Fall 2021
Theatre Speech
DRAM 2336 - 002

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Department: School of Theatre

Where: McKibben 451  
When: Tues & Thurs 2pm - 3:15pm  
Face-to-Face & Livestream Instructional Method  
3.000 Credits

Catalogue Description: Study of voice and diction for the actor.

Course Objective: Students will study the psychological and physiological aspects of speaking through exercises, assignments and discussions.

Video Etiquette: When creating a video or chatting on Zoom, students are expected to wear proper attire, be courteous to others, and not share information/pictures that are illegal or offensive.

Program Learning Outcomes Supported in this Course
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 specializations. (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 Supported in this Course (and supported PLOs)
• A working understanding of The Voice Workout (PLOs 4, 6, 8, 9)
• An understanding of the physical mechanisms that produce breath and sound (PLO 4)
• A freer, more flexible vocal and physical self (PLOs 4, 6, 8, 9)
• Increased body awareness (PLOs 4, 6, 8, 9)
• A more effective use of breath (PLOs 4, 6, 8, 9)

Text and Materials (Required)
The Second Circle by Patsy Rodenburg, Yoga Mat or Towel

Course Requirements
You must check D2L every day and have a way to access it during class.
50% Attendance, Participation, Discussion & Assignments
25% Midterm
25% Final

Attendance, Participation, Discussion & Assignments 50%
The expectation in this class is that you are fully engaged as an artist for each class session. You must be present and ready to work at the beginning of each class. You are expected to be mentally, emotionally, and physically prepared. You will be asked to engage as a student, artist, and collaborator every day. Online discussion will be monitored by the instructor through D2L.

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. You should not miss class.
In this class we will explore breath, vocal anatomy, speech and phonetics. A large portion of our focus will be placed on developing confidence, breaking harmful vocal habits, clear articulation and powerful projection.

Warm Ups to be Memorized

1. To sit in solemn silence in a dull dark dock
   In a pestilential prison with a life long lock
   Awaiting the sensation of a short sharp shock
   From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block

2. Amidst the mists and coldest frosts,
   With stoutest wrists and loudest boasts,
   She thrusts her fists against the posts,
   And still insists she sees the ghosts.

3. A pessimistic pest exists amidst us.
   She sees cheese.
   A shapeless sash sags slowly.
   Little Lillian lets lazy lizards lie along the lily pads.
   Bake big batches of bitter brown bread.

A Note on Memorization: Memorization is a base level expectation for actors. You must memorize early and be ready to work off-book. If you struggle with memorization please let me know, and I will give you tools to help.

Midterm 25% - Inspiration, Inhalation, Open Channel, Words
Exam: Comprehensive based on lectures.

Project: Focusing on Articulation, Energy, Pitch

Final 25% - Presence, Confidence, Passion
Exam: Comprehensive based on lectures.

Project: Focusing on Authenticity & Connection

Grading Policy
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.
0 – Student is not present or asked to leave class.

Late Work: All assignments should be handed in in class by the beginning of class. Any assignment will be marked off 10% for each day it is late.

The Varying Nature of Assignments: There will be various assignments and projects periodically throughout the semester based on the progression of the class. Not every assignment is listed on this syllabus.

Course Calendar (tentative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August &amp; September</th>
<th>Course Intro, Inspiration to Speak, Breathing, Tension Release, Open Channel for Sound, Mechanisms of Speech</th>
<th>Lectures, Exercises, Assignments &amp; Discussions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October &amp; November</td>
<td>Presence, Confidence, Passion, Articulation, Energy, Pitch, Shakespeare</td>
<td>Lectures, Exercises, Assignments &amp; Discussions</td>
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<td><strong>Midterm Exam &amp; Project:</strong> Thursday, October 14th</td>
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<td><strong>Thanksgiving Break:</strong> Nov 22nd-26th</td>
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Classroom Policies
1. NO CELL PHONES for any reason.
2. Always come to class with a writing utensil and paper.
3. Disorderly conduct or talking inappropriately in class is not permitted.
4. 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.
5. This class requires significant physical interaction between students. Please come to class clean, and with nails trimmed.
6. 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.
7. Soft soled movement or athletic type shoes shall be worn for class. On occasion, we will work with bare feet. I would encourage black shoes, but as quality movement shoes are expensive any color is acceptable.
8. 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).
9. Hair should be pulled out of the face.
10. Assist in keeping the space clean, organized and ready for the next class.

Attendance Policy
In keeping with the School of Theatre policy (see the school Handbook), the following applies to this course:

"... regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories and other activities for which a student is registered or assigned.

"I. It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies… and other situations of similar importance.

"Excused absences from Theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation upon the first day of the student’s return from the teacher, sponsor or physician involved. In the case of absences caused by University-sponsored events, inclusion in the University’s public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence.

"II. A total of...7 excused and/or unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes will result in the student receiving a failing grade. Excessive unexcused absences will affect your grade.

"III. The student will be allowed a maximum of... two unexcused absences in Tuesday-Thursday classes. [More than two unexcused absences will result in a lower grade (1.5 points out of 100 for each absence) in this course.]

"IV. In the case of missed classes, the student will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects."

Academic Integrity (4.1)
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/student-academic-dishonesty-4.1.pdf

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5)**

Last updated by the SFA Core Curriculum Committee April 2021

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/.

**Mental Health and Wellness**

SFA values students' mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

- SFA Counseling Services
  - www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
  - Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
  - 936.468.2401

- SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
  - www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
  - Human Services, Room 202
  - 936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources:**

- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Diversity and Inclusion**

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, gender, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to formulate and express your thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated and may constitute disruptive behavior under the student code of conduct.