Theatre Speech
DRAM 2336 - 001
Subject to Change
Spring 2024
Tuesday/Thursday
9:30am-10:45am

Instructor: Zeke Bocklage, MFA
(He/Him)

Contact: bocklage.ezekiel@sfasu.edu
O: 936-468-1227
C: 636-667-6680

Office Hours: M/W 12pm-2pm
T/TH 11am-Noon
Or By Appointment

Location: BLACK BOX THEATRE (Class)
GFNA 230 (Office)
Department: Theatre

Course Description
Study of voice and diction for the actor. (Stephen F Austin State University Course Catalog, 2023)

Course Objectives
This course is designed to develop vocal skills needed for stage performance. The course will focus on vocal production and explore movement improvisation and exercises to support this vocal exploration, as well as continue to enhance the actors ability to create vocal life for the character. Classes will include exercises in relaxation and breath control, exercises in articulation and diction that focus on clarity of speech and range of register, and vocal/physical projection as applied to dramatic literature.

Specific Objectives for the Student:

- The capacity to produce sustained breath when speaking on stage, with synchronized breath support formed with the use of diaphragmatic and thoracic musculature.
- The ability to release unneeded muscular tension is the chest, throat, and oral cavities.
- Production of additional resonance in chest, Oral and sinus cavities of the vocal instrument.
- Ability to successfully present a 15-30 minute vocal regimen, that with daily application, intensifies vocal stamina, flexibility and power.
- Enhancement of agility in vocal range and projection for performance on stage.

Required Texts

- THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXT FOR THIS COURSE.
- Voice and the Actor by Cecily Berry is highly recommended
- Freeing the Natural Voice by K. Linklater is highly recommended.
- Other reading materials may be required, and will be provided by the instructor. via email or canvas.
Attire

Appropriate classroom attire consists of the following:

- Comfortable, ALL BLACK, clothes you can move around in. NO JEANS
- Closed toed shoes. NO SANDALS OR FLIP FLOPS.
- Please no food in class. Water (in a closed container or water bottle) is highly encouraged

If the student comes dressed inappropriately for class, they will be counted absent for that work day, unless otherwise excused by the instructor.

Course Requirements

1. **Participation (40%)** Your presence and involvement are essential to classroom activities/discussion, but also for your own growth as an artist and academic.

2. **Attendance (20%)** Attendance will be taken every day. SEE ATTENDANCE POLICY

3. **Journal Entries (15%)** These entries will document your personal growth, realizations, struggles, and discoveries as you work through the semester.

4. **Midterm (10%)** This will be a written exam as well as INDIVIDUAL presentation of the Linklater warm-up.

5. **Final (15%)** This will be a performance of both Sonnet 23 and your chosen monologue, as well as a written examination/analysis of both pieces in regards to your voice and character work.

6. **Monologue Selection Criteria:** something in contemporary, modern speech from a theatrical play from 2000-present day. No films or TV shows or self written material.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRADES</th>
<th>SCALE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance 20%</td>
<td>90-100 = A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation 40%</td>
<td>80-90 = B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal Entries 15%</td>
<td>70-80 = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 10%</td>
<td>60-70 = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final 15%</td>
<td>0-59 = F</td>
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TOTAL POINTS - 100pts
Attendance Policy

Attendance will be taken at the top of class every period. Being punctual and prepared is an expectation in any field of study, or system of employment. Class attendance and enthusiastic participation is the most important part of your success in this class. Your attendance and punctuality is crucial for building an ensemble, understanding the material, and respecting your fellow actor and the work itself.

“Everybody gets one”. Everyone will get one unexcused, “Whoops I overslept”, “I am not feeling it today” absence. After 2 unexcused absences, the student’s final grade will go down by one letter (A to B, for example) 3 or More (B to C), after 5 unexcused absences, the student is advised to drop the course. Missing a Midterm or Final performance or 5 or more unexcused absences will result in an F for the semester.

An excused absence is one that has been cleared with the instructor at least one hour prior to the beginning of class. For excused absences, students may make up NO MORE THAN 15% of the Semester’s coursework. All other points will be lost.

Be on time. Surprises happen, sometimes we run behind, but excessive lateness will not be tolerated. Your classmates rely on you in order to do the exercises/work the scenes. Don’t do it for me. Do it for them.

Participation

"Art resides in the quality of doing; process is not magic." — Charles Eames

This is an experience based course, and you are expected to participate and commit with a generous heart, an open mind and a devoted work ethic. You are not graded on 'talent' in this class, you are graded on your Quality of Doing — there is no progress without putting in the work.

Classroom Respect Agreement

This course will challenge you to step out of your comfort zone in many ways. The goals of this course are centered around the discovery of new and exciting ways to use your voice within character development and while on stage. It is my main goal that every student feels safe and encouraged to explore their instrument to the fullest extent in class. Please come to each class with an open mind, and willingness to fully explore each exercise and experience. Lack of participation or close mindedness will only hinder your work and artistic range. I also request that out of respect for everyone in class, anything discussed in class remains in class. If you have any questions or concerns regarding classroom discussion or activities, please email me or see me during office hours, and I will always be happy to discuss them with you!

Written Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, written assignments should be emailed to me as a PDF attachment before the specified date and time. Written assignments should follow MLA guidelines. Late assignments will not be accepted.
CELL PHONE POLICY

Turn it off. An acting class is a safe place for people to explore and experiment with the art of acting. This cannot happen when people are buried in your phones. It is not only disrespectful to those who are working in the room, but it severely detracts from your growth as well as you lose opportunities to observe and learn from your fellow classmates. If you are expecting an emergency call or text, please communicate with me prior to class beginning. If caught on your phone, you will be warned once. After that, you will be asked to leave class and will be marked absent. Please, just turn it off.

REVISED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Please see www.sfasu.edu/policies for more information.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty and 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

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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to

http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, 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:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)

www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents

936.468.7249

dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202

www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp

936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”

Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

• Health Services

• Counseling Services

• Student Outreach and Support

• Food Pantry

• Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub

936.468.4008

thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**

• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343

• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8

• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)

• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**DAILY PLAN/COURSE OUTLINE**

***This plan may be altered to meet the needs of the class at the discretion of the instructor.***

Jan 18 TH - Syllabus and Course Requirements/How the Voice Works, or Does it?

Jan 23 T - Voice Individuality/Dissecting our own Voice

   **Homework: Journal about it**

Jan 25 TH - Journey of the Breath, Physical Awareness, The Spine

   **Homework: Journal about it**

Jan 30 T - Touching Sound & Bartinieff Fundamentals, Relaxation

   **Homework: Journal about it**

Feb 1 TH - Freeing Vibrations: Lips, Head, Body

   **Homework: Journal about it**

Feb 6 T - Intermission Warm-Up **Monologue Selection DUE**

Feb 8 TH - Jaw and Tongue Awareness/Relaxation

   **Homework: Journal about it**
Feb 13 T - The Spine and Channel Connection **Monologue Selection MEMORIZED**
   Homework: Journal about it

Feb 15 TH - Throat Awareness and Finding Resonance
   Homework: Journal about it

Feb 20 T - Resonators: Chest, Mouth, Teeth
   Homework: Journal about it

Feb 22 TH - Intermission Workout/Exploration of Growth
   Homework: Journal about it

Feb 27 T - Breathing Power
   Homework: Journal about it

Feb 29 TH - Sinus, Nasal, & Skull Resonators
   Homework: Journal about it

Mar 5 T - Range and Exercising it **MEMORIZE SONNET 23**
   Homework: Journal about it

Mar 7 TH - Releasing the Voice: Calling, Triads and Rainbows/Review for Midterm
   Homework: Journal about it

**SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES MARCH 9-17**

Mar 19 T - MIDTERM EXAM **JOURNALS DUE**

Mar 21 TH - Chosen Monologue Exploration: Breath, Resonators, Range and Relaxations
   Homework: Journal about it

Mar 26 T - Endowing the Text
   Homework: Journal about it

**Mar 28 TH - NO CLASS EASTER BREAK**

Apr 2 T - Articulation and Phonetics **SONNET 23 MEMORIZED**
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 4 TH - Muscularity and Word
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 9 T - Muscularity and Word (over Zoom)
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 11 TH - Speaking Poetry
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 16 T - Listening
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 18 TH - Explore Sonnet 23 and Final Monologue
   Homework: Journal about it
Apr 23 T - Working Individually/Coaching
Apr 25 TH - Course Debrief and Longevity Discussion

APRIL 29 - MAY 2 DEAD WEEK, please study…

Thursday, May 09, 8-10am FINAL & JOURNALS DUE