

Voice and Speech 1
THEA 1303
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:50am
Spring 2023

Professor: Kim McKean
Email: kamckean@utep.edu

Office: Worrell 114
Office Hours: T/TH 12:00-1:20pm
(or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course teaches foundational skills in developing healthy and effective vocal usage. The teachings of Kristen Linklater and Fitzmaurice Voicework guide the work and help students to develop skills related to breath support, diction, release, resonance, and healthy vocal practices. Ultimately, the taught skills in this class lead students toward a clear and commanding use of their vocal instrument.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

- Develop a strong, supported, and resonate vocal instrument.
- Demonstrate an understanding and personal command of their own voice.
- Exhibit a thorough understanding of vocal anatomy and articulators.
- Demonstrate how breath support and physical release work in relationship with the voice.
- Demonstrate a variety of articulatory and speech skills that connect text to performance.

Required Texts

There are no required text books for our class, but there will be a number of required articles and scenes to read throughout the semester. All will be available on our class Blackboard page.

Recommended Texts

- *Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and Art in the Practice of Voice and Language* by Kristin Linklater
- *The Vocal Arts Workbook* by David Carey and Rebecca Clark Carey

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Complete assigned reading on time. Take notes and be prepared to discuss the text.
- Come to class **ON TIME** and ready to work. **Work with positivity and respect.**
- Meet scheduled deadlines and turn in assigned work on time. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- Be prepared to participate in all classroom discussions and exercises.
- **Prepare** and memorize all assigned texts.
- Perform exercises and monologues that demonstrate a thorough application of Learning Goals.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You will be allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. (Illness/covid-19 infections are excused with proper documentation, such as a positive covid test, and family/medical emergencies are excused with proper documentation). Each unexcused absence after two lowers your grade by 5%. Three tardies are equivalent overall to one absence. If you are going to be absent on a day you are scheduled to work or present, I must be notified within 24 hours. **If you miss a day they are scheduled to work and it is unexcused without notice, your final grade for that exercise drops by 25%. If you miss a day you are scheduled to work without letting me know in advance, I cannot guarantee you will make up that time.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

All paperwork must be typed, double spaced, and printed.

1. Show Attendance5%
2. Poem 1 Presentation10%
3. Blackboard Assignments.....15%
4. Sound Story Group Presentation15%
5. Poem 2 Midterm Presentation15%
6. Final Monologue20%
7. Participation and Preparation for Class.....20%

EVALUATION CRITERIA BREAKDOWN

1. PARTICIPATION AND PREPERATION FOR CLASS

Active participation is vital to your growth as artists and to your success in this class. You will be expected to come to class on-time and fully prepared, actively engage in class discussions, and give your all to class exercises. Share your voice! We only get better by asking questions and taking risks. Preparation/memorization of all exercises done in class as well as ability to participate in course discussions about assigned reading for the week will factor into your participation/preparation grade as well.

2. SHOW ATTENDANCE

You are required to attend a performance of *Heroes and Saints* in the Wise Family Theatre. Google Forms will be available to sign in after each performance, and you must sign in digitally to receive full credit. Three extra credit points will be given for attending *The Prom*, *The Spring Dance Concert*, *The Spring Dance Festival*, and/or *The Full Monty*. Ushering opportunities are available for each show.

3. BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the course of the semester, you will have five short assignments on BB. They include:

- My Voice Picture Assignment
- Midterm Response (2 pages written OR 4-minute audio or video clip)
- Selection of Monologue 1
- Final Response (2 pages written OR 4-minute audio or video clip)

4. Poem 1—Short Poem Presentation

You will apply course concepts to a short poem, memorized, and presented for the class. An evaluation rubric will be provided.

5. Poem 2—Long Poem MIDTERM Presentation

You will apply course concepts to a long poem, memorized, and presented for the class. An evaluation rubric will be provided.

6. Sound Story Group Presentation

You will apply course concepts to a group presentation of “sound stories.” An evaluation rubric will be provided.

7. Final Verse Monologue

You will apply course concepts to a monologue in verse. An evaluation rubric will be provided.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

COURSE COMMUNICATION

- **Office Hours:** My office hours will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00-1:20pm.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours M-F.

SUBJECT MATTER

The scripts studied in this course deal with mature subject matters. Consequently, some of the discussion in class will require discussion of adult subject matter and language. If you have concerns, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. All classroom discussions must be held in a respectful and professional matter.

RESPECT

The work in this class may elicit a strong emotional response. In order for this work to be done respectfully, it is crucial that the classroom be a SAFE and BRAVE PLACE. Absolutely no bullying, gossiping, or judgement will be tolerated. Any student who is not contributing to a safe, creative, work environment will be asked to leave class and receive an absence for that class period. *Any student who engages in conduct that is harassment of any University community member, including sexual harassment as defined in Section VI. in the UTEP Handbook may be subject to discipline.*

INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND ANTI-RACIST CLASSROOM

In this class, we disavow all racism, xenophobia, homophobia, sexism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, classism, ableism, and hate speech or actions that attempt to silence, threaten, and degrade others. We will work together to develop a learning community that is inclusive and respectful for all people.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Any incident of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero on the assignment. This includes cheating and plagiarism. Please visit <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/> for more information. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' 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. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action.

MAKE-UP WORK

Make-up work will be given *only* in the case of a *documented* emergency, illness, and/or covid-19 illness. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students 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. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

Grading Scale

A = 90%-100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 0% - 59%

“A”—indicates exceedingly high quality work. Masters all assigned work, completes work on time, shows originality and initiative, does more than required, and makes quality contributions in class.

“B” —indicates good progress, above the average, masters portions of the work, is alert and shows an interest in the work, completes work on time, and offers good discussion points in class.

“C” —indicates a quality of work acceptable at this level. Satisfactorily completes most assigned work under normal conditions and direction, shows interest in work, and completes work on time.

“D” —indicates that although most assignments may be completed there is a need for greater effort to meet the expected level of work for this course, student is hesitant to engage in the work or at times shows little interest, and seldom responds in class.

“F” —indicates failure to produce an accepted quality of work for this course.

Schedule of Classes & Assignments

(subject to change)

**the reading and assignments are due the day they are listed*

WEEK 1: Getting to Know my Voice & How the Voice Works

- T 1/17 Course Overview/Syllabus
Breathing Awareness and Breath's Connection to Voice
- TH 1/19 How the Voice Works
Breathing Awareness and Breath's Connection to Voice
Have Read for Class Today: "Breath and Voice: Creating Connection"

WEEK 2: Bodywork, Physical Awareness, and the Voice

- T 1/24 Bodywork, Tension and Release
Have Read for Class Today: "Bodywork" Chapter
- TH 1/26 Video Explanation of How the Voice Works
My Voice Picture Assignment
Upload on Blackboard by 1/26 at 10pm: Audio or Video Clip explaining the following: how the voice works, how/why bodywork is important in voicework, and my voice picture assignment

WEEK 3: Breath to Sound

- T 1/31 From Breath to Sound
- TH 2/2 From Sound to Text
All Poem Memorized

WEEK 4: Sound to Text

- T 2/7 From Sound to Text
Continue Poem Work
- TH 2/9 **All Present Poem 1**

WEEK 5: Vocal Development

T 2/14 Engaging the In-Breath
Have Read for Class Today: “Breath and Voice: Developing Supply and Support” Chapter

TH 2/16 Supporting the Out-Breath

WEEK 6:

T 2/21 Supporting the Voice

TH 2/23 Supporting the Text
All Poem 2 Memorized

WEEK 7: Actor’s Gym, Putting it Together

T 2/28 Supporting the Text Poem 2 1-5

TH 3/2 Supporting the Text Poem 2 6-10
Watch Heroes and Saints this Week

WEEK 8: Actor’s Gym, Putting Together in Scene Work

T 3/7 Supporting Text All, Poem 2 Memorized 11-16

TH 3/9 **Share Midterm (Poem 2) in the Wise**

Upload on Blackboard by 3/10 at 5pm: Midterm Response to Coursework
(2- pages written OR 4-minute audio or video clip)
Watch Heroes and Saints this Week

WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10: Resonance and Range

T 3/21 Resonance and Range: Finding the Buzz
Have Read for Class Today: “Resonance and Range” Chapter

TH 3/23 Resonance and Range: Expanding the Range

WEEK 11: Sound Story

T 3/28 Resonance and Range
Sound Story Rehearsal
Upload on Blackboard by 3/29 at 12:00PM Your Selection for Monologue 1

TH 3/30 Resonance and Range
Sound Story Presentation in Groups

WEEK 12: Resonating with Text

T 4/4 Resonating the Text
Monologue 1 memorized

TH 4/6 Articulating the Text
Monologue 1 memorized

WEEK 13: Articulators

T 4/11 Resonating & Articulating Students 1-5

TH 4/13 Resonating & Articulating Students 6-10

WEEK 14: Specifying Sounds

T 4/18 Resonating & Articulating Students 11-16

TH 4/20 Specifying the Sound All
Have Read for Class Today: "Articulation and Muscularity" Chapter

WEEK 15: Specifying Sounds and Breath Support

T 4/25 Specifying the Sounds Monologue Work 1-5

TH 4/27 Specifying the Sounds Monologue Work 6-10

Week 16: Specifying Sounds and Breath Support

T 5/2 Specifying the Sounds Monologue Work 11-15

TH 5/4 Putting it all Together

FINAL

TH 5/11 10:00-12:45PM **Final**

F 5/12 (Final Response: 2 pages written OR 4-minute audio or video clip)