

Voice II for the Actor

Course Syllabus

Spring 2018

Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Musical Theatre
THEA 2337
MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m.
PAC 188

Instructor – Dr. Laura Avery
Office – PAC 284D
Office hours – by appt.
Phone – 936.294.3404
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a continuing examination of how to improve the ability to communicate through more effective use of the voice. This will be achieved through continuing to explore 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 continue to open the actor's range of speech and vocal choices beyond the habitual.
2. To further identify each individual's specific speech patterns and begin to explore a variety of dialects beyond the habitual.
3. To prepare the actor for the speech challenges presented by heightened/classical text, specifically Shakespeare.
4. To *solidify* a working knowledge of IPA as it applies to dialects.
5. To continue working articulation, diction and placement for each individual student as it applies to dialects.
6. To further explore the challenges presented by stage speech.

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. Come to class focused and ready to work. All piercings of tongue, lips and nose must 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:

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: Each student will continue the journal they started in Theatre Speech I. 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.

Monologue: Each student will be required to choose a Shakespeare monologue, preferably one that you can add to your audition tool bag.

Accent Donor Project: Each student will collect accent information from an outside donor.

Shakespeare Scenework: Each of you will be required to work on a two-person scene, no longer than 4 minutes in length.

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:

Shakespeare Monologue -1.5 minutes - worth 20 pts.	20
Journal - worth 30	30
Shakespeare Scene– 4 minutes – worth 45	45
Show Surveys – worth 10/each	30
Accent Donor Project	20
Class Participation	15
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Total	160

SPRING 2018
Voice II for the Actor

January

- 17 Syllabus/Introductions
- 19 What's a vocal coach?
- 22 More into Fitzmaurice Voice Work
- 24 Deconstructing with laughter
- 26 Deconstructing with laughter
- 29 Deconstructing with laughter
- 31 Deconstructing with laughing and crying

February

- 2 Deconstructing/Restructuring through the chakras (Intro to Chakras)
- 5 Deconstructing/Restructuring through the chakras meditation
- 7 Deconstructing/Restructuring through the chakra laughter
- 9 Deconstructing/Restructuring through imagery
- 12 Deconstructing/Restructuring through imagery
- 14 Restructuring with Imagery and Movement
- 16 NO CLASS – Outside Assignment *Imagery*
- 19 Restructuring with Movement
- 21 Introduction to Voicing Shakespeare (verse)
- 23 Voicing Shakespeare (prose)
- 26 Voicing Shakespeare (music)
- 28 Voicing Shakespeare (music)

March

- 2 Exploring Shakespeare Text – The Dialect Question (RP vs OP) / **DUE: Show Survey 1**
- 5 Exploring Shakespeare Text – The Dialect Question (OP)
- 7 NO CLASS - Outside Assignment *Music and Meaning*
- 9 NO CLASS – Outside Assignment *Sound and Sense*
- 12 Spring Break- NO CLASS
- 14 Spring Break- NO CLASS
- 16 Spring Break- NO CLASS
- 19 discussion of Outside Assignments **DUE: Outside Assignments**
- 21 Exploring Shakespeare Text –Vowels and Consonants
- 23 Exploring Shakespeare Text - Back to Imagery
- 26 Shakespeare Monologues
- 28 Shakespeare Monologues
- 30 NO CLASS - Good Friday

April

- 2 Introduction to Dialects- the music of a dialect (lilt and melody) / **DUE: Show Survey 2**
- 4 Dialects- IPA review- the shape of a dialect (Donor Project assigned)
- 6 Dialects- researching and resources (ear training)
- 9 Dialects- capturing and practicing (mirror work/ isolated articulation/Parlor Games)
- 11 Introduction to Character Voices
- 13 Cataloging Your Character Voices
- 16 Introduction to Voice Overs
- 18 Voice Over Practice
- 20 Rehearse Final Scenes
- 23 Final Scenes Begin / **DUE: Accent Donor Project**
- 25 Final Scenes
- 27 Final Scenes / **DUE: Show Survey 3**

MAY

- 2 NO CLASS
- 4 NO CLASS