THR-223-001 - Theatre Speech
Course Policy Sheet and Syllabus—Spring 2020

Professor: Kristen Blossom
Pronouns: she/hers
Email: kristen.blossom@sfasu.edu
Office: Griffith Fine Arts 225
Office Phone: 936-468-1119

Department: Theatre
Credits: 3.000
Class Time: 12:30-1:45pm
Class Day: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Class Place: Griffith Fine Arts 311

Office Hours: For the times in the table below, no appointment is needed; simply come by as your schedule allows. In addition, appointments may also be scheduled by emailing me in advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-1p, 3-4p</td>
<td>4-5p</td>
<td>12-1p</td>
<td></td>
<td>12-1p</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Description
Study of voice and diction for the actor.

Text and Materials
The Right to Speak by Patsy Rodenburg
Yoga mat, journal and writing implement

Program Learning Outcomes
4. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships. (All degree plans)
6. The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specialization(s). (BA)
8. The student will be able to complete and document a major project as a stage manager, as a designer or technician, or as an actor or director, demonstrating advanced competence in the student's specialty. (BFA)
9. The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student's specialization. (BFA)

Student Learning Outcomes
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
1. Perform an effective and thorough vocal warm-up (PLO’s 4 and 6)
2. Perform utilizing skills learned in class (PLO’s 4, 6, 8, 9)
3. Execute basic techniques of articulation and voice production (PLO’s 4, 6, 8, and 9)
4. Identify and properly apply techniques that support the mechanics and anatomy of the vocal instrument (PLO’s 4 and 6)
5. Expand range and vocal options while divesting inhibitions and minimizing habits that can limit vocal expressiveness (PLO’s 4, 8, and 9)
Course Requirements

➢ Students are expected to attend all class meetings, arriving on time and actively participating in class discussions. Theatre is an intrinsically collaborative art, and the practical application side of your training occurs largely in the classroom. Therefore, your absence from class impacts not only your learning, but also the learning of the other students. If you are absent, you are responsible for determining what you missed and for being prepared for class when you return.

➢ Cell phones and other devices that have the potential to distract you, me, or your classmates should be put away and silenced.

➢ Using D2L will be essential for success in this class. Grade and attendance records can be viewed on D2L at any point throughout the semester.

➢ All Acting, Movement, and Theatre Speech classes at SFA require the wearing of black movement clothing. This is a common practice in many Theatre training programs. It is intended to create a sense of neutrality across the performers, make it easier to step in and out of character, and help the performance classroom feel like a space where art is made. Your clothing should be solid black and not include designs, images or words. Small brand logos are acceptable. Your clothes should effectively cover your body through a range of movement possibilities. Further, no hats may be worn. If you must cover your hair, skullcaps are acceptable. If you are not wearing class appropriate clothing, you will be asked to leave, and receive an absence for the day, as well as, a zero engagement score for the day.

➢ Soft soled movement or athletic type shoes shall be worn for class. Any color is acceptable. Barefoot is acceptable if good hygiene exists.

➢ If you have a disability or physical injury that hinders you from participating in class activities, please see me privately so we can make arrangements to accommodate you.

➢ This class requires interaction between students. Please come to class clean.

➢ Hair should be pulled out of the face.

➢ Jewelry should be removed before class. This includes necklaces, long, dangling earrings, watches, body piercings and large rings. This prevents potentially dangerous snags on your own body or other's bodies.

➢ Assist in keeping the space clean, organized and ready for the next class.

➢ Bring a no-spill water bottle to class. Only water is allowed. Fill it before class; you can't leave class to fill it. No food in class (this includes gum and candy).

➢ Late work will not be accepted after the fact except in extreme circumstances.

➢ Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted. I reserve the right to remove you from class for the day if you create a physically or emotionally unsafe environment for your classmates. Please let me know if something said or done in the classroom that is particularly troubling or causes discomfort or offense.

Course Calendar

Dates and topics will be revised if necessary. Additional assignments may be given in class.

Week 1: Jan 13-17  Warm Up, Breath, The Second Circle
Week 2: Jan 20-24  Releasing Tension, Alignment, IPA
Week 3: Jan 27-31  Confidence, Energy, Connection, Standard American
Week 4: Feb 3-7  Patsy Rodenburg, Vowels, Consonants
Week 5    Feb 10-14    Strategy, Midterm Material Selection
Week 6    Feb 17-21    Know Thyself, Affirmations
Week 7    Feb 24-28    Midterm Memorized by 2/25, Rehearsal
Week 8    Mar 2-6     Midterm
Spring Break    Mar 9-13
Week 9    Mar 16-20    Elements: Air, Water - Creative Communication
Week 10   Mar 23-27    Elements: Fire, Earth - Creative Communication
Week 11   Mar 30-Apr 3  Shakespeare: Interpretation, Glossary
Week 12   Apr 6-10 Easter Holiday    Final Material Selection
Week 13   Apr 13-17    Shakespeare: Scansion
Week 14   Apr 20-24    Improvised Sound, Comprehensive Review
Dead Week    Apr 27-May 1    Final Memorized by 4/28, Rehearsal
Finals Week    May 4-8     Final

Class Format
1. Attendance: Self-exploration exercise
2. Warm up
3. Group project, discussion, activity or rehearsal

Attendance Policy
Attendance and Engagement is 50% of your final grade. Seven (7) absences in a T/TH class will result in an automatic failure of the course. Two (2) tardies count as one (1) absence. A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. At my discretion, students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. Students are responsible for emailing kristen.blossom@sfasu.edu documentation in a timely manner for each absence. I will determine whether such documentation is satisfactory.

Grading Policy
Attendance and Engagement   50%
Weekly D2L Discussions    25%
Assignments               25%
    Midterm 50pts (½ credit if not memorized by 2/25)
    Final 50pts (½ credit if not memorized by 4/28)

Final Grading: (0-59) F (60-69) D (70-79) C (80-89) B (90-100) A

Engagement:
A – Student shows a heightened level of attention, commitment, and effort.
B – Student shows an acceptable level of attention, commitment, and effort.
C – Student is present and not disruptive or obviously disengaged.
D – Student is present and mildly disruptive or disengaged.
F – Student is present and significantly disruptive or disengaged.
**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as 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/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
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 course work 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 for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**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 in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).