

THEA 3319 Voice and Speech III

An advanced continuation of the student's speech and vocal training for the stage. Voice and speech work for the actor is implemented through work with challenging texts and heightened styles.

TR 09:00-10:20 | Fox Fine Arts Center - Music M404

Rebecca Frost Mayer, MFA - Assistant Professor of Instruction

Please call me "Rebecca" or "Professor Mayer."

Email: rfmayer@utep.edu

Please allow 48 hours excluding weekends for a response to email.

Instructor will only respond to student correspondence sent from UTEP email address.

Office phone: 747-5502

Office: Prospect Hall, Room 307

Office Hours: Weekdays 14:30-15:30 and by appointment

Do not attempt to contact instructor on social media.

Required materials:

Students need appropriate attire for this class (see dress code) plus a dedicated notebook and pencil.

Students need access to Blackboard outside of class meeting times in order to utilize instructional materials and submit assignments. While a personal computer is recommended for this use, the computers available on campus will be sufficient as the Blackboard content will not be used during class times.

A personal yoga mat or exercise mat is strongly recommended.

Students may wish to wear knee pads or other accessories that would increase safety or comfort, subject to instructor discretion.

For study of the International Phonetic Alphabet, students are encouraged to use a personal dry-erase board, sketchbook, or specialized paper. A dedicated notebook is also sufficient.

Course objectives and content:

In-class activities and online assignments contribute to the following areas of study and practice:

1. **Understanding my voice:** Discussion and personal reflection on the history of student's vocal identity, use of language, and use of the body in vocal production. Project includes presentation to class and discussions.
Learning objective: Student will demonstrate informed understanding of personal vocal instrument.
2. **Specificity in vocal qualities:** Student will expand range of resonance, pitch, and other vocal qualities in order to create a more intelligible, articulate, and compelling performance on stage.
Learning objective: Student will apply a variety of vocal qualities to a text selection.
3. **The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):** Student will build proficiency in the use of this tool, which is recognized throughout the theatre industry and higher education theatre programs as well as in other sectors including healthcare. As actors, the student will apply phonemes to the process of vocally scoring texts and acquiring dialects or deliberate vocal affectations.
Learning objective: Student will utilize the IPA in their personal process as an actor, and demonstrate this skill through transcription tests and text analyses.
4. **The Standard American or Mid-Atlantic Dialect, also known as "Good Speech:"** Student will acquire and apply this dialect, which is recognized throughout the theatre industry and higher education theatre programs.
Learning objective: Student will apply the Standard American Dialect to the rehearsal and performance of a text selection.

Grading:

Attendance and participation: Up to 130 points possible (see "Voice and Speech III Attendance Policy" for further details)

"The Way I Talk and Why:" up to 100 points possible

IPA transcription quizzes and tests: up to 100 points possible

Mid-term assessment – In-studio portion: 100 points possible

Mid-term assessment – Written portion: 100 points possible

Final exam – In-studio portion: 100 points possible

Final exam – Written portion: 100 points possible

Extra credit is not offered in this course.

All written assignments must be completed by each student individually and independently. Suspicion that students have colluded on written assignments will lead to investigation of plagiarism. Proof that students have colluded on written assignments will result in zero (0) points for the assignment and may lead to further consequences rendered by the College of Liberal Arts or the University.

Letter grades:

Percentage of points possible is available on Blackboard and reflects the assignments that have been submitted and graded. Instructor will submit letter grades to the records system at midterm and end of semester, which correspond with percentages rounded to the **nearest** percentage.

90-100% - A

80-89% - B

70-79% - C

60-69% - D

Less than 60% - F

Late Work:

Requests for leniency on due dates and late work are subject to instructor discretion. In order for a due date extension to be granted, the student must contact the instructor via email *before* the day and time that the assignment is due. Any assignment submitted after an extended deadline will be graded according to the assignment's rubric; the grade will be multiplied by .7 and overridden in the system. In other words, late work (submitted with the instructor's prior permission) is only worth 70 percent of work submitted on time. Please remember to allow 48 hours for instructor response excluding weekends. For assignments not completed by the due date, unless the student requires an extension before the deadline, a grade of 0 will be entered for the assignment.

If a student has a CASS accommodation that allows for late work, it is still incumbent on the student to communicate with the instructor to make arrangements for specific due dates. **The student should not assume that a CASS accommodation means due dates are not relevant.**

Notes on grades:

A grade is an objective measurement of the student's demonstrated competence with specific concepts as outlined in the assignment instructions, rubric, and course syllabus. The grade does not measure your talent, intelligence, or work ethic. Because grades are based on specific metrics, they are not subject to negotiation.

Grade dispute policy:

If, upon viewing your grade on a specific assignment and examining its breakdown according to the rubric posted, you observe a calculation error, bring it to the instructor’s attention for an immediate correction.

If you believe an assignment was graded inaccurately, you have 48 hours from the time the grade was posted to dispute it. Initiate the grade dispute via email. If you choose to dispute the grade on a written assignment, the assignment will be blindly re-graded by another faculty member within the department, according to the rubric associated with the assignment. If you choose to dispute the grade on a studio assignment, you will present the assignment for another faculty member within the department, who will be given the rubric associated with the assignment. In any case, if you choose to dispute the grade on an assignment, and it is regraded, you must accept the new grade, whether higher or lower than the original grade.

Tentative Schedule:

Date(s)	In Studio	Online
T 1/17 – R 1/19	Introductions Expectations Syllabus Review existing skills Introduce “The Way I Talk and Why”	Syllabus acceptance
T 1/24 – R 1/26	“The Way I Talk and Why” presentations	“The Way I Talk and Why” written portion
T 1/31 – T 2/21	Vocal qualities: Exercises and process	See Blackboard
R 2/23	Midterm assessment: Vocal qualities monologue	Midterm assessment written portion
T 2/28 – R 3/2	Classes suspended - KCACTF	
T 3/7 – R 3/9	Introduction to the IPA	See Blackboard
T 3/14 – R 3/16	Classes suspended – Spring Break	
T 3/21 – R 3/30	IPA – In-class activities IPA – Transcription exercises, quizzes, tests	See Blackboard
T 4/4 – R 5/4	Mid-Atlantic Dialect: In-class activities Mid-Atlantic Dialect: Monologue	
FINAL EXAM Schedule determined by University Schedule determined by University	In class: Mid-Atlantic Dialect monologue	Final exam - Written portion: Due 5/12

Movement II Attendance Policy (Effective January 2023):

At each class meeting, sign into the attendance log *when you are ready to remain in the studio and are prepared to work*. If you sign in and then leave, your name will be crossed out and you will have to sign in again.

A line will be drawn after class starts. If you arrive late, sign in below the line.

Sign in for yourself only.

Attendance Grading (Class Meetings):

A point value between (-2) and 5 will be assigned for each class meeting.

5 points: Arrive on time (before class starts) and ready to work at the start of class, stay in class throughout (subject to instructor discretion), keep phone put away.

5 points: Use one of two personal days by emailing instructor prior to the start of class.

4 points: Arrive up to 15 minutes late (after line is drawn), stay in class throughout, keep phone put away.

4 points: Attend class via Zoom (subject to Zoom Attendance Policy as outlined below)

3 points: Arrive 15 to 30 minutes late.

2 points: Arrive more than 30 minutes late.

2 points: Attend class but do not comply with dress code.

1 point: No attendance after both personal days are utilized; email instructor prior to the start of class.

1 point: Use of phone during class.

1 point: Asked to leave class at instructor discretion.

-2 points: No attendance; no email to instructor prior to start of class.

Additional personal days may be granted at instructor discretion and may include days when students are required by the University or the Department to attend events or work elsewhere.

If a student has a CASS accommodation that allows for missed classes, it is still incumbent on the student to communicate with the instructor regarding attendance before each class. **The student should not assume that a CASS accommodation means the attendance policy is not relevant.**

Exceptions to Attendance Policy:

Exceptions to the attendance policy are subject to instructor discretion and are not guaranteed. In some circumstances, you may be able to substitute class attendance by attending an additional performance in the community or at the UTEP Dinner Theatre. In the event that exceptions are granted, they will be based on student's track record and ability to communicate clearly and ahead of or during unusual circumstances. Remember: You have two personal days, and in order to use them you must email the instructor prior to the start of class.

Zoom Attendance Policy:

Virtual class attendance is discouraged and is subject to instructor approval. In order for instructor to consider allowing virtual attendance, student must take the following steps:

- Email the instructor *from UTEP email account* no less than thirty minutes prior to the start of class to request an online attendance link.
- Student must keep camera on for duration of class and respond to discussions verbally or via chat.
- If student chooses virtual attendance, they may only earn a maximum of four points for the day. If the student chooses to disable camera or use other devices during class, score will be recorded as 1 or 0.

Dress Code:

Wear clean, comfortable clothes that allow for movement and stretching.

Avoid bulky clothing that could cause trip hazards or impede movement.

No hate speech.

Avoid printed text and pictures.

Bare feet will be required for some activities. Prepare to wear athletic or dance shoes at other times. Working in socks alone will rarely be permitted.

Please no large accessories such as hats or jewelry. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove accessories.

Instructor reserves the right to ask students to adjust their hair if it impedes movement or causes a safety hazard.

Large nails and piercings may cause safety hazards. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to remove piercings or shorten nails.

If student chooses not to comply with dress code including footwear, they may not be permitted to participate in certain activities and will be assigned an attendance grade for the day of 2 or less.

Student's pockets should be empty.

Hygiene and Fragrance-Free Policy:

Please shower or bathe and brush your teeth within twelve hours of arriving at class.

Use unscented deodorants, lotions, and hair products.

Do not wear fragrances, perfumes, colognes, scented deodorants, or scented hair products to class. Instructor reserves the right to ask students to leave class if they are wearing fragrances.

Wear clean clothes to each class.

Personal Boundaries and Consent - Rights and Responsibilities:

Activities and assignments may include physical contact with other class members. You will be given adequate time and space during instruction to discuss your boundaries with partners and grant consent or decline to consent each time before working together. You will not be penalized for asking for alternative instructions, activities, or partners.

Theatre is a physically, intellectually, and emotionally demanding art form. If you need to take a moment to look out for yourself or be alone, you may do so in the studio or briefly step out.

Studio Policies:

Bring a water bottle. Please no other beverages.

Use of mobile devices is not allowed in the studio during instructional time. Turn smartwatches to airplane mode.

Daily tasks and assignments are subject to change at instructor discretion.

A note on subject matter (Department of Theatre and Dance):

The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable discussing. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. I expect all discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.

Course Drop Policy:

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.” See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for further information on this policy. If, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours’ advance notice via email.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Contact instructor directly via email before the last day of classes if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

Accommodations 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. 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.

Scholastic Integrity:

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 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. To learn more, please visit HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline.

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.

Syllabus Acceptance:

This syllabus resides on Blackboard. In order to continue participation in this course, you must complete the **Syllabus Acceptance** assignment on Blackboard by the due date. This assignment includes a digital signature indicating that you have asked the *instructor* any questions you may have about the course and your acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.

Failure to complete the Syllabus Acceptance assignment by the due date may result in dismissal from the course.