



**THEA 1303/27331**  
**Voice and Speech I**  
**Spring 2021 Syllabus**



**Professor: Ms. Jillian K. Waters, MFA**  
**Contact: [Jkwaters@Utep.edu](mailto:Jkwaters@Utep.edu), Blackboard Messages or**  
**[Jillianwaters@gmail.com](mailto:Jillianwaters@gmail.com)**

**Class: T/TH- 10:30 AM MST - 11:50 AM MST**  
**Virtual Office Hours: Zoom (Use the class link)**  
**Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 PM MST or by appointment**



**Course Description:**

Welcome to Voice and Speech I THEA 1303/27331 *online*! This virtual class will be taught remotely from New York City, and we will be using Mountain Standard Time for all classes and assignments. We will be studying exercises originally developed by Iris Warren and expanded upon by Kristin Linklater in her book *Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and art in the practice of voice and language*. We will focus on working to free the voice from physical and psychological limitations in order to develop healthy and effective vocal usage for stage, for screen and for life.

**Course Overview:**

Over the semester and by the end of the course students will have developed an understanding and personal command of their own voice.

In this course we will study:

**The Freeing Process**

- Physical Awareness
- Breath Awareness
- Vibration Awareness
- Amplification of Vibration
- The Channel:
  - The Jaw
  - The Tongue
  - The Soft Palate

**The Development Process**

- Chest, Mouth, Teeth Resonators
- Ribs/Breath Capacity
- Resonance: Sinus, Nasal, Top of Skull Range
- Articulation into Language



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**Voice with Text**

The fundamentals of voice with text will be explored by applying specific exercises from the above progression to text. The focus will be on discovering the individual connection to the material. The goal will be to reveal an authentic voice through the text.

**Course Objectives:**

- Nurture and develop a relaxed, supported and resonate vocal and physical instrument free of any tension
- Proficiency in the practice and self facilitation of the Linklater progression and warm up
- Read material and complete HW journal assignments; see class calendar
- Patron of the Arts: Attend the UTEP Department of Theatre and Dance virtual performance of Love Song By John Kolvenbach (March 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th) **and** submit your answer to the Patron of the Arts prompt response on Blackboard in Patron of the Arts folder.
- Patron of the Arts Prompt: With a minimum of 250 words write about what Linklater vocal work you notice in the performance and one moment, scene, aspect, or observation you will take away with you from the performance? Remember to stay away from labeling the work or your experiences as "good or bad." Dig deeper and find out what you thought was FRESH, NEW or INTERESTING, and why? (Due March 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- Sign up and attend Midterm 1 on 1 Session on March 13th, 14th, 15th or 16th. Sign up via the google doc I will send out to the class and use the class zoom link for the session.
- Final Exam:
  - Part One: Submit a 15-20 minute recording of you leading yourself through the Linklater Warm Up Progression. (You may use notes or helpful aids)



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- Part Two: Using 400 words or more, write a self reflection paper on  
( a.) One success from your personal voice work in this class,  
(b.) One challenge from your personal voice work in this class  
(c.) One goal for yourself in continuing the Linklater voice work from this class. (Final Exam: Part One and Part Two due May 13th.)

**Required Text/Materials:**

- *Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and art in the practice of voice and language* - By Kristin Linklater - the 2006 revised and expanded edition is preferred but all editions whether they be hard copy or digital are acceptable.
- Voice and Speech I Digital or Paper Copy Notebook: *This notebook will be used to record notes from class and from your own private practice. The student will practice their voice and speech work on their own at **least** twice a week. Record your questions, discoveries, observations, etc. The notebook will be checked periodically.*
- Computer or smart device with webcam, microphone and internet access.
- Active Blackboard Ultra.
- A yoga mat or an area that is a safe and soft space for you to practice and learn the work.

**Recommended but not Required Reading:**

- *A Dream of Passion* by Lee Strasberg
- *Body Learning* by Michael J. Gelb
- *Freeing Shakespeare's Voice* by Kristin Linklater



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**Requirements of the Course:**

- Students are required to attend **all** classes online Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:50 am MST. Per standard policy you may miss **2** classes without penalty. After the 2nd class is missed, each subsequent missed class will lower your final class grade by a full letter grade. i.e If you miss 3 classes an A becomes a B, if you miss 4 classes an A becomes a C, if you miss 5 classes you fail the class. **The last day to drop or withdraw from class is April 1st.**
- Students will be encouraged and expected to use the warm-up exercises on a regular basis outside of class.
- Students will be encouraged to bring in memorized texts and to work on them outside of class, applying the specific exercises learned in class as appropriate.
- Students will focus first on experiences that are *fresh, new or interesting* when giving feedback and will refrain from valuing the work as “good or bad.”
- Students will refer to what they “saw” instead of how the work made them “feel” in the moment and refrain from directorial feedback.
- Students will be asked to sign up and attend a mid-term one on one session.
- Students will demonstrate mastery of the material by leading themselves through the warm-up progression as part one of their final.
- Students will be expected to be on time, **PARTICIPATE** and be ready to do the work.
- Students will support one another and help cultivate an ensemble of mutual respect and positive collaboration.

**Grade Distribution:**

Students can earn a total of 1000 points in the course.

- Attendance and participation - 300 points
- Blackboard Homework Journal Posts- 100 points (5 posts each worth 20 pts)



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- Patron of the Arts- Support UTEP theatre and attend Love Song By John Kolvenbach, and submit your written response to the prompt asked in the Patron of the Arts folder on Blackboard- 200 points:
- Midterm 1 on 1 Session - 100 points
- Final Exam - 300 points
  - Part One-200 Points
  - Part Two- 100 Points

A	B	C	D	F
1000 - 900 Points	899 - 800 Points	799 - 700 Points	699 - 600 Points	599 & below

**Patron of the Arts:**

- Patron of the Arts is MANDATORY and is 200 points of your grade and it is an assignment aimed at creating and fostering a supportive UTEP Theatre and Dance community and audience.
- Support UTEP theatre and virtually attend Love Song By John Kolvenbach, **and** submit your written response to the prompt asked in the Patron of the Arts folder on Blackboard.
- Patron of the Arts Prompt: With a minimum of 250 words write about what Linklater vocal work you notice in the performance and one moment, scene, aspect, or observation you will take away with you from the performance? Remember to stay away from labeling the work or your experiences as "good or bad." Dig deeper and find out what you thought was FRESH, NEW or INTERESTING, and why? **(Due March 23<sup>rd</sup>)**



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- Love Song will have 4 showings on a virtual streaming platform, starting March 10th and running through the 13th. Each showing is at 7:30 PM MST. You have 4 opportunities to attend and watch Love Song but if for any reason you are unable to attend one of the virtual performances on March 10th-13th, **PLEASE communicate with me before March 9th** so we work together to arrange an alternate assignment.
- **EXTRA CREDIT:** Watch another UTEP show or professional production and submit a paper on your observations and experiences to receive extra credit up to 100 points. Two additional shows can make up for 1 class absence. I will accept Extra Credit till May 12th.

**Course Attire:**

Please wear comfortable loose clothing that allows for maximum mobility and freedom. Please do not wear any tight belts or restrictive pants or tops as you will need to be physically available to move around your space.

**Communication Plan:**

Please speak with me on Blackboard Collaborate during my office hours **Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 pm MST**. If that is not possible, please send me a message through Blackboard Ultra or email me at: [jkwaters@utep.edu](mailto:jkwaters@utep.edu) or [jilliankwaters@gmail.com](mailto:jilliankwaters@gmail.com). Please reach out and schedule an appointment and I will do my best to help or to direct you to the appropriate student support services.

Please make sure you check announcements on Blackboard more than once a week to ensure you do not miss any key information as this will be my *primary* method of sharing all course materials and information. These times are uncertain and the calendar may shift if necessary.

For all correspondence and communication, please refer to me as Jillian or Jill. My preferred pronouns are she/her/hers and please be sure to let me know your preferred pronouns or if you prefer to go by a name other than the one on the roster.



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**Blackboard Ultra:**

Blackboard Ultra is the official LMS (Learning Management System) of UTEP. You are expected to utilize and be familiar with Blackboard Ultra. If there are any questions regarding the use of Blackboard Ultra, please speak with your peer leader or me during office hours. For assistance with logging in or any other technical issue, you can reach the [Help Desk here](#) or by calling 915-747-HELP (4357).

Blackboard Ultra also has an app available where you can easily check the online syllabus, calendar, messages, due dates, assignments and discussions. It's a great tool to check in on things, but as with most things, the desktop web version is your best bet for compatibility, uploading and submitting assignments.

**Course Policies and Procedures**

Voice and Speech I is a physical class and to aid in that learning you are also responsible for the reading material listed in the "Readings Due" column and submitting all homework on time from the "Homework" column of the calendar each week. The readings are *extremely* helpful but also necessary to assist you in our class discourse. All dates are clearly specified on the course calendar, but should there be any issues with due dates, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance and we can discuss other arrangements if necessary.

Please post your homework journal responses to each reading on Blackboard on time. Each post will be due as stated on the calendar in the Home Work Due column. Calendar is subject to change at any point and appropriate notice will be given. 250 words minimum is expected in each response and please answer the prompt as in depth as you can. Be sure to write about your observations and experiences thoroughly. Late posts will **not** be graded.

All the materials written, audio and visual shared within this course remain within this course. You can share on your social media your own materials if the only person that appears or the only author is you. If you want to share content that includes or is co-authored with other classmates, you need to write them AND the instructor to discuss the authorization.



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### **Late Work Policy**

Late work is unacceptable. Nothing in my class can be “made-up”. However I understand that life happens. If you are going to miss an assignment or anticipate something preventing you from turning work in on time, please notify me *in advance* and as soon as you are aware so we can discuss.

### **Accommodations for Individuals Working due to COVID-19**

In light of recent unemployment events due to Covid-19, I understand that families are now adjusting to new financial accommodations. Since this is an unprecedented event, I recognize and support students who must be absent due to professional obligations. The expectation and prerequisite is that the student must communicate with me in a timely manner about their schedule conflicts, *before* each Covid-19 related absence. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis.

### **UTEP Policy Regarding Safety and COVID-19**

UTEP has established policies to help protect the health of our community and make our campus safe. All instructors must know and understand these policies when preparing and offering courses. The UTEP Temporary Health and Safety Policy requires all faculty, staff, and students to follow these guidelines:

- Stay at home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.
- Report ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test.
- Complete screening questions ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) every day before coming to campus and follow instructions provided.
- While on campus:
  - wear face coverings when in common areas or when others are present;





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- maintain a minimum separation of six (6) feet between yourself and others when possible, and arrange spaces to make this possible in almost all circumstances;
- adhere to room/space limitations on number of occupants; and
- wash and/or sanitize hands frequently.

**Student Responsibilities When Going On Campus**

- This class is online and will be completely virtual. That being said, if you would like to rent a studio or classroom for on campus vocal work, PLEASE DO! However please be sure to adhere to the Covid compliance safety policies and guidelines.
- Complete self-screening ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to every campus visit.
- Complete COVID-19 student training at [this site](#).
- Contact instructor if temporary accommodations due to COVID-19 are needed (i.e., due to positive COVID-19 test, symptoms, or exposure).
- If unable to wear a face covering (e.g., medical reasons), the best course of action is to enroll in courses that are entirely online or to work with academic advisors, if necessary, to identify alternative courses. If this is not possible request an accommodation from the [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) prior to coming to campus for in-person activities. Students who receive an accommodation to not wear a face covering must share this with the professor and work to minimize contact with others in the class.

**A Note on Subject Matter**

The performing arts have the power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage or experiencing in class. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects or specific course work materials, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations. UTEP and I respect your individual rights to choose what material you want to see and please always feel free to message me on Blackboard with any concerns or questions.



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## **Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities Policy**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University.

Learn more by calling or by visiting [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) or by calling 915-747-5148. Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact the CASS office to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

## **Scholastic Integrity and Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Learn more here: [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#)



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## **Netiquette**

The internet allows for easy discourse among people, but many forget the golden rule when it comes to online etiquette. Please be respectful of one another. Before making any post, please take a moment to ask yourself: "Is this in response to the assignment?" "Is this constructive or conducive to educational discussion?" "Is this kind?" If the answer to any of these questions is, "No," then please do not post said response. Be sure to read through the [10 Rules of Netiquette for Students](#) if you have any doubts about whether your post is Netiquette compliant.

## **Student Resources**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Familiarize yourself with the bookmarks on the right-hand side of the Blackboard student portal (visible before entering into a course) as well as the resources below.

- [UTEP Tech Support Helpdesk](#): Can assist with any technological issues, downloading of applications and making sure your technology is working as it should.
- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.



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**UTEP Edge Statement**

The UTEP Edge is our philosophy that acknowledges the many assets our students bring to the University. We provide a variety of high-impact experiences both in and out of the classroom through work of our faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners that build on these assets and talents. Many of the assignments and discussions in this class will further develop the talents you bring to this class such as developing your communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving. Participating in experiences such as research, civic engagement, student employment, and study abroad contribute to increasing your confidence, enhancing your personal and professional skills, and equip you with a competitive advantage for when you graduate and enter the workforce or pursue a graduate degree. It is this competitive edge that will prepare you for leadership and lifelong success.