

Syllabus for  
**DRAM 107—Film Acting Technique**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An acting experience organized as a single-camera acting workshop. Provides the students opportunity to study single camera techniques, the studio rehearsal, and filming the scene. The students gain experience by rehearsing and acting in scenes that will be videotaped.

Prerequisites: None.

II. COURSE GOALS

The course is designed to provide the student with specific methods and experiences in order for him or her to develop a character, rehearse and perform it in a single camera technique situation.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

1. Create a character, using themselves as the starting point, within the single camera shooting process.
2. Demonstrate an ability to take interpretive coaching from the director and make the necessary adjustments in reading and taping rehearsals.
3. Demonstrate a technical proficiency in rehearsals that allows him or her to learn the blocking and business, hit his or her marks, and know where the camera is at all times.
4. Demonstrate a proficiency in developing a character and giving a believable performance during shooting sessions.
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of the professional side of film acting in written reports and chapter reviews.

B. Unit Objectives

As a result of successfully completing these units, the student will be able to do the following:

1. UNIT I--Discovery of self, discovery of types, rehearsals, blocking rehearsals, and shooting sessions.
  - a. discover one's own individuality and self-identity.
  - b. identify the "types" one can play and what unique traits one can apply to them.
  - c. act and react believably before a camera as himself or herself.
  - d. play a character before the camera.
  - e. focus in a filming situation.
  - f. demonstrate an ability to do proper blocking and hit the mark.
  - g. discuss and demonstrate the difference between stage and film performance.
2. UNIT II--Script work, subtext, learning lines, moment-to-moment playing, inner monologues, and playing objectives.
  - a. find the inner monologues of the part.
  - b. find the character's objectives and play them to the fullest.
  - c. perform a close up on film.
  - d. discuss the workplace of the film industry.
  - e. discuss the business aspect of the film industry, agents, casting directors,

auditions, employment, rejection.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS

##### Required Textbook

Benedetti, R. (2001). Action! Acting for film and television. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN # 9780205319800.

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, Electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

##### B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.
2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
  - a. Inform the professor before the event.

- b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
  - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
  - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student’s advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor’s responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
  4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
  5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
  6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication, Arts and Media WPA handbook for policies at (<http://oru.edu>), click on **Academics**, then **WPA**, then **Department Resources**, then **CAM Handbook HTML**.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

Evaluation Procedures

1. attitude in class, at rehearsal, and at taping sessions. A professional attitude and behavior as well as attendance serves as the criteria for this evaluation. (20 points)
2. typed reviews of the text chapters reports / written work. (30 points)
3. an evaluation of the student's performance (single camera acting in classroom assignments, and in the video taped final production). (50 points)

**PLEASE NOTE: The plays used in this class are secular in nature and may contain language not reflective of the viewpoint of Oral Roberts University. The students are asked to read these plays in order to prepare them to “go into every man’s world”, as part of the ORU mission. The students are never asked to break the Honor Code in the performance of scenes.**

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>UNIT I</b>	
WEEK 1	Introduction of course The play vs. the film & the organization of each

DATE	ASSIGNMENTS
WEEK 2	Working with the Camera Training, Organization, Shooting & Looping,
WEEK 3	Working with the Camera cont: Shot size, teamwork, continuity, Multiple cameras
WEEK 4	Preparing yourself & the Role Inner discipline, inner action, Actions & Objectives, 4 types Of outer action
WEEK 5	The Wheelen Method (bring in tape recorder) Short scenes assigned
WEEK 6	The Wheelen Method (bring tape recorder) *1 <sup>st</sup> week to work with camera The camera as partner
WEEK 7	The Wheelen Method cont Following the image Dramatic Structure, Emotion Review of footage
<b>UNIT II</b> WEEK 8	Viewing a film Discuss reaction in film Assignment of scenes / partners Shooting schedule
WEEK 9	Film Shoot
WEEK 10	Film Shoot
WEEK 11	Film Shoot
WEEK 12	Film Shoot
WEEK 13	Film Shoot
WEEK 14	Film Shoot
WEEK 15	Film Shoot

## Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

### DRAM 107—Film Acting Technique Spring 2012

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge		X		
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit		X		
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking			X	
2B	Information literacy			X	
2C	Global & historical perspectives				X
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle			X	
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills				X
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences				X
4D	Responsible citizenship			X	
4E	Leadership capacity		X		