

**THTR 135/ MCOM 135**  
**Acting for the Camera**  
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**THTR 135/MCOM 135 – Acting for the Camera:** is a course which introduces students to the performance demands and technical aspects of acting in front of the camera for film, video, television, and other media, and prepares them to pursue careers in the field.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate fundamental and intermediate acting;
2. distinguish similarities and differences between stage acting and on-camera acting;
3. apply a fundamental knowledge of film and video production to their acting;
4. analyze the technical language of digital media;
5. apply appropriate procedures to prepare for acting scene takes;
6. operate equipment, including cameras, microphones, and lights;
7. assess the impact of on-camera acting and portrayals in today's society;
8. identify opportunities for finding and creating acting projects/gigs; and
9. collaborate with fellow actors, directors, and technical crews on a project.

**Major Topics**

- I. Review of fundamental acting techniques and acting styles
- II. Similarities and differences of acting techniques between stage and media
- III. Film and video equipment overview
- IV. Script analysis
- V. Scene rehearsal
  - a. Understanding how to build a character
  - b. Understanding the vision of the director
  - c. Understanding the actor's role in shot composition, including framing, and hitting marks, awareness of camera placement.
- VI. The actor's role in cinematic aesthetics, including thematic and emotional portrayals
- VII. Technical terminology and scene/shot execution
- VIII. Acting in and recording scenes
- IX. Analysis of takes and final projects
- X. Business preparation, auditioning and personal marketing

**Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- active participation in class

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- selection, review, and analysis of on-camera acting clips
- one practical exercise or assignment covering film/video terminology and techniques
- one monologue performance
- one collaborative scene work assignment, including script analysis, blocking, and characterization
- one written research assignment and/or presentation that may include one or more of the following: comparing stage and on-camera acting, researching career and other opportunities for on-camera acting, actors and social responsibility, impact of actor portrayals, or history of on-camera acting.

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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