

Montgomery County Community College  
COM 248  
Directing Actors  
3-2-2

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to teach future film directors the method, vocabulary, and decorum for working in dramatic television and narrative film. Students become beginning narrative film directors as they are introduced to the conventions and methods of acting, learn how to define a visual narrative and coherent vision from scripts and communicate that vision to actors. The course consists of readings, discussions, exercises, and in-class rehearsals. As part of the class students are required to direct actors in a series of projects presented over selected college media. This course is subject to a course fee. Refer to <http://mc3.edu/adm-fin-aid/paying/tuition/course-fees> for current rates.

**REQUISITES:***Previous Course Requirements*

- COM 107 Video Production and Literacy
- COM 126 Introduction to Scriptwriting OR COM 278 Introduction to Video Production II

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Demonstrate the use of key elements of the method, vocabulary, and decorum for working on stage, film and television.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments Display of Projects over Selected College Media	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio Rubric
2. Differentiate the key elements of the conventions of theater and film and how they inform one another.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments Display of Projects over Selected College Media	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio Rubric

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Direct the actions, motivations and movements of the actors to support the narrative.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments Display of Projects over Selected College Media	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio Rubric
4. Apply stage dynamics to build effective cinematic images and enhance storytelling.	Lectures/Discussions Demonstrations and Practice Case Studies Student Presentations Peer to Peer Review Writing Assignments Display of Projects over Selected College Media	Peer to Peer Review Portfolio Rubric

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Script Analysis
  - a. The action of the script
  - b. Thematic structure
  - c. Objectives
2. Research
  - a. The rehearsal process
  - b. The concept
3. Motivations
  - a. Empowering the actor
  - b. Composition and use of movement
  - c. Questions: a director's best friend
4. Scene Work
  - a. Selecting a scene
  - b. Casting and Auditioning
  - c. Rehearsing and discussing
  - d. Presenting

**LEARNING MATERIALS:**

Rabiger, M. (2008). *Directing: Film Techniques and Aesthetics*; 4th ed.; Focal Press.

Handouts concerning or from:

Francis Hodge's method of Script Analysis, Preparation and Research William Ball's methods of Casting, Objectives and Relating to Actors Harold Clurman's method of Relating to the Actor

In addition, the instructor may provide students with handouts or access to selected Radio or Television programs or clips.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

**COURSE APPROVAL:**

Prepared by: Timothy Gallagher, Marilyn Shanok, Neil Goldstein Date: 3/8/2007

Revised by: Neil Goldstein Date: 5/15/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D. Date: 6/17/2013

Revised by: Allan Schear and Gerald Collom Date: 1/14/2016

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:  
Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed. D. Date: 3/6/2016

Revised by: Debbie Dalrymple Date: 1/10/2018

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 1/10/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*