



# Douglas College

## CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL**

Date:

**OCTOBER 1999**

B: Department/  
Program Area: **LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND  
PERFORMING ARTS  
THEATRE**

New Course

Revision

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:

**A,B,C,D,F,H,I,J,K,L,M,N,O,P,  
Q,R.**

Date Last Revised:

C: **THEA 410**

D:

**ACTING FOR FILM**

E:

**3**

Subject & Course No.

Descriptive Title

Semester Credits

F: Calendar Description:

This course introduces students to the vocabulary and techniques unique to acting for the camera (film and video). Instruction will focus on applying and adapting stage acting techniques to film, identifying and practicing vocal, physical, and emotional exercises to create a film acting technique, and making students familiar with current industry standards and terminology with regard to the actor's craft in film and television.

G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Types of Instruction/Learning Settings

Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings:

**Workshop & Lecture**

Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor)

**6**

Number of Weeks per Semester: **14**

H: Course Prerequisites:

**THEA 310**

I: Course Corequisites:

**NONE**

J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite:

**NONE**

K: Maximum Class Size:

~~22~~

*previous was 18*

L: PLEASE INDICATE:

Non-Credit

College Credit Non-Transfer

College Credit Transfer:

Requested

Granted

SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS ([www.bccat.bc.ca](http://www.bccat.bc.ca))

**M: Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

**1. Screen versus Stage & Film versus Television**

The student will

- a) become familiar with the general and specific differences between performance requirements for the camera and for the stage.
- b) become familiar with the differences between acting for the camera for film and acting for the camera for television.
- c) learn appropriate vocabulary and terminology used in the film and television industries.

**2. The Frame and the Camera**

The student will

- a) become familiar with various framing techniques; i.e., shot sizes and how the frame dictates the acting technique required in specific spots.
- b) become familiar with the motions and actions of the camera and how these specific physical qualities influence acting techniques.
- c) learn appropriate vocabulary and terminology used in the film and television industries.

**3. Physicality and Vocality**

The student will

- a) learn and apply appropriate physical gestures and vocalization to create desired effects for the camera.
- b) experiment with a variety of physical and vocal qualities to determine effectiveness camera.

**4. Actor, Text and Camera**

The student will

- a) learn and apply text analysis techniques to a variety of scripts reflecting the industry standards; i.e., feature film scripts, MOW scripts, soap opera scripts, commercial copy, sitcom scripts, industrial and documentary scripts.
- b) experiment on-camera with texts from a variety of industry genres.

**5. Auditions, Rehearsals and Performance**

The student will

- a) become familiar with the audition process.
- b) become familiar with rehearsal requirements and boundaries in various industry genres; i.e. sitcoms, feature films, MOWs, etc.
- c) become familiar with the process for performing for the camera.
- d) learn and apply appropriate vocabulary and terminology of acting for the camera.

**N: Course Content**

Students will become familiar with the skills and techniques required in acting for the camera (both film and video). They will learn the specific terminology and vocabulary relating to acting for the camera including technical terms and descriptions of various functions of the camera and the film crew. They will learn to apply these skills and vocabulary to actual on-camera performance situations.

**O: Methods of Instruction**

1. Lectures will introduce the theoretical aspects of acting for the camera including differences between stage and film acting and between film and television acting. Lectures will also include extensive use of appropriate vocabulary and terminology with respect to the film and television industries and the technical aspects of acting for the camera.
2. In the studio, students will work on-camera extensively. They will watch their own and other's work on videotape for analysis and evaluation purposes. Students will also be required to operate the camera and recording playback equipment and to be familiar with the vocabulary appropriate to each activity.
3. In the studio, students will perform in EXERCISE SHOOTS which will reproduce, as nearly as possible, the experience of an actual film or television shoot.
4. When possible, professionals from the film and television industries will be involved as guest speakers during lectures.

**P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students**

Tucker, Patrick. Secrets of Screen Acting. Routledge, 1994. ISBN: 0-87830-042-2

**Q: Means of Assessment**

1. Demonstration of effective techniques in short on-camera exercises. (4 x 10% and 1 x 15%)	55%
2. Quizzes on vocabulary, terminology, and industry standards. (3 x 10% each)	30%
3. Attendance, participation, and cooperation in class and studio work.	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR**

Under Review.

*Allen Lyell*

Course Designer(s)

*J. M. Calcutt*

Dean/Director

N/A

Education Council/Curriculum Committee Representative

*P. H. Dyer*

Registrar