Instructor: Richard Waterhouse
Class Meeting:
Student Enrollment: 16
Prerequisite: None

Course Description:
This intermediate acting class is designed to introduce and develop the tools necessary for acting on camera; to examine the application of the screenplay as a blueprint for the finished film; and to pursue the process and demands of working under limited and quickly changing conditions.
Utilizing an extensive library of screenplays, the class will study film scene analysis and preparation, pro-active choice, and heightened connection. They will develop and hone the skill to remain present and vital through multiple takes of the scene, keeping emphasis on process rather than presentation.

Required Texts:
The Intent to Live by Larry Moss
Playing to the Camera: Film Actors Discuss Their Craft
The Power of the Actor by Ivana Chubbuck
How to Stop Acting by Harold Guskin
No Acting Please by Eric Morris
Students can purchase these books online or at the Brown University Bookstore.

ASSIGNMENTS:
Students will complete two film scenes (avg. 3-6 pages in length) during the Wintersession.
They will be required to watch their assigned film and/or read the screenplay (provided by instructor), present a first work of the scene and receive notes and adjustments, present a second work of the scene which will include a “moment to moment work-thru,” and finally, video record the scene with the help of the class. Students will be expected to rent assigned films for viewing (Netflix, Redbox, etc.) in order to: a. track the arc of the story, which has implications on acting choices in their assigned scene; and b. to observe how the written screenplay translates into the finished film. Students will be expected to write a brief, concise analysis of each of their scenes and to rehearse between one to two hours each evening. All students are expected to participate in the video recording process for their second and third scenes, which includes working camera, sound, lighting, and assisting the director.

COURSE MATERIALS:
All scenes will be assigned and provided by the instructor in the form of a text or pdf
(Examples of scenes include material from: Something New by Kriss Turner, The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan, Secrets and Lies by Mike Leigh, Precious by Geoffrey Fletcher, Passion Fish by John Sayles, and My Left Foot by Shane Connaughton and Jim Sheridan.)

Students will have access to rehearsal space via sign-up on google calendar. Students will have limited access to props/costumes and should plan on providing many of the necessary items on their own.

Required screenplays/films will be taken from the American Film Institute list of top 100 screenplays to include: To Kill a Mockingbird (Horton Foote), Do the Right Thing (Spike Lee), The Visitor (Tom McCarthy), All About Eve (Joseph L. Mankiewicz), Network (Paddy Chayefsky), Casablanca (Julius J. & Philip G. Epstein and Howard Koch), and The Shawshank Redemption (Stephen King).

GRADING:
This studio/performance class is a S/NC only. Students will be graded on
• Completion of three fully rehearsed scenes: 50%
• Submitted scene analysis of each scene 20%
• Participation in crew duties while video recording for others: 15%
• Attendance: 15%

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Students are expected to attend every class. However emergencies do arise. The absolute limit on absences is 3. Likewise, 3 late arrivals to class will count as an absence. 4th and 5th late arrivals will count as an absence and the 6th late arrival will count as an absence. Theater is a communal experience therefore your presence and/or lack of it will affect the whole group. Please be conscientious.

Proposed Course Outline:
Before Day 1 of Class - Read “The Intent to Live” (10 hours)

Days 1 - 4 (Wed. - Sat.)
Introduction
Students will work through a series of exercises to establish the technique and vocabulary that will be used throughout the class.
Introduce a form of scene analysis that will be used to emphasize these techniques. Scene 1 will be assigned to each team by the instructor.
Evenings - read “The Power of the Actor” (10 hours), read assigned screenplay (2 hours) and analyze Scene 1.

Day 5 (Sunday)
Class does not meet - read screenplay (2 hours) & view film (2 hours).

Day 6 (Monday)
Each team will present Scene 1 and receive feedback to take away in preparation for their next presentation to the class.
Evening work - independent rehearsal of scene 1 (2 hours) and begin reading “How to Stop Acting” (8 hours).

Days 7 - 9  (Tues. - Thurs.)
Film each scene and review scenes in class with detailed critique.
Evening work - read new screenplay (2 hours) and view film (2 hours), continue reading assigned text.

Day 10  (Friday)
Begin work on Scene 2 - read new screenplay (2 hours), write scene analysis and rehearse scene (2 hours).

Day 11  (Saturday)
Each team will present Scene 2 and receive feedback to take away in preparation for filming.
Evening work - independent rehearsal of scene 2 (2 hours) and begin reading “Playing to the Camera” (10 hours).

Day 12  (Sunday)
Class does not meet - read new screenplay (2 hours) & view film (2 hours), rehearse scene (2 hours).

Days 13 - 17  (Mon. - Fri.)
Film each scene and review scenes in class with detailed critique.
Evening work - read screenplay each night (10 hours) and view corresponding film (10 hours), read “No Acting Please” (8 hours).