Auditions
DRAM 4120-002

Subject to Change with Notice

Fall 2023
Thursday
11:00-12:15am

Instructor: Zeke Bocklage, MFA
(He/Him) Contact: bocklage.ezekiel@sfasu.edu
O: 936-468-1227
C: 636-667-6680

Office Hours: Monday 9am-Noon
             Friday 9am-Noon
             Or By Appointment

Location: UPSTAGE 301(Class)
          GFNA 230 (Office)

Department: Theatre

Course Description

“Organization, preparation, and presentation of the audition process” (Stephen F. Audition University Course Catalog, 2023)

Course Objectives

This class builds upon the foundations established in prior Acting classes and performance work. Students will continue to learn the fundamentals of auditioning through practice and research. Final package presentations will be in a showcase format that will be open to the public, as well as have guest casting professionals in attendance from across the country.

Specific Objectives for the Student:

- To learn audition prep skills for a variety of different audition situations.
- To refine and gain monologue techniques used in the audition process.
- To practice cold reading techniques and tactics.
- To perform 7 audition packages throughout the semester as well as one final package.
- To develop a website and materials needed for auditioning in the professional world i.e. RESUME and HEADSHOT.
- To cultivate relationships and question industry professionals.
- To audition for professional casting directors in a showcase format at the end of the semester.

Required Texts

- Audition by Michael Shurtleff
- A notebook, be ready to take lots of notes.
You may be required to purchase a play, and access to Netflix, Hulu, Apple Music, or Spotify will be extremely helpful.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO FIND THEIR OWN MATERIALS. YOU MUST GET GOOD AT THIS.

Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance (25%)** Your presence and involvement are essential to classroom activities/discussion, but also for your own growth as an artist and academic. This course is designed to help you stay employed within your field. Attendance will be taken every day. SEE ATTENDANCE POLICY

2. **Audition Packages (55%)**

3. **Website/Resume (10%)**
   - Branding and self promotion is a HUGE aspect of being successful within this field. You will be expected to not only have a headshot and Resume, but also a website. We will go into more detail on this as noted on the course outline.

4. **City Report (5%)**
   - This is a report on a city of your choice if you were to move there next, what you would need, possible connections, costs of living, etc. More info to be given on this project later in the semester.

5. **Final Showcase (5%)** This will be a final audition package show in showcase format, it will have professional casting directors in attendance.

### GRADES

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<th>Course</th>
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**Attire**

Audition attire will be expected to be worn for audition days. Never hesitate to email or ask me any questions.

**Attendance Policy**
Being on time is essentially your job, and will severely aid or take away from the amount you work professionally.

**Attendance will be taken at the top of class every period.** Being punctual and prepared is an expectation in any field of study, or system of employment. Class attendance and enthusiastic participation is the most important part of your success in this class. Particularly, in the audition process, if you aren’t on time, or do not communicate a change, you will not be seen.

If you are late to a mock audition, you lose the points.

Be on time. Surprises happen, sometimes we run behind, but excessive lateness will not be tolerated. Your growth and employment depend on your being here. Don’t do it for me. Do it for yourself…and the tuition you are paying for.

**Participation**

“When I was young, I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures. So, I did ten times more work.”

— George Bernard Shaw

This is an experience based course, and you are expected to participate and commit with a generous heart, an open mind and a devoted work ethic. You are not graded on 'talent' in this class, you are graded on your Quality of Doing — there is no progress without putting in the work.

**Classroom Respect Agreement**

This course will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone in many ways. You will be asked often to prepare things with very little notice, encounter challenges throughout classroom exercises, and be pushed to the edge of your abilities in an effort to grow. I ask that you realize that everyone’s process is different, and that you are always respectful to each person in the room. If you have any questions or concerns regarding classroom discussion or activities, please email me or see me during office hours, and I will always be happy to discuss them with you!

**Written Assignments**

Unless otherwise specified, written assignments should be emailed to me as a PDF attachment before the specified date and time. Written assignments should follow MLA guidelines. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

**CELL PHONE POLICY**

Turn it off. Please, just turn it off. If you need to have your phone on for any reason, you need to communicate that with me before class begins. You will be asked to leave class and marked absent if seen on your phone.

**REVISED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**
Please see [www.sfasu.edu/policies](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies) for more information.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty and abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are: (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf).

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.
If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)

[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
[dos@sfasu.edu](mailto:dos@sfasu.edu)

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202

[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”

Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

[www.sfasu.edu/thehub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thehub)
936.468.4008
[thehub@sfasu.edu](mailto:thehub@sfasu.edu)

**Crisis Resources:**
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
***This plan may be altered to meet the needs of the class at the discretion of the instructor.***

Aug 29 T - Syllabus and Course Requirements/Headshots & Resumes

Read Shurtleff pgs. xi-22

Aug 31 TH - Headshots, Resumes

Sept 07 TH - “let’s see what you know” AUDITION #1 - Your Standard Package

Shurtleff pgs. 23-52

Sept 14 TH - Cold Reading Technique - Opposites, 3 beat scene, and other things

Shurtleff pgs. 53-75

Sept 21 TH - Type…Yes it still exists

Shurtleff pgs. 76-103

Sept 28 TH - TBA

Oct 05 TH - Shakespeare in Auditioning: Monologues & Cold Reads

Shurtleff pgs. 104-141

Oct 12 TH - Callbacks and How to Handle Them

Shurtleff pgs. 142-182

OCTOBER 19 TH- Audition #3 - Cruise Ship

Oct 24 T - TBA

Oct 26 TH - Audition #4 - The Self Tape + Feedback

Nov 02 TH - Audition #5 - Regional Theatre + Feedback

Nov 09 TH - Audition #6 - The Open/Summer Stock + Feedback

Nov 16 TH - CASTING PANEL DISCUSSION (Over Zoom)

NOVEMBER 18-26th THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY NO CLASS

Nov 30 TH - TBA

Dec 07 TH - Websites (This means they should be completed)
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 10:30-12:30 FINAL