, regardless of the Canvas calculation. After your fifth absence you will be dropped from the course.
- If you are late for class or leave early three times, the time missed will count as a full unexcused absence.
- Any anticipated absences for the semester (class/team events, work conferences, personal responsibilities, etc) must be discussed with your instructor within the first two weeks of class and will count as part of your three absences.
- An 'Excused Absence' is defined as: illness or hospitalization accompanied by a note from your doctor for an office visit or hospitalization. You are allowed three. Written assignments due on the day of an excused absence must be submitted via e-mail on the due date (as a time stamp) AND submitted as a printed hard copy on the day you return to class.
- You are participating in a class in which others' work depends on you showing up on time and ready to work. This ethic is an unstated but vital learning objective in this class. You must email me when you are ill or any other time you will be missing class. You must notify your production teams as well.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS POLICY:

No late work will be accepted for grading. Assignments must be turned in on the date they are due. Written assignments must be printed and turned in as hard copies for grading. You will not be graded for written assignments unless you turn in a printed hard copy. Video and audio assignments must be turned in as active links to a file on your Google Drive, DropBox, iCloud or other cloud based sharing service that allows your file to be downloaded easily and quickly (make files small, create permissions, etc).

DROPPING A CLASS:

If you have been in class for one class period and you need to drop, it is your responsibility to drop yourself from the course. Instructors are required to drop you from class if you do not attend the first class meeting. It is illegal for you to be in class without being registered for the course.

CLASS NOTES:

Because this is a class of sharing and discovery for all students, there are a few issues we need to be alertly sensitive about.

- In our activities and improvisations, though you are required to think impulsively, please try to keep yourself cautioned against portraying offensive stereotypes particularly those targeted towards race and sexual orientation. Everybody's interpretations and humor limits vary. Please try and keep that in perspective.
- Please understand that because this is an interactive class there may be a need to touch and be touched by the teacher and other students. For my part know that my intentions are geared toward your development in the class. For your part, please keep in mind you are here to learn and to help in the development of your fellow students who are depending on you and trusting your judgment. If you ever feel the personal agenda you are toting on that particular class day would interfere with your comfortable participation in such activities, discreetly notify me before class and I will try and steer you away from such situations. If you have a problem with this, please feel free to talk to me.
- Occasionally scene work or improvisation may become emotionally upsetting or seem out of control. At this time any student or myself may stop the scene or improvisation.
- If you have any disability that prevents you from fully participating in any class exercise or assignment, please see me privately so that we can work together to find a solution.
- Finally, so there are no surprises, there is also the likelihood that class discussions could cover aspects of character's sexuality.

DRESS:

Please wear comfortable clothing and shoes in which you can move easily. Please no flip-flops or heels. You will also need to gather props and costume pieces for your on camera scenes. Video scene work will require dressing appropriately for the character. You will need to bring this clothing to class and change into it prior to your scene.

CONSUMABLES:

Only water is allowed in the studio. Please do not chew gum in the studio.

CELL PHONES AND TEXTING:

All cell phones and other personal electronic devices must not be used for anything except video or audio recording of in class projects. No texting, calling, e-mailing or use of social media is allowed during class time.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

We will conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects our awareness of common standards of decency and the rights of others. All students are expected to know the Student Conduct Code (http://www.santarosa.edu/for_students/rules-regulations/scs/section1.shtml) and adhere to it in this class. Students who violate the code may be suspended from 2 classes and referred to Vice President of Student Services for discipline.

RESPECT:

The best way to learn is through active participation; therefore, we respect others when talking by being on time, listening actively, and by being polite even when we disagree with another's viewpoint. Please turn off all electronic devices. If you use a laptop for note taking, please sit in the front row with the sound off. No food in class please.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All written work is to be original; plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade on that assignment. Students who plagiarize or cheat may be suspended [for one or two class meetings by the instructor] and referred to the Vice President of Student Services for discipline sanction, in cases of egregious violation. Please read the college policy/procedure on academic integrity at: <http://www.santarosa.edu/polman/3acadpro/3.11P.pdf>

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, use of service animal, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA Letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to me as soon as possible. You may also speak with me privately about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly. DRD is located in the Bertolini Student Center on the Santa Rosa campus, and Petaluma Village on the Petaluma campus.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN & PREPAREDNESS:

In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately but calmly. Take your stuff with you. Our class will meet on THE FRONT LAWN OF THE COLLEGE to make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions. If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see me as soon as possible so we can discuss an evacuation plan. There are exits from the TV Studio out of Doyle most immediately to the left on your way out of the room (leads to back of building, Elliott Ave to the right, SRJC lawn to the left).

EMERGENCIES:

In case of emergency, dial 527-1000: Do not dial 911 from on campus. No student may be driven to the hospital by a faculty member. We are required by law to call an ambulance. Please notify the instructor if you have any medical condition that puts you at risk. Small emergency medical kits are kept in the Theatre Conference Room (207) and the Scene Shop. There are fire extinguishers right outside the door of 214 by the laundry room and by the men's restroom.

IMPOERTANT DATES:

- Date Class Begins: 1/18/2017
- Last Day Add w/o add code: 1/22/2017
- Last Day Drop for Refund: 1/29/2017
- Last Day Drop w/o W: 2/5/2017
- FIRST CENSUS DATE: 2/6/2017
- Date Class Ends: 5/17/2017
- Last Day Add with add code: 2/7/2017
- Last Day for P/NP option: 2/26/2017
- Last Day Drop with W: 4/23/2017
- Date Final Exam: 5/24/2017
- Date Midterm Roster: 3/13/2017
4/23/2017