

THEA 80B-Theory and Technique of Advanced Acting for the Camera  
Winter 2025  
De Anza College

Instructor: Liz Stimson  
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Telephone: 650-949-7899 x3158  
Class Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-12:15 in MLC 226  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15-12:45 in MLC 226 & by appointment

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is a continuation of the study of on camera acting. This course will provide students with a working knowledge and experience of playing in front of the camera and auditioning in front of the camera. The student will gain a more advanced level of understanding of on camera acting and a deepening of the actor's art and craft.

Recommended Text: THE CAMERA SMART ACTOR by Richard Brestoff  
*(Available in De Anza library reserves)*

Optional: USB Flash Drive

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Recognize the process by which actors are interviewed, auditioned, and cast for all forms of media production.
2. Practice and distinguish effective body movement and voice modulation as it pertains to camera acting styles, camera angle and shot size and continuity of takes.
3. Demonstrate advanced skills in the practice and performance of scripted work for the camera and the subsequent critiquing of the work including self evaluation.

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of the camera media from an actor's perspective.
2. Analyze, prepare, rehearse and perform advanced scripted material both on camera and voiceover.
3. Identify and articulate advanced problems in character development within the context of a shooting schedule.
4. Demonstrate a working vocabulary of equipment used in multi-media, film, and television entertainment industries.

## **POLICIES:**

**LATENESS-** Acting involves both craft and discipline. Be in class on time.

- Email me before class has begun if you are going to be late.
- If you are more than ten minutes late (and you have not contacted me prior to the beginning of that day's class) you will observe class that day and not participate.
- This will become very challenging once we have begun rehearsing for the midterm and final. Plan accordingly.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

- First two absences (excused or unexcused) no points taken off from participation. As this is a performance class, participation is required. Points will be deducted after two absences. Participation points can be made up, if needed (illness, for example).
- You will **not** pass the class if you miss more than 6 class meetings (for ANY reason).

**Late Work:** Assignments are due on the date listed in the syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to reach out to the instructor (email or office hours) **prior to the due date**, if an extension is needed.

**Dropping:** It is the student's responsibility to add or drop the class. Please see [How to Drop a Class](#) for specific dates.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including invisible ones, are encouraged to communicate with the instructor their needs and appropriate accommodations. [De Anza Disability Support Services](#)

**Participation:** Please wear clothing which does not restrict movement. Expect to be physically active.

## **HELPFUL SERVICES:**

**De Anza College Library Website:** [De Anza College Library](#)

**Online tutoring and workshops available at:** [De Anza Student Success Center](#)

**Your Guide to the Quarter:** [Student Support Services](#)

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

### **Monday, Jan. 6:**

First day of Winter Quarter 2024

### **Monday, Jan 20:**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (college closed)

### **Friday, Jan. 17:**

Last day to add 12-week, quarter-length classes. Add date is enforced.

### **Sunday, Jan. 19:**

Last day to drop for a full refund

### **Friday-Monday, Feb 14-17:**

Observance of Presidents Day Weekend (college closed)

### **Friday, February 28:**

Last day to drop with a "W." Withdraw date is enforced.

### **Monday-Friday, March 24-28:**

[Final Exam Schedule Winter 2025](#)

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Recording #1 (voice-over)   | 50 points                            |
| Recording #2 (teleprompter) | 50 points                            |
| Recording #3 (final scene)  | 100 points                           |
| Character Analyses          | 50 points total (2 @ 25 points each) |
| Film Review                 | 50 points                            |
| Participation               | 100 points                           |
| <b>Total Points</b>         | <b>400 points</b>                    |

**GRADING:**

| <b>Grade</b> | <b>Numerical Equivalent</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>A</b>     | <b>400-372</b>              |
| <b>A-</b>    | <b>371-360</b>              |
| <b>B+</b>    | <b>359-348</b>              |
| <b>B</b>     | <b>347-332</b>              |
| <b>B-</b>    | <b>331-320</b>              |
| <b>C+</b>    | <b>319-299</b>              |
| <b>C</b>     | <b>298-280</b>              |
| <b>D+</b>    | <b>279-268</b>              |
| <b>D</b>     | <b>267-252</b>              |
| <b>D-</b>    | <b>251-240</b>              |
| <b>F</b>     | <b>239-0</b>                |

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students who present the work of others without giving proper credit (citation), will receive an “F” grade for that assignment which cannot be made up. If you feel that you are having trouble with an assignment and require assistance please meet with me during my office hours or schedule an additional time to meet.

[Academic Integrity De Anza College](#)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: THEA 80B--Winter 2025

| In Class | Assignments (available in Canvas) |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
|----------|-----------------------------------|

**Week 1 (1/7, 9)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome, syllabus review, etc</li><li>• Warm-ups and improv</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Choose TWO voice-over scripts &amp; submit <u>2 hard copies of each script</u> (script links available in Canvas) (due 1/14)</b></li><li>• Read Articles in Canvas</li></ul> |
|---|---|

**Week 2 (1/14, 16)**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm-ups and improv</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voice-over cold readings</li><li>• <b>Voice-over Character Analysis</b>—will do in class 1/14</li><li>• Read Articles in Canvas</li></ul> |
|---|---|

**Week 3 (1/21, 23)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voice-over Rehearsals</li><li>• Phasic Relaxation</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehearse voice-overs</li></ul> |
|---|--|

**Week 4 (1/28, 30)**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recording #1:</b> Voice-over</li><li>• Warm-ups &amp; Improv</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Record voice-overs</li><li>• Read Articles in Canvas</li><li>• <b>Final Scene Selection</b> Hard copies (3) (due 2/11)</li></ul> |
|---|--|

**Week 5 (2/4, 6)**

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm-ups &amp; Improv</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Final Scene Selection</b> Hard copies (3) (due 2/11)</li><li>• Begin Teleprompter Work</li></ul> |
|---|---|

**Week 6 (2/11, 13)**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Auditions (voice-over)</li><li>• <b>Recording #2:</b> Teleprompter</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Teleprompter Recording</b></li><li>• <b>Final Scene Selection</b> Hard copies (3) (due 2/11)</li></ul> |
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**Week 7 (2/18, 20)**

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cold Reading Scenes</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Character Analysis--Scene--due 2/18--no analysis = no rehearsal</b></li><li>• <b>Assignment: Film Review</b> (due 3/6)</li></ul> |
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**Week 8 (2/25, 27)**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review Hitting your mark, eyeline</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Assignment: Film Review</b> (due 3/6)</li></ul> |
|---|--|

**Week 9 (3/4 6)**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Blocking, Business/Activities</li><li>• Rehearsals</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Articles in Canvas</li><li>• <b>Assignment: Film Review</b> (due 3/6)</li></ul> |
|--|--|

**Week 10 (3/11, 13)**

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehearsals</li><li>• Off book</li><li>• <b>Recording #3: Final Scene</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recording of final scene</li><li>• Read Articles in Canvas</li></ul> |
|--|--|

**Week 11 (3/18, 20)**

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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Recording #3: Final Scene</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recording of final scene</li></ul> |
|--|--|

**Week 12 (3/25 only)**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Final: Tuesday March 25th: 9:15-11:15</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Viewing of final scenes</li></ul> |
|--|---|