Theatre Speech
THR-223-002

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Department: School of Theatre
Classroom: GFNA 311
Days/Times: Mon/Wed 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Course Description: (DRAM 2336) - Study of voice and diction for the actor.

Objective: This class will provide the student with a conceptual and physical understanding and experience of voice and speech dynamics in performance. Topics covered include (but are not limited to) anatomy, vocal health and recovery techniques and myths, cultural influences on vocal habits and stereotypes, and vocal variables (pitch, volume, rate, etc.). Physical practices will include (but are not limited to) relaxation, voice and diction warm-ups, channel opening, articulator dexterity exercises, guided imagery vocalization, “so-called ‘general American’ (SCGA) accent”, and mind-body awareness.
Program Learning Outcomes (PLO’s) 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 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 (SLO’s) for this course (and supported PLO’s):

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)

Materials: Students will be required to have a physical notebook of some kind and a writing utensil for every class period. Students will be required to find monologues using available resources (University library, the instructor’s library, online resources, etc.). Reading, audio, or video may be assigned at the instructor’s discretion, with materials provided by the instructor.
Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

- Students are required to wear clothing and shoes in which they can move freely. If a student’s attire does not permit the execution of in-class exercises due to movement restriction or concerns of modesty, the student will be sent home to change, and the resultant absence from the classroom will result in applicable penalties to the student’s final grade as detailed in the below sections regarding tardiness, etc., and unexcused absences. Appropriateness of attire is determined at the instructor’s discretion. If there is any question about the appropriateness of attire, the student is obliged to inquire ahead of time.

- Unauthorized use of mobile phones, PDA’s, digital media players, tablets, laptops, etc. during class for any reason will result in the student being marked absent (unexcused) and removed from class.

- Tardiness, early departure, or any other unauthorized absence from the classroom for less than half the class period will result in a 1.7 point penalty to the student’s final grade per incident. The “free absences” afforded by the School of Theatre’s attendance policy can be applied to tardiness penalties in place of absences, in whatever combination is most beneficial to the student’s final grade.

30% In-class Participation
This is an evaluation of a combination of factors applicable to lecture, discussion, performance, and in-class group work and practice. These factors may include (but are not limited to) attention, engagement, courtesy, attitude, involvement, contribution, commitment, courage, progress, inquisitiveness, and skill.

70% Assignments and Preparation

- Quizzes 30% (10% each)
- Omnish oration 15%
- Monologue Performance 25%
The letter grade on each assignment is translated to this numerical scale:

A+  100
A   95
A-  91
B+  88
B   85
B-  81
C+  78
C   75
C-  71
D+  68
D   65
D-  61
F   0-59

The final grade is then calculated using the percentages in the “Course Requirements and Grading Policy” section above, and the numerical weighted average is translated to this letter-grade scale:

89.500-100       A
79.500-89.499     B
69.500-79.499     C
59.500-69.499     D
0-59.499          F

Course Calendar (subject to change):

1   Syllabus, Introductions, Expectations
2   Speech standards, stereotypes, traditions
3   Monologue requirements, “Type”
4   DUE: Monologue selection, Breathing anatomy and the vocal tract
5   Mat work
6   QUIZ 1
7   Phonation Anatomy, Exploring vocal sound
8   Articulation anatomy
9 Articulation anatomy
10 DUE: Monologue – off-book check
11 Shaping sound
12 QUIZ 2, Phthongs
13 Phthongs, Obstruents
14 Obstruents, Outlandish
15 TBA
16 Omnish
17 DUE: Omnish oration
18 Preserving vocal health
19 vocal injury, restoring vocal health
20 Snake oil & logical fallacies
21 QUIZ 3
22 Workout
23 TBA
24 Workout
25 Volume
26 Pitch
27 Rate/Duration

Exam: Monologue: Final Presentation
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY (School of Theatre)
A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, 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, student working the University Series, and other situations of similar importance.

Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor or physician involved upon the first day of the student’s return. 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 seven excused and/or unexcused absences in Tuesday - Thursday classes will result in the student receiving a failing grade. Excessive unexcused absences will affect a student’s grade.

III. The student will be allowed a maximum of two unexcused absences in Tuesday - Thursday classes or three unexcused absences in Monday - Wednesday - Friday classes.

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

University Attendance Policy (excerpt): “…students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences… Students with acceptable excuses may be permitted to make up work for a maximum of three weeks’ worth of absences during a semester… depending on the nature of the missed work. Make up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence in accordance with the course syllabus.”

A note regarding production conflicts: If you have committed to a School of Theatre production (mainstage, public, studio hour, Fredonia Players, etc.) which conflicts with a class session or part of a session, you are not excused from class, and normal penalties for non-attendance apply, unless it is an approved university sponsored event and your name is listed under the Excused Absences List on mySFA. If you intend to miss class to participate in production or for any other reason and wish to avoid a grade penalty, you must use one of your two (2) free absences to do so.
Class Attendance Policy: Missing more than half of a class period will be considered an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences in excess of what is permitted by the School Attendance Policy (above) will result in final grade penalties and maximums as follows:

Three (3) unexcused absences: Final grade penalty of -8.1 points, with a maximum final grade of B

Four (4) unexcused absences: Final grade penalty of -16.2 points, with a maximum final grade of C

Five (5) unexcused absences: Final grade penalty of -24.3 points, with a maximum final grade of D

Six (6) unexcused absences: Final grade penalty of -32.4 points

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
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/.