

Voice I for the Actor
Course Syllabus
Fall 2017

Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre
THEA 2336
MWF 11-12:50 p.m. AND 12-12:50 p.m.
PAC 188

Instructor – Dr. Laura Avery
Office – PAC 284D
Office hours – by appt.
Phone – 936.294.3404
E-mail – lka005@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of how to improve the ability to communicate through more effective use of the voice. This will be achieved through exploring the basic processes of voice, speech, movement and acting and how they can be further integrated and unified for the performer.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To open the actor's range of speech and vocal choices beyond the habitual.
2. To identify each individual's specific speech patterns and begin to address means to expand beyond perceived limitations.
3. To prepare the actor for the speech challenges presented by performed text.
4. To establish a working knowledge of IPA.
5. To work through problems in breathing, resonance, and articulation for each individual student.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class participation is an important part of class, so it is imperative that you attend all classes. If you are absent from more than **three (3)** classes, your final grade will be reduced by **two (2)** points for **each** absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy **three (3)** times, that equals **one absence**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

PREPARATION

Please wear clothing that is comfortable and loose fitting, especially on days when we'll be doing floor work. Come to class focused and ready to work. All piercings of tongue, lips and nose should be removed before class time. All students are expected to participate in all activities and exercises. That means 'coming to the party!' Evaluations will be made on all exercises, etc.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, talking among each other at inappropriate times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.

REQUIREMENTS:

Build a Book: Throughout the course of the semester, you will receive various handouts which should be kept in a three-ring binder so that by the end of the semester you have build a reference book of materials for your private library. Your final book should be organized by subjects and contain a table of contents.

Show Survey: For each of the department's productions this semester, you will submit a response using the Show Survey found under course documents on Blackboard. On your survey, you should fully respond to each of the voice and speech questions. Surveys are due at the beginning of class the Wednesday following the show's closing.

Journal Entries: Each student will keep a journal throughout the semester. You are to bring this journal with you to each class. Entries will be made regularly during and following class work. Journals will be checked toward the end of the semester for content and participation.

Assessment Assignments: Students will be asked to practice and perform various voice assignments for analysis. Assessments will be scheduled during class.

Monologue: Each student will be required to choose a serious contemporary monologue that will be worked throughout the semester. If you already have a contemporary monologue in your current audition repertoire, you may use that one. Otherwise, you will need to find one.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

Americans with Disabilities Act SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and to talk to me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential.

NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with:

SSD Office Location: Lee Drain Annex (next to the Farrington Building)

Telephone: 936-294-3512 / TDD: 936-294-3786

E-mail: disability@shsu.edu

Web Address: www.shsu.edu/disability

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Quizzes – worth 10/each	50
Glossary Assignments – worth 10/each	60
Contemporary Monologue -1.5 minutes - worth 20 pts.	20
Journal worth 20 and Book worth 20	40
Assessment Assignments – worth 10/each	50
Show Surveys -worth 10/each	40
Class Participation	<u>20</u>
Total	280

**FALL 2016 Course Calendar
Voice I for the Actor**

August

- 23 W. What's in a name?
- 25 F. Floor Work
- 28 M. Introduction to Respiration/Glossary Assignment 1
Assessment 1: *This is the House that Jack Built*
- 30 W. Discussion of Fitzmaurice Reading
Floor Work

September

- 1 F. Floor Work
- 4 M. Labor Day (NO CLASS)
- 6 W. **Glossary Assignment 1 DUE**
Assessment 1 DUE
Quiz 1: Respiration DUE
- 8 F. Introduction to Phonation/Glossary Assignment 2
Assessment 2: *Sentences containing "H"*
- 11 M. Phonation
- 13 W. **Glossary Assignment 2 DUE**
Assessment 2 DUE
Quiz 2: Phonation DUE
- 15 F. NO CLASS- GALA
- 18 M. Introduction to Articulation/Glossary Assignment 3
Assessment 3: *Articulatory Agility*
- 20 W. Consonants
- 22 F. **Glossary Assignment 3 DUE**
Assessment 3 DUE
- 25 M. Outside Assignment 1: Catherine Fitzmaurice
- 27 W. Outside Assignment 2: Joan Melton
- 29 F. Outside Assignment 3: Dudley Knight

October

- 2 M. Outside Assignment 4: Buddy Wakefield
- 4 W. Outside Assignment 5: Louis Colaianni
- 6 F. Introduction to Phonetics (Consonants)/Glossary Assignment 4
Assessment 4: *Martian Words/Sound and Sense*
Show Evaluation 1 DUE
- 9 M. Phonetics
- 11 W. **Glossary Assignment 4 DUE**
Assessment 4 DUE
Quiz 3: Articulation and Consonant Phonetics DUE
- 13 F. Introduction to the Care of the Voice
- 16 M. Introduction to Resonance/Glossary Assignment 5
Assessment 5: *Sentences with Nasal Consonants*
- 18 W. Resonance
- 20 F. Work with "Omnish"
- 23 M. Floor Work

- 25 W. Floor Work
- 27 F. **Glossary Assignment 5 DUE**
Assessment 5 DUE
- 30 M. Introduction to Phonetics (Vowels)

November

- 1 W. Phonetics
- 3 F. Phonetics
Show Evaluation 2 DUE
- 6 M. Phonetics
Quiz 4: Resonance and Vowel Phonetics DUE
- 8 W. Working with the complete sound hoard
- 10 F. Working with the complete sound hoard
- 13 M. **Quiz 5: Complete Sound Hoard DUE**
- 15 W. Putting it all together
- 17 F. Scenes (cold readings)
- 20 M. Scenes (cold readings)
- 22 W. Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)
- 24 F. Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)
- 27 M. Contemporary Monologue Final Assessment
Book/Journals DUE
Show Evaluation 3 DUE
- 29 W. Contemporary Monologue Final Assessment
Book/Journals DUE

December

- 1 F. Contemporary Monologue Final Assessment
Book/Journals DUE