

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Voice and Speech 1 - THEA 1090

Fall 20__

Instructor:

Schedule: Tues/Thurs 11:00pm – 12:15pm

Location:

Office Hrs: 9:30 – 11am MWF

Office:

Email:

Recommended Reading:

The Second Circle by Patsy Rodenburg

Voice and the Actor by Cicely Berry,

Pronouncing Dictionary by Kenyon and Knott (aka “The K & K”)

Voice: Onstage and Off by Robert Barton and Rocco Dal Vera

Required Supplies:

- Keep a Journal (recommended) Bring it to class every day. Keep it near you; you may be called on to share an observation from class. It’s easier to do this, if you have notes. Journals are a way for you (and me) to gauge your growth, strengths, and weaknesses as a learner and participant. Entries do not have to be long. Please use terminology from your assigned readings and class.
- 3 Ring Binder for handouts and Journaling,
- Notebook Paper (keep in binder),
- Writing Utensil,
- Zafu
- Yoga Mat,
- Movement Clothing,
- Hand Mirror,
- Cork,
- Recording device (optional but recommended)

Course Description: This introductory class will examine the fundamentals of vocal production, and the concept of voice and speech as gesture and action as it relates to dramatic communication. Through physical exercises and text work, students will develop an awareness of breath, sound placement, resonance, focus, intention, the function of vowel and consonants in spoken English, and sensory awareness.

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Learning Goals:

- Develop interpersonal communication skills and experience performing before an audience.
- Apply a basic vocabulary for the craft of acting and performance. (Learning Objective for BA in Theatre)
- Demonstrate the ability to function effectively as part of a collaborative process. (Learning Objective for BA in Theatre)
- Analyze a dramatic text based on an understanding of given circumstances and objectives.
- Demonstrate physical specificity and clarity in performing a scene or monologue.
- Deepen your appreciation of the actor's craft and the art of theatre.

Course Objectives: The Course seeks to enable the student to relax and develop the vocal instrument so that a free, supported sound can be produced, then to apply this vocal production to text.

- Each student should be able to effectively warm up vocally to support the demands of a public performance, demonstrating versatility in physical and vocal performance, either on camera or onstage.
- Each student should be able to make sound that is open, forward, and supported through their body, without strain or pushing.
- Each student should be able to mentally and physically connect to ideas and thoughts, and effectively communicate them in both contemporary and classical text. We will use found and assigned texts and song.

Program Outcomes: This course is designed to encourage students to use their voices to their fullest potential, and thoughtfully contribute not only to their classes at Tulane, but also in performances, conferences, interviews, teaching, and community dialogues. This outcome will be reached through:

- Writing reflection papers based on your journal
- Participating in class discussions
- Participating in individual and group exercises

Here's What You Need To Know About This Class:

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

- This is NOT a class in public speaking, but the exercises we will do will help you with those skills.
- This is NOT a singing class, although we will sing.
- This is a class in the fundamental techniques of voice and speech: How sound and language are created and the variety to which they are used.
- This class gives you a TASTE of what is possible for vocal expression; it requires trust and a willingness to explore and participate.
- This class is loosely structured, meaning we don't read from or follow a textbook or powerpoints and there aren't lectures everyday. This class is ensemble based; we will move at the pace of the group. We may spend more time on one exercise depending on the work of the class as a whole.
- Repetition of exercises is part of the class structure.
- The exercises we do in class must be DONE to gain their benefits. The voice is a muscle- to improve and strengthen it, you need to commit to the exercises in class, and practice outside of class.
- The instructor will model exercises for you and demonstrate vocal techniques, but your personal results will be directly proportional to the effort you put in.
-

Key concepts for this class (what we will be practicing)

- Listening
- Breath = Inspiration (the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, esp. to do something creative)
- Sound & Voice (range of expression)
- Singing & Speaking (drama of expression)

Key topics of this class (what we will emphasize)

- The fundamentals of vocal production
- The physics of sound
- The phenomena of human speech and language
- The drama of speaking
- Class Expectations
- Common courtesy is expected at all times.
- Avoid side conversations during warm-ups, exercises, lectures, or presentations.
- You must arrive to class fed, washed, hydrated, awake and available.

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

- Focus your attention on your work and the work of your classmates. We learn as much from each other as we do from ourselves.
- This work can be very personal, emotional, demanding and challenging. Each individual will see breakthroughs at his or her own rate. We will create an ensemble environment that is safe and supportive.

Required Student Resources

To demonstrate your comprehension of course concepts, you are required to attend two university productions IN THEIR ENTIRETY and write response papers to each. Your instructor will specify the topics. These papers must be 3-5 pages (750-1250 words) typed, double-spaced, in 1" margins and 12-point font. The two university productions you will attend this semester are:

The Woman in Black, October 3-6, and 8 in the Lupin Theater

And

Arturo Ui, November 14-17 and 19 in the Lupin Theater

Your course fee has covered the cost of these tickets and you instructor will issue you a ticket voucher that is redeemable for one ticket per production. It is your responsibility to get tickets as *soon as they are available*. Shows often sell out. Please get your tickets in a prompt fashion. If you miss the production, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

There are no required texts for this course. However, your instructor may post material on Canvas or distribute texts in class, which you will be responsible for reading.

Grades are assigned based upon the ten-point grading scale:

B+ 87-89.99 C+ 77-79.99 D+ 67-69.99

A 93-100 B 83-86.99 C 73-76.99 D 63-66.99 F 0-59.99

A- 90-92.99 B- 80-82.99 C- 70-72.99 D- 60-62.99

Participation and Engagement 30 points=30%

Written Assignments 20 points=20%

Mid-Term Exam 25 points=10%

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Final Projects/ Exam 25 points=20%
100 points=100%

A satisfactory completion of the class assignments will result in a “C” grade. “C” represents average and acceptable. “B” and “A” grades are for that which is superior and excellent, respectively. **You do not start with an “A” and do something wrong to get a “C.” An “A” or a “B” must be earned by learning and demonstrating the class principles, by showing initiative, by doing more than the minimum.**

Grade equivalents:

A = consistently superior work in class and on written assignments, excellent attendance.

B = consistently excellent work in class and on written assignments, good attendance.

C = satisfactory work in class and on written assignments.

D = work is not satisfactory or not completed and/or attendance is unsatisfactory.

F = failure to meet course requirements in assignments, attendance, and/or

Please refer to the “Assignments Due” sheet for the breakdown on Written Assignments and Presentations. Notice that with a 100 point system, every point matters. For Written Assignments and Presentations just doing the work and having it prepared on time will earn 1 point. Achieving higher grades/points will require more in-depth study and analysis and a superior level of work.

Be aware that your JOURNAL is a written Assignment, in addition to being a reflection of your daily Participation and to be turned in on the dates noted and as a whole with your Final Projects. It is a comprehensive indication of the level of work (in terms of grading) you will have done in this class over the course of the semester.

Attendance:

You are EXPECTED to ATTEND ALL CLASS MEETINGS. Since voice work requires skill development that can only be obtained through steady, concentrated work, attendance and commitment to the process are major considerations when grading. Your attendance and participation are necessary to pass this course.

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

You are allowed Three (3) absences (excused or unexcused) for the entire semester. After that, the Participation grade will drop by one full letter (from an B+ to a C+) for each additional absence – because if you're not there, how can you participate?

Excused absences should be discussed with the instructor prior to the class intended to be missed, if possible, and each one requires proper documentation.

University Policy states that Excused Absences include:

1. Illness or injury to student
2. Death, injury or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like
3. Religious reasons
4. Jury Duty or government obligation

Faculty Members are not obliged to consider other absences as excused.

TARDINESS disrupts the focused energy of individuals who are ready to work, so lateness is UNACCEPTABLE. Please be on time. If you arrive after class has started, you will receive a “tardy” – TWO (2) “TARDIES” EQUAL ONE (1) ABSENCE.

If you are more than 10 MINUTES LATE to class YOU WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THAT CLASS and it will be counted as an absence for the day (unless previously discussed with the instructor).

Participation:

“Participating” is where you can help elevate “C” work to “B” or “A” levels. This includes being prepared for class, thoroughly completing in-class assignments, paying attention, taking part in discussions, dressing appropriately, actively involving yourself in class activities and exercises, responding thoughtfully to your colleagues’ work, and treating yourself and your fellow students with respect. Participation points reward the attempt, not the product. Show up, prepare and engage.

Assignments:

You are responsible for turning in work on time. LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED and THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT AVAILABLE. If an assignment is due and you can't make that class, please make arrangements via classmate, email or have it in my mailbox by 5pm ON THE DAY IT IS DUE. Students absent from presentation date without an

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

official excused absence will receive a 0 for that portion of the assignment.

EXTRA CREDIT for PARTICIPATION IS POSSIBLE if you go see shows outside of campus.

Withdrawal:

Please refer to University Policy.

The Space:

The classroom is your space to explore and develop your craft as an artist, and therefore is to be respected as such. Please – NO FOOD or BEVERAGES OTHER THAN WATER may be brought into the space. CELL PHONES are to be TURNED OFF before class begins – if a phone rings, I will be the one answering it... (Donut Rule)

Attire:

Please wear clothing that allows for freedom of movement, gym wear is appropriate. No blue jeans, “skinny” jeans or tight clothing, belts or excessive jewelry/big watches. If you are wearing inappropriate clothing, you will be asked to leave and receive an absence for the day. Please remove tongue piercings before coming to class (they have an effect on voice and speech work) and long hair must be fastened away from the face for both men and women.

Safety:

You are responsible for taking care of yourself and your fellow classmates/artists. Please tap into your common sense when working.

Disabilities and Injuries:

Students are responsible for telling the instructor about any special needs issues such as learning disabilities, physical injuries or handicaps, medications being taken, or any individual concerns that may affect your work in the class. Every effort will be made to assist your progress short of lowering the standards expected of students in the program. I am happy to discuss this in private. Please note that if you need special accommodation, the University must verify it.

Please Note:

The teaching of voice and speech often requires “hands-on” teaching by the instructor and student partners. The respectful use of touch is necessary to determine proper breathing, postural alignment, and to

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

make students aware of body habits that may be inhibiting the most efficient and effective production of sound.

DISCLAIMER! YOU CAN SAY NO!

In order to provide proper instruction in developing the vocal and physical technique of the actor, physical contact may be made. This includes but is not limited to:

- Postural Adjustment • Physical Support • Assisted Release of Tension •

If physical contact is undesired or becomes uncomfortable, please inform the instructor **immediately**. Use your voice!

ADA/Accessibility Statement

Any students with disabilities or other needs, who need special accommodations in this course, are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor and should contact Goldman Center for Student Accessibility: <http://accessibility.tulane.edu> or 504.862.8433.

Code of Academic Conduct

The Code of Academic Conduct applies to all undergraduate students, full-time and part-time, in Tulane University. Tulane University expects and requires behavior compatible with its high standards of scholarship. By accepting admission to the university, a student accepts its regulations (Code of Academic Conduct: <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>, Code of Student Conduct: <http://tulane.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/code.cfm>) and acknowledges the right of the university to take disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, for conduct judged unsatisfactory or disruptive. Tulane's Code of Academic Conduct is very specific regarding academic honesty:

In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The presence of a student's name on any work submitted in completion of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included (with the use of quotation marks when quoting someone else's words). This principle applies to papers, tests, homework assignments, artistic productions, laboratory reports, computer programs, and other assignments.

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Please read the Code of Academic Conduct in its entirety and at the website listed above and understand that its principles apply to this class. Lack of familiarity with the code or with the precise application of its principles to any specific instance is not an excuse for noncompliance with it.

Title IX

Tulane University recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. As such, Tulane is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination including sexual and gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence like sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or is experiencing these types of behaviors, know that you are not alone. Resources and support are available: you can learn more at <http://www.titleix.tulane.edu/>. Any and all of your communications on these matters will be treated as either “Confidential” or “Private” as explained in the chart below. Please know that if you choose to confide in your instructor, he or she is mandated by the university to report to the Title IX Coordinator as Tulane and your instructor want to be sure you are connected with all the support the university can offer. You do not need to respond to outreach from the university if you do not want to.

TULANE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE • (excerpted from <http://www.tulane.edu/~jruscher/dept/Honor.Code.html#Code>) “In all work submitted for academic credit, students are expected to represent themselves honestly. The presence of a student's name on any work submitted in completion of an academic assignment is considered to be an assurance that the work and ideas are the result of the student's own intellectual effort, stated in his or her own words, and produced independently, unless clear and explicit acknowledgment of the sources for the work and ideas is included. This principle applies to papers, tests, homework assignments, artistic productions, laboratory reports, computer programs, and other assignments.”

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Confidential	Private
Except in extreme circumstances, involving imminent danger to one's self or others, nothing will be shared without your explicit permission.	Conversations are kept as confidential as possible, but information is shared with key staff members so the University can offer resources and accommodations and take action if necessary for safety reasons.
Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) (504) 314-2277 or The Line (24/7) (504) 264-6074	Case Management & Victim Support Services (504) 314-2160 or srss@tulane.edu
Student Health Center (504) 865-5255	Tulane University Police (TUPD) Uptown - (504) 865-5911. Downtown – (504) 988-5531
Sexual Aggression Peer Hotline and Education (SAPHE) (504) 654-9543	Title IX Coordinator (504) 314-2160 or msmith76@tulane.edu

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Course Calendar

Week 1 August 31

In Class: Syllabus and intros

Homework: Read online handouts, Write voice history.

Week 2 September 5, 7 Breath/Sensation

In Class: Begin Exercises/ Intro Fitzmaurice/Linklater

Homework: Journal, exercises, Voice History due online Monday Sept 4.
(6-9 hours per week)

Week 3 September 12, 14 Breath/Sensation/Anatomy

In Class: Exercises/text

Homework: Journal, exercises, (6-9 hours per week)

Week 4 September 19, 21 Breath/Sensation/Health

In Class: Exercises/text

Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 5 September 26, 28 Breath/Sensation/Sound

In Class: Exercises/text

Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Reflection Paper Due Sept. 29

Week 6 October 3, 5 Breath/Sensation/Sound

The Woman in Black, October 3-6, and 8 in the Lupin Theater

In Class: Exercises/text

Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 7 October 10, 12 Breath/Presence/Sound

In Class: MidTerms, Final Project assigned

Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Midterm Paper Response to WIB - Due October 11.

10/12-15 FALL BREAK

Week 8 October 17, 19 Breath/Presence/sound

In Class: Exercises/text

Homework: (Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090

Week 9 October 24, 26 Breath to thought/Presence
In Class: Exercises/text
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 10 Oct. 31, Nov. 2 Breath to thought/Presence
In Class: Exercises/text
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 11 November 7, 9 Breath to thought/Presence
In Class: Exercises/text
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Reflection Paper Due November 10

Week 12 November 14, 16 Breath to thought/Presence
***Arturo Ui*, November 14-17 and 19 in the Lupin Theater**
In Class: Exercises/text
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 13 November 21 Breath to thought/Presence
In Class: Exercises/Text/Evaluations
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Week 14 November 28, 30 Breath to thought/Presence
In Class: Exercises/Text
Homework: Journal, exercises, Text (6-9 hours per week)

Weeks 15 December 5, 7
In Class: Final Projects
Homework: Final Paper, Turn in Journals (*Arturo Ui*) **Due December 10**

NOTE: This syllabus and calendar are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. You are responsible for making updates and adjustments.

Voice and Speech 1

Theatre 1090



Contract

By signing below, I understand the goals, objectives and expectations of the class as stated above. I also understand that this is an activity class requiring daily participation. I will abide by the policies of this course, including the absence and lateness policy.

(signature)

(print name)

(date)