

VOICE AND SPEECH FOR THE ACTOR: Fall 2014

University of Alaska Fairbanks, Department of Theatre & Film

Course: THR F320 F01

CRN: 79039, 3 credits

Prerequisites: THR 121, THR 221 (recommended)

Location: Fine Arts Building, THEA 101 (Green Room)

Dates: September 4-December 18, 2014

Time: Tuesday & Thursdays 11:30-1 PM

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Office: THEA 109A

Office Hours: MWF 9:30-10:30AM or by appointment

I. Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to expose students to vocal training for the stage through the Catherine Fitzmaurice technique of vocal production. The course will include introduction to basic vocal anatomy, Linklater centering and release work, introduction to the International Phonetic Alphabet, and monologue performance.

II. Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

- To learn to relax the body in order to communicate more freely.
- To gain a practical understanding of Catherine Fitzmaurice's deconstructing work.
- To discover vibrations through all your senses.
- To develop vocal resonance.
- To discover and access your full vocal range.
- To learn how to protect and care for your vocal instrument.
- To achieve a greater facility with articulators that shape sound and to explore the physical actions of consonants and use of articulators.
- To gain a preliminary understanding of vocal anatomy and the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA) as a tool for exploring articulation.
- To apply all of the above in performance.

III. Instructional Methods:

This class is very active. You will always be participating in exercises, lying on the floor for relaxation exercises, and engaging the body in modified yoga positions that can be physically strenuous. The class will include discussions, two exams, a performance critique, a monologue performance, and journal writing.

IV. Required Reading: This text is on 2-hour/ overnight reserve in the library.

- Freeing the Natural Voice, Revised & Expanded edition, Kristin Linklater, Drama Publishers. ISBN: 978-0-89676-250-3
- Various handouts to be passed out during the semester.

V. Required Equipment:

- Each student must bring a personal **yoga mat** to class each day. If you do not own one, they are available for purchase at the bookstore or any sporting goods store in town.
- You may reserve a locker through Student Drama Association to store your mat. Please do not leave them in the classroom.

VI. Recommended Reading:

- Speaking With Skill, Dudley Knight, Bloomsbury Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-4081-5689-6
- The Right to Speak, Patsy Rodenburg, Routledge Publishers
ISBN: 0-87830-055-4

VII. Audition:

All *Voice and Speech for the Actor* students are encouraged to audition for the Theatre Department fall show (*An Inspector Calls*) Saturday September 6 in the Lee H. Salisbury Theatre starting at 1pm. Find more information about the auditions and season at www.uaf.edu/theatrefilm.

VIII. Absence Policy:

Attendance to all classes is mandatory. Exercises, discussions, and monologue work cannot be made up for the simple reason that they happen in class. If you miss classes, you are missing the course.

Students are permitted two unexcused absences. Excused absences must be supported with written documentation (such as a doctor’s note) presented when you return to the following class. Each unexcused absence will reduce your final grade. Missing a class in which you are scheduled to perform is unacceptable and will further reduce your grade. When possible, notify me via email or phone before class if you will be absent. All handouts and assignments will be given in class; if you miss a class, you are responsible for getting all handouts and assignments. All course paperwork (syllabus, assignments) will also be posted on Blackboard (online).

Please arrive to class on time. Being late will reduce your grade. Three lates will equal one unexcused absence and reduce your grade accordingly. I expect the highest level of professionalism and responsibility from each of you.

IX. Grading Policy:

Please note: Grading will be based on a +/- system this semester. A minimum grade of 'C-' (2.0) is required for all prerequisites and major courses for the 2014-15 catalog.

Participation.....	20 points
Voice Journal.....	20 points
Exams (2).....	30 points
Production Critique.....	10 points
Final Monologue/ Self-Assessment.....	20 points

A. Class Participation (20 points): Your attendance, punctuality, level of participation, enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to risk in this class is of the utmost importance. The work we will be doing is physical and demanding. I expect each of you to be committed to creating a positive, supportive, respectful atmosphere. I have zero tolerance for mocking, ridiculing, or in any way insulting a classmate. This classroom is a safe and respectful space. You are graded each class for participation and attitude.

Some Important Points:

- Wear workout clothes to this class: SWEAT PANTS AND T-SHIRTS ONLY. ABSOLUTELY NO JEANS OR REGULAR PANTS. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- Bring your YOGA MAT everyday to class.
- Store your mat in a reserved SDA locker, not in the classroom.
- Shut off cell phones.
- Bring a bottle of WATER to class every day.
- Please arrive to class on time, DRESSED PROPERLY, and ready to work, armed with an open mind and spirit. This means you need to arrive to class early if you need to change your clothes before class starts.

B. Voice Journal (20 points):

Write at least one double spaced typed page weekly:

- Each week write at least:
 1. one-half page on your voice work (including monologue work)
 2. one-half page responding to the readings (Linklater and various handouts). I want to see that you are absorbing and thinking about the readings.
- I will collect journals FOUR times during the semester.

C. Exams (30 points):

There will be two in-class exams during the semester:

September 25, 2014: ANATOMY EXAM (15 points)

October 23, 2014: IPA EXAM (15 points)

D. Production Critique (10 points):

You will attend one play this semester: *An Inspector Calls* November 7-16, 2014 presented by Theatre UAF in the Lee H. Salisbury Theatre. You receive one free ticket for the show because you are in this class. Simply give your name to the box office when getting your ticket and inform them that you are in this class. Preview night, the night before opening, is also free for everyone and no tickets are required. You will write a vocal critique of one actor in the production. If you are cast in the show, you will write self-assessment of your vocal work in the show.

I will handout Critique Guidelines later in the semester. CRITIQUE DUE:

Tuesday November 25, 2014.

E. Final Monologue/ Self-Assessment (20 points):

Your final project for the class will be to present a Shakespeare monologue in the Salisbury Theatre Tuesday December 16 (10:15AM call, 11AM performance). You will show this monologue twice, once in class and once as the final exam. I will handout Monologue Guidelines later in the semester.

Final Self-Assessment: Due at the final exam. Assess your own work and vocal development as an actor during the semester. I will handout Self-Assessment Guidelines.

IX. Important selections from the UAF Student Code of Conduct:

“UAF requires students to conduct themselves honestly and responsibly, and to respect the rights of others. Conduct that unreasonably interferes with the learning environment or that violates the rights of others is prohibited.... Honesty is a primary responsibility of you and every other UAF student. The following are common guidelines regarding academic integrity:

- Students will not collaborate on any quizzes, in-class exams, or take-home exams that will contribute to their grade in a course, unless permission is granted by the instructor of the course. Only those materials permitted by the instructor may be used to assist in quizzes and examinations.
- Students will not represent the work of others as their own. A student will attribute the source of information not original with himself or herself (direct quotes or paraphrases) in compositions, theses and other reports.
- No work submitted for one course may be submitted for credit in another course without the explicit approval of both instructors.”

If you cheat or plagiarize in this class, you will FAIL the assignment or exam and possibly the entire class.

IX. Disabilities Services:

The Office of Disability Services implements the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and insures that UAF students have equal access to the campus and course materials. I will work with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker, phone: 474-5655) to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

<http://www.uaf.edu/disability/>

X. Support Services:

- UAF Student Support Services <http://www.uaf.edu/sss>
- UAF Writing Center <http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/>

XII. Tentative Semester Overview (always subject to change):

NOTE: For the most part, this class will be split into two parts each day: 60 minutes of voice work and 30 minutes of speech work. “Weekly Reading” should be done by the *Tuesday class* each week.

Week 1

9/4 Enrollment, Syllabus, Course Objectives, Grading Policy, Handouts

Week 2

Weekly Assignments:

- Article: *Breathing is Meaning* by Catherine Fitzmaurice
- Article: *In the Cause of Freer Speech* by Dudley Knight
- Journal: write one page (wk 2)

9/9 Anatomy: Spine, Breast, Rib / Skull, Jaw, Sinuses

Relaxation & Stretching techniques

Destructuring: Child's Pose, Leg Tremor & Half Plow

9/11 Anatomy: Lungs & Breathing Muscles

Destructuring: Bow & Camel

Week 3

Weekly Assignments:

- Article: *Silence and Sound* by Dudley Knight
- Handout: *Care of Performer's Voice*
- Journal: write one page (wk 3)

9/16 Anatomy: Larynx

Destructuring: Cobra & Pelvic Lift

9/18 Anatomy: Articulators & Points of Articulation

Destructuring: Side-Reach Leg Tremor, Arm Tremor, Dying Roach

Week 4

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Introduction* p.7-27
- Review: Anatomy Exam
- Journal: write one page (wk 4)

9/23 Anatomy Review (Hand Out: Terms to Know)

9/25 ANATOMY EXAM

Week 5

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part One: The Touch of Sound* p.29-86
- JOURNALS DUE (weeks 2,3,4) Tuesday 9/30
- Journal: write one page (wk 5)

9/30 Destructuring/ Articulator Isolations, Resonance, Tongue Twisters

10/2 Destructuring/ Articulator Isolations, Resonance, Tongue Twisters

Week 6

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part One: The Touch of Sound* p.87-137
- IPA: Practice Sheets
- Journal: write one page (wk 6)

10/7 IPA Consonants: stop-plosives, nasals, fricatives, affricatives, approximants, aspirant/ Destructuring

10/9 IPA Vowels: front, back, mid/ Destructuring

Week 7

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part One: The Touch of Sound* p.137-184
- IPA Handouts & Practice Sheets
- Journal: write one page (wk 7)

10/14 IPA Diphthongs/ Deconstructing

10/16 IPA Practice/ Deconstructing

Week 8

Weekly Assignments:

- IPA Handouts & Practice Sheets
- Monologue Selections due to Carrie 10/21
- Journal: write one page (wk 8)

10/21 IPA Review/ Deconstructing

10/23 IPA EXAM/ Acting Shakespeare Handout

Week 9

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part Two: The Resonating Ladder* p. 185-245
- Monologue: first showings
- JOURNALS DUE (weeks 5,6,7,8) Tuesday 10/28
- Journal: write one page (wk 9)

10/28 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

10/30 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

Week 10

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part Two: The Resonating Ladder* p. 245-295
- Monologue: first showings
- Journal: write one page (wk 10)

11/4 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

11/6 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

Week 11

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part Three: The Link to Text and Acting* p. 295-325
- Monologue: first showings
- Journal: write one page (wk 11)

11/11 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

11/13 Deconstructing/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

Week 12

Weekly Assignments:

- Linklater: *Part Three: The Link to Text and Acting* p. 325-374
- Monologue: first showings
- JOURNALS DUE (weeks 9,10,11) Tuesday 11/18
- Journal: write one page (wk 12)

11/18 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologues (2)

11/20 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologues (1)

Week 13

Weekly Assignments:

- *An Inspector Calls* VOCAL CRITIQUE DUE: Tuesday 11/25
- Monologue: first showings
- Journal: write one page (wk 13)

11/25 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologues

11/27 THANKSGIVING

Week 14

Weekly Assignments:

- Monologue: second showings
- Journal: write one page (wk 14)

12/2 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologues Second Showings on Salisbury Stage

12/4 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologues Second Showings on Salisbury Stage

Week 15

Weekly Assignments:

- Monologue: final work/ notes
- JOURNALS DUE (weeks 12,13,14) Tuesday 12/9

12/9 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologue Dress Rehearsal

12/11 Destructuring/ Restructuring / Monologue Dress Rehearsal

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 16th Public Performance in Salisbury Theatre

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call is at 10:15 AM• Performance is at 11AM• Final monologue performance• Final self-assessment paper due |
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