

My name is Ellie Armitage and Bob Hess was my professor from 2019-2021. I took his Acting: Realism and Acting for the Camera classes, as well as a Special Problems that he facilitated for me. During my time at UNT, Bob served as a constant guiding presence in my acting journey. He has an incredible knack for immediately identifying where every student is on their journey and meeting them where they currently are. This is a unique skill that not every professor has. It allows every student in the classroom to feel engaged, while not pushing some to the point where they are no longer confident in their work. Bob's classroom is designed to uplift students in their skill and in their opinion of themselves. He pushed me beyond my comfort zone in ways that other professors had not. I am beyond grateful for his influence in my college career and beyond.

Since graduation, I have steadily been involved in theatrical productions as well as toured the country as a performer. After this contract had concluded, I moved to NYC to pursue acting. I frequent classes in the city, and so many of these classes reiterate concepts that Bob had mentioned in his classroom. I've also started moving into more of a commercial world, and the personal experience Bob has in this field helped me go into these environments confident that I would know what I needed to do. I do feel like I have a leg up here in NYC due to Bob's mentorship. Any student at UNT is truly lucky to have his mentorship in their college careers.