

Voice and Speech I
THEA 1303 CRN:11256
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30-11:50 pm
Fall 2023

Professor: Samantha Michelle Nava, M.F.A.

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Office: D273 (behind Box Office Window in Wise Theatre Lobby)

Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 12:00 – 1:00 pm (or by appointment)

Text: 915-843-8792

“To free the voice is to free the person.” Kristen Linklater

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: A yoga mat or other pad to work on the concrete floor with relative comfort and warmth.

REQUIRED TEXT: Freeing the Natural Voice by Kristin Linklater ISBN: 978-0-89676-250-3
You can buy a used copy off Amazon for about \$18

REQUIRED ATTIRE: Please wear clothes you can move in and do yoga in every class. This includes sweats, shorts, loose clothing, T-shirts, sweatshirts, etc. Please do not wear jeans. Please do not wear hats or head coverings except for religious purposes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Fundamentals of vocal production and movement for the stage. Including breathing, kinesthetic awareness, vocal placement and resonance, physical storytelling, and the interconnectedness of voice and body.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, you should:

- Understand the working of your own voice and articulators.
- Have a broader and stronger connection to your own breath.
- Have an increased ability to support your voice with your breath and have more vocal power.
- Have a more tuned and sensitive ear for vocal sounds as they relate to speech.
- Have greater ownership of your own speech.

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.
- Write a 2-page observational paper relating to course concepts on two UTEP shows this semester.
- Perform scenes and exercises that demonstrate a thorough application of Course Objective.
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TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

My teaching philosophy is to allow students to experience personal responsibility in a university setting. It will be the student’s responsibility to actively participate in their job as a college student by actively participating

in the class for the semester, checking Blackboard daily, being prepared for class, and completing all assignments. My job is to provide a positive environment through lectures, class discussions, and studio work that encourages the desire to learn, guide the students through the course, and make sure that the students feel comfortable coming to me to ask questions or talk about the class.

COURSE COMMUNICATION

- Office Hours: My office hours will be Tuesdays - Thursdays from 12:00-1:00 pm. (or by appointment)
- **Email:** Email through Blackboard **ONLY**. I will make every attempt to respond promptly to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receiving it. Please do not email me at utep.edu because it will get lost in the shuffle; I will miss it and will not be able to respond. Please log into our Blackboard class and use the "email professor" link on the left.
- **Text:** You may also text me at 915-843-8792 in an emergency. Please include your name and the name of your course.

COURSE POLICIES

- You are responsible for fulfilling all the course requirements to the best of your abilities. You should seek clarification if you are unclear about anything on the syllabus.
- If you do not feel well, PLEASE STAY HOME; I will provide accommodation if possible.
- Students are expected to maintain a positive classroom environment that is conducive to learning.
- To ensure all students can benefit from time spent in class, **students are prohibited from using cell phones unless otherwise approved by the instructor.**
- **No earphones, earbuds/air pods are allowed in the classroom.**
- Late work will not be accepted, with no exceptions. If a deadline is missed, the student will receive a zero as a grade for that assignment.
- Food and/or Drink snacks are NOT permitted, with the exception of water. YOU MUST clean up after yourself before leaving.
- Students must behave by all rules put forth by the Handbook of Operating Procedures of the University of Texas at El Paso.
- **I do not drop students from class; that is your choice and responsibility.**

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POLICY

YOU MUST SIGN IN FOR EVERY CLASS, IT IS PART OF YOUR GRADE. A line will be drawn on the sign-in sheet after class starts. If you arrive after class starts, sign in below the line. If you arrive 15 minutes after class has started, you will get no attendance points for the day but are welcome to stay for the remainder of the class, so you receive your participation points. Attendance does factor into the grading breakdown; therefore, it will affect your grade. (Max points for attendance and participation = 2 per class meeting)

Attendance Grading Break down Students will receive the following points based on their punctuality:

1 point- Arrives on time (before class starts) and ready to work at the start of class.

½ point- Arrives up to 15 minutes late

0 points – Arrives 15 minutes or later after the start of class.

Absences will be excused for those students representing the university in officially recognized university activities. The students must provide the instructor with written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member before the event. Additional excused absences may include religious observance, family emergency, and serious illness, these also need documentation of proof.

You have **3 personal days that may be used for a class absence**, and no points will be deducted. I don't need

to know why! Need a mental health day, maybe you're not feeling well, or maybe you need a day before you get sick. I understand, but **attendance is very important**, you learn as much from observation and participation as from performing. Any additional unexcused absences will have an impact on the final grade.

You can, at any time, inquire about your absences. There will be a notepad that I pass around in class each day. It is your job to make sure you sign in.

An absence may be excused for legitimate medical reasons, professional obligations, or family emergency at my discretion. The request for an excused absence must be made in writing and must be accompanied by some proof.

If you have an absence, you are still responsible for missed work. **Absences do not change the due dates of assignments.** Once again, in a class where physical participation is of the utmost importance, you must take attendance seriously. Please and thank you. I will also be out a few days this semester for UTEP business, you will be reminded the week prior. If I have an emergency, I will do my best to contact all of you via email as soon as I know I won't make it to class. The 15-minute rule does apply. If I am not present by 10:45, please assume there was an emergency, and you can leave.

PARTICIPATION AND PREPARATION FOR CLASS

Active participation is vital to your growth as an artist and success in this class. You will be expected to come to class on time, be 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.

UTEP SHOW ATTENDANCE AND OBSERVATIONAL PAPER

You are required to attend a performance of *posdata(or what I wish I said)* the June Sadowski Kruszewski Theatre and *Metamorphoses* 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.

A written critical response that relates to course concepts present in *posdata(or what I wish I said)* and *Metamorphoses* is required. Do not write a summary of the play. Papers are due via Blackboard. No late work will be accepted unless pre-determined with me.

***posdata (or what I wish I said)* paper due November 10th by 11:59PM**

***Metamorphoses* paper due December 14th by 11:59PM**

Ushering opportunities are available for each show that will allow you to see the shows for free, but those spots are taken very quickly. Use the following links to sign up when they are opened. BEFORE signing up you must be able to commit to the full time are needed to receive credit.

Posdata (or what I wish I said) sign-up link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/16eJ50efcSvtKPWQRCYJSirc8bhP0rIhHP6n85OT1RwQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Metamorphoses sign-up link

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HZ4I5HdTVbrMJ0y9ddGDWwc4UdNGZC2SUXzXtKg7NWK/edit?usp=sharing>

If you are performing in another UTEP production, that runs at the same time as one of the above, preventing you from seeing a public performance then you are excused from writing a paper as rehearsal and preparing for the role is a lot of work. If performing in the production, please provide proof of casting.

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 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.

LATE WORK

I do not accept late work. No Excuses Allowed. I don't have time to catch up on grading late assignments. However, you are welcome to do work early and get ahead on assignments when available.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit points will be given for attending Damn Yankees at the UDT, any other UTEP Dinner Theatre production this semester, or any production outside of UTEP, which **I highly encourage**. I will inform you of outside productions when I hear of them.

Max Extra credit points = 3 (1 per additional production seen)

RESPECT:

- All students are in this class to learn. Should a student disrupt that process, I will take the appropriate steps to ensure that all students interact in a safe space conducive to the learning process.
- Remember that I am a human being, too. I have many other responsibilities outside of this class, just as students have several responsibilities outside of this one class. Read the syllabus, stick to class/university policies, utilize common etiquette and respect, and know that I want you to succeed in this course, but I am not responsible for that; you are.
- Work will be graded promptly.

Touching: Acting often requires touching. That said, permission for touch will be sought and boundaries will be respected. No violence or intimacy between actors will be required in this class. Students may choose to incorporate contact into their scenes or choose not to. To provide proper instruction in developing the vocal and physical technique of the actor, physical contact may be made. This includes but is not limited to:

- Postural Adjustment
- Physical Support
- Assisted Release of Tension

If physical contact is undesired or becomes uncomfortable, please inform me immediately. **YOU CAN SAY NO!** Use your voice!

Space: Please respect the space and keep it clean. No food or drink is allowed in the studio during class. Water, however, is encouraged.

SHOW DATES

posdata (or what I wish I said)

Location: June Sadowski Kruszewski Studio Theatre, UTEP

October 19-21 @ 7:30PM

October 22 @ 2:00PM

posdata (or what I wish I said) Tour Dates

October 26 @ 7:30PM - Location: Paradox Gallery

October 27 @ 7:30PM - Location: Le Fe Culture & Technology Center

October 28 @ 2:00PM - Location: Andress High School

October 29 @ 2:00PM - Location: Rio Vista Community Center

Metamorphoses

Location: The Wise Family Theatre, UTEP

December 1, 2, 8, 9 @ 7:30PM

December 3 & 10 @ 2:00PM

Ticket Prices

\$18 Adults

\$15 UTEP Faculty/Staff, Alumni, Seniors, Military, Non-UTEP Students

\$12 UTEP Students

Damn Yankees

October 6, 7, 8, 11*, 12*, 13, 14, 15, 19*, 20, 21, 22, 2023

Evening Dinner performances begin at 6:30pm, Matinee Dinner performances begin at 1:00 PM, Matinee (No Dinner) performances begin at 2:00 PM

Description: *Damn Yankees* the Broadway mega-hit musical and winner of seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical, hits it out of the park! The winning score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross and a devilish book by George Abbott and Douglass Wallop have made this sporty musical comedy a true American classic. Middle-aged baseball fanatic Joe Boyd trades his soul to the Devil for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory in the pennant race against the New York Yankees. As young baseball sensation, Joe Hardy, he transforms the hapless Washington Senators into a winning team, only to realize the true worth of the life that he's left behind. Joe ultimately outsmarts the Devil, returns to his former self, and shepherds the Senators to the World Series. Light, fast-paced, and devilishly clever, *Damn Yankees* is a homerun hit, featuring an irreverent sense of humor and timeless Broadway songs including the classic hits "Whatever Lola Wants, Lola Gets" and "You Gotta' Have Heart".

MENU

Chicken Cordon Bleu, Scandinavian Vegetable Medley, Mashed Potatoes with Cheddar Cheese, Caesar Salad, Apple Crisp à la Mode

WHERE YOU CAN PURCHASE TICKETS

The UTEP Ticket Center – Main Location 2901 N. Mesa El Paso, Texas 79902 Monday-Friday: 8 A.M.-6 P.M.
Saturday: 8 A.M.-4.PM. Closed on Sundays (915) 747-5234

UTEP Ticket Center – Union East Location Union Building East, Room 111 (1st Floor) Hours of Operation Open only Fall & Spring Semesters Monday - Friday: 9am - 2pm (Hours subject to change)

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.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMANT

As members of the University of Texas at El Paso community, we acknowledge that we are meeting on unceded Indigenous land. We would like to recognize and pay our respects to the Indigenous people with long ties to the immediate region: Lipan Apache, Mescalero Apache, Piro, Manso, Suma, Jumano, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, Piro/Manso/Tiwa Indian Tribe of the Pueblo of San Juan de Guadalupe, and Tortugas Pueblo. We also acknowledge the nations whose territories include present day Texas: the Carrizo & Comecrudo, Coahuiltecan, Caddo, Tonkawa, Comanche, Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and the peoples of Chihuahua and northern Mexico from whom most/many of our students descend, such as the Rarámuri, Tepehuan, Wixarrika and Nahuatlaca peoples. Finally, we recognize all the American Indian and Indigenous Peoples and communities who have been or have become a part of these lands and territories here in Paso del Norte, on Turtle Island. The University of Texas at El Paso honors your history and culture, and we seek greater awareness of the myriad ways in which your legacy can guide us in fruitful partnerships and mutually fulfilling relationships.

Helpful Resources:

Technical Support If you do not know how to use Blackboard or have technical issues with Library access – visit the Technology Support Center located in the Library at Room 300. You can contact the Help Desk via email, helpdesk@utep.edu, by phone 747-5257. Hours are M-F 7a-8p, Sat 9a-10p and Sun 12-4pm.

UTEP Writing Center To get help with writing please check out the writing center – their procedure has changed due to the virus, and you must plan accordingly. <https://www.utep.edu/uwc/> Student Health Center

UTEP Student Health Center is here to meet the health care needs of all students so they can focus on their studies. As a student you have paid a medical service fee that allows you to be seen at the clinic as often as needed. Office visits are low cost as well as medications, supplies and any lab tests needed (747-5624).

UTEP University Counseling Center located at 202 Union West can assist you to decide on a career or work through personal concerns. They provide confidential counseling services, assist with stress management, and offer an after-hours crisis support line (747-5302).

Copyright Statement: some materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of the student currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further distributed.

Scholastic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs. 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 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. 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 <https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html> I expect all your work to be original, as I do read all your work. Syllabus Change Policy: Except for changes that affect the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Journal**- After each reading assignment you will need to submit a journal entry via Blackboard of 3 things you learned and 2 things you would like to learn more about. These are to help you document your process and understanding of the material.
2. ***Laban, Voice & Nursery Rhythm** - We will be learning and using the 8 efforts of motion from Laban. You will perform a nursery rhythm while allowing the text to be effected by some of the 8 qualities.
3. ***Short Text**- I will choose some text for you to choose from. The purpose of this assignment is to combine all skills learned thus far and apply it to text.
4. ***Imagery Poem**- Each student will choose a poem with a lot of imagery. The purpose of this performance is to put the skills you have learned thus far into practice.
5. **Reflections**- for each final performance, a reflection on the work will be due via Blackboard. Please make sure these are half page to page at the least unless I ask you to answer a specific question or do a very specific thing. I will read all the reflections. I am looking for growth, that's all. We all start at different places with anything.
6. ***Final**- Students will choose a monologue for themselves that may be used for future auditions. The final will be run as an audition call in the Wise Theatre. Be sure to choose something from which you have read the play and highlight the skills you have learned in this class.

GRADING SCALE

This is a point-based class, you can earn up to 183 points, but you only need 170 to get an A

180- 170 = A

189- 174= B

173-153= C

152-100=D

99-0= F

"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, students are 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.

Attendance and Participation = 50 points total (earn 2 points max per class meeting; 26 times this semester)

Journal Entry = 20 points total (2 point per entry)
 Performances = 45 points total (15 points per performance)
 Reflections = 20 points total (5 points per reflection)
 Show Analysis Papers = 20 points (10 per paper)
 Final Monologue = 25 points

Voice and Speech I

Assignments, Grading Breakdown, & Class Schedule

Date	Reading or Assignment	Reflection/Discussion
WEEK 1		
T 8/29	Introduction to course. Go over the syllabus. Fill out the questionnaire.	
TH 8/31	Physical Warmup with vocalization Discuss the breath and where it lives. Two Truths and a Lie	
WEEK 2		
T 9/5	Discuss the spine. Pet the spine Physical Warmup with vocalization	
TH 9/7	Mindful/Breath Stretching House Neighbor Tree Introduction to Articulators	
WEEK 3		
For Next Class: read <i>Freeing the Natural Voice</i>, Introduction pg. 7-27		
T 9/12	Discuss reading and journal entry. Discuss the Diaphragm and Breathing Samurai Game Laban, Voice & Nursery Rhythm's- <i>Humpty Dumpty</i>	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on Blackboard (BB)- Due by 9/11 by 11:59PM
TH 9/14	Discuss Vocal Variety- Laban Perform- <i>Humpty Dumpty</i> using Laban efforts in body and voice	In Wise Family Theatre- tentative Reflection on Performance 1 . Details on BB – Due 9/16 by 11:59PM
WEEK 4		
FOR NEXT CLASS: read <i>Freeing the Natural Voice</i>, Workday 1, The Spine Pages 29-41		
T 9/19	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 1	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 9/18 by 11:59PM
FOR NEXT CLASS: read <i>Freeing the Natural Voice</i>, Workday 2, Breath, Pages 43-63		
TH 9/21	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 2	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 9/20 by 11:59PM
WEEK 5		
Will provide text- deadline to choose is 10/5- START MEMORIZING!!		
T 9/26	NO CLASS- Watch video on BB	Journal Entry Details on BB

TH 9/28	NO CLASS-Watch video on BB	Journal Entry Details on BB
WEEK 6	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 3, Touch of Sound, Pages 65-86	
T 10/3	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 3	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 10/2 by 11:59PM
TH10/5	Laban Efforts and voice warm-up Work on monologues for Vocal Variety Tennis ball work	Deadline to choose text
FR 10/6	<i>Damn Yankees- Opens UTEP Dinner Theatre</i>	
WEEK 7		
T 10/10	Body and voice warm-up Anatomy of the Vocal Tract Perform Short Text- get notes.	
TH 10/12	Mindful/Breath Stretching Perform Short Text.	*Class held in Wise Family Theatre* Reflection on Performance 2 . Details on BB – Due 10/14 by 11:59PM
WEEK 8	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 4, Freeing Vibrations, Pages 87-116	
T 10/17	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 4	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 10/16 by 11:59PM
TH 10/19	Mindful/Breath Stretching Gathering vibrations on the lips and releasing	<i>Posdata- opens June Studio Theatre</i>
SU 10/22	<i>Posdata – closes at June Studio Theatre</i> <i>Damn Yankees – closes at UTD</i>	
WEEK 9	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Intermission Warmup, Pages 117-126	
T 10/24	Discuss reading and journal entry. Intermission Warmup Anatomy of the Vocal Tract- Phonation Alexander Techni. floor work with phonation	
TH 10/26	Body and Voice warm-up Work on Imagery Poem- courtyard	
WEEK 10	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 5, The Jaw, Pages 129-137	
T 10/31	Discuss reading and journal entry. Monster Mama/ Monster Baby Warmup Workday 5 HALLOWEEN! DO SOMETHING TERRIFYING!!	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 10/30 by 11:59PM
TH 11/2	Mindful/Breath Stretching Jaw warmup Betty Botter	
WEEK 11	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 6, The Tongue, Pages 139-160	
T 11/7	Discuss reading and journal entry. Stretching and humming warmup Tongue and Jaw loosening Workday 6	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 11/6 by 11:59PM

TH 11/9	Laban Efforts with Short Text- Voice Only	
WEEK 12	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Reading: Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 7, The Soft Palate, Pages 161-172	
T 11/14	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and Voice warm-up Workday7	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 11/13 by 11:59PM
TH 11/16	Revisit Samurai game with diaphragm work	FINAL MONOLOGUE CHOICE DUE 11/16 ! – NEEDS TO BE APPROVED
WEEK 13	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 8, The Spine and the Channel, Pages 173-180	
	FINAL MONOLOGUE CHOICE DUE 11/21 ! – NEEDS TO BE APPROVED	
T 11/21	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 8	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 11/20 by 11:59PM
TH 11/23	NO CLASS- HOLIDAY	
WEEK 14	FOR NEXT CLASS: read Freeing the Natural Voice, Workday 9, The Throat Pages 181-184	
T 11/28	Discuss reading and journal entry. Body and voice warm-up Workday 9	Write a Journal Entry from reading. Details on BB- Due by 11/28 by 11:59PM
TH 11/30	Body and voice warm-up Stretching hips with vocalization Work Final monologue in courtyard.	
WEEK 15		
T 12/5	Schedule 1 on 1 time to work on monologue for final.	
TH 12/7	In Wise Theatre- tentative	
FINALS WEEK		
12/11-12/15	Perform Final monologue for Projection and Clarity In Wise Theatre- tentative	

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