

MFA Voice & Speech Training 4
“Accent & Dialect Training for Actors”
TPP 6718 Section 134D
University of Florida Spring 2018

Time: 3rd Period (9:35-10:25) **Days:** M/W/F **Room:** CON G011
Instructor: Susan Schuld **Office:** T211 **Office Hours:** By appointment
Email: sschuld@ufl.edu

The recommended method of communication outside of scheduled class time is email

Course Description:

Our main focus in class will be how to research and practice an accent or dialect - *not mastery.*

“Accent & Dialect Training for Actors” focuses the tools needed to successfully act in an accent or dialect. Methodology will include studying the main vowel and consonant positions and accurate speech and intonation patterns of a key target accent. Students learn how to write an accent breakdown sheet and learn how to research audio-visual aids.

The first half of our coursework begins with a close study of vocal anatomy and physiology. It continues to a very full study of phonetics based on a much more linguistic model than is usually taught in speech courses; the emphasis is on the physical awareness and experience of sound distinction and the ability to discern subtle changes in vocal articulated sound using sounds that are found in many languages other than English. Through this process, we learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and develop phonetic transcription skills for future dialect study and script notation.

During this semester students will study: A “So Called” General American Accent, A Standard RP Accent, An Estuary and/or A Cockney Accent, A Jamaican Accent, A Nigerian Accent, and A Standard French Accent (If time we will also look at A Standard New York Accent, A Brooklynese, A Bronx, and A New Jersey Accent.) Students will then present group and solo accent and dialect research.

Classes will dedicate approximately one week to each accent, and students will perform a monologue or scene in that accent. The instructor will provide packets that contain a variety of monologues, but the student is encouraged to supply their own monologue or scene.

Students will be presenting monologues and scenes for the final presentation. Therefore, it is up to the student to *integrate* the new skills with their acting and performance work.

The resources include, but are not limited to:

Accents and Dialects for Stage and Screen, Paul Meier
Dialect and Accent Materials, David Alan Stern
African Accents: A Workbook for Actors Beth McGuire

Stage Dialects, Jerry Blunt
Accents: A Manual for Actors, Robert Blumenfeld
Dialect and Accent Materials, Jim Johnson
Dialect and Accent Materials, Gillian Lane Plescia
The International Dialects of English Archive (IDEA) website

COURSE GOALS

During this semester the student will:

- Post in our Bb Wiki their accent research for each accent studied
- Speak only in the accent/ dialect that is being studied in class
- Perform an individual monologue for each accent/ dialect section
- Transcribe each monologue into IPA with notation
- Create and teach their own abbreviated accent/dialect breakdown in a group and solo presentation

COURSE OUTCOMES

The student who completes this course successfully will:

- Learn how to vary speech actions with fluency, flexibility, and accuracy.
- Obtain the tools and resources of how to research and prepare for any dialect and accent pattern.
- Continue to practice using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and develop phonetic transcription skills for future dialect study and script notation.

Required Materials:

Water bottle, pen or pencil, small hand mirror, recording device

Unauthorized Recordings:

A student shall not without express authorization from the faculty member and, if required by law, from other participants, make or receive any recording, including but not limited to audio and video recordings, of any class, co-curricular meeting, organizational meeting, or meeting with a faculty member.

Please Note:

Our work in the studios is designed to be challenging; physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Voice, Movement, and Acting classes often involve touching. Physical contact may range from simple touch, to correcting alignment and/or relaxation massage. If you have a related medical consideration or touch makes you uncomfortable, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the start of the semester.

Student Responsibilities:

- Students are expected to participate daily in warm-ups, exercises, and performances
- Students must be dressed in appropriate movement clothing for every class and performance
- Students are expected to hold outside of class rehearsals for all projects
- Students must be supportive and respectful of their fellow classmates
- Students must complete all assignments and performances on their assigned due date
- Students must contribute focused and creative participation in all class exercises, assignments, and discussions

Attendance Policies:

Only a University sanctioned absence or medical absence will be excused (a note from your physician or school nurse). You, personally, MUST notify the teacher BEFORE class in order for the absence to be excused.

No absences of any kind will excuse you from class responsibilities. You, the student, will be held accountable for keeping up with class assignments and projects.

3 unexcused absences = a single letter grade reduction
4 unexcused absences = a two letter grade reduction

6 unexcused absences = a three letter grade reduction

Tardiness:

Tardiness is disruptive to a class of this nature and will not be tolerated. Any tardiness will be recorded along with attendance. Attendance will be taken promptly at the start of class. If you enter the room after the role-call has been completed, you will be considered tardy. If you enter the room anytime after 20 minutes of the official start of the class you will be marked absent for that class day.

2 tardies = 1 absence

My communication policy:

Avoid using words such as "um", "like" or "kinda" when making observations or sharing with the group. This class' focus is on you expressing yourself more clearly and these words will not aid you in that purpose. If you feel a certain way about something, stick by it, don't take the power out of your observations and speech with these weak words.

Grading

Class Participation/Professionalism 20% (*punctuality, communication, attitude*)

Conceptual Information 45% (*homework, quizzes, blogs, papers*)

Midterm 15% (*level of progress in voice skills, application of acting skills, and text skills*)

Final Performance 20% (*level of progress in voice skills, application of acting skills, and text skills*)

General Grade Guidelines

A+ Exceptional Work (Mastery of Work)

A Exceptional Work (Outstanding Work)

Inspired Work

Imaginative and through solutions to problems

Shows continuous and exceptional (above average) growth

Shows understanding of basic ideas and methods taught through exceptional application in projects

Timely preparation and submission of class work

Regular and constructive classroom participation in critiques and/or discussion as appropriate to class and subject

Perfect attendance

A - Exceptional Work (Noteworthy Work)

B+ Above Average (Well Above Average Work)

B Above Average (Above Average Work)

Good workable solutions to problems

Shows some insight into problem solving

Shows continuous and above average growth

Shows understanding of basic ideas and methods taught through skillful application in projects

Regular attendance

B- Above Average (Narrowly Above Average Work)

C+ Average (Average in all respects)

C Average (Marginally Average in all respects)

Appropriate solutions to problems

Shows understanding of basic and methods taught through application in projects

Most class work is prepared and submitted in a timely manner

Participates in classroom critiques and/or discussions

Regular attendance

C - Average (Narrowly Average in all respects)

D+ Below Average Work (Marginally Acceptable)

D Below Average Work (Narrowly Acceptable)

Inconsistent solutions to problems

Shows little growth

Shows inconsistent understanding of basic idea and methods taught and applied to projects

Class work is often not prepared and submitted in a timely manner

Rarely participates in classroom critiques and/or discussions

Inconsistent and poor attendance

D- Below Average Work (Barely Acceptable)

F Unacceptable Work (Failed to meet requirements of the course)

Incomplete or no solutions to problems

Shows little or no growth

Shows little or no understanding of basic ideas and methods taught and the applications of these ideas are often missing or inconsistently presented in class work

Class work is not prepared and/or presented on time or at all

Participates rarely or not at all in classroom critiques and/or discussions

Poor attendance

Class Participation and Professionalism

20% of your grade for this class is based on your participation and Professionalism in discussion and the physical explorations.

Participating in the physical component of the class, means having a positive and rigorous attitude with exploring new work. In other words, resistance to change or negative attitudes towards the work or feedback from the instructor is not participating. It means arriving early, suited up, and ready to move right when class starts.

Participating in discussion does not necessarily mean talking a lot or showing everyone else that you know or have studied a lot. ‘Good discussion’ participation involves trying to build on, and synthesize, the physical experience that has transpired. It also involves showing, respect and appreciation for others’ comments and contributions and learning how to “agree to disagree”.

If you find yourself talking a lot in the feedback sessions, some of the most helpful things you can do are allow for a quiet interlude. Learning to live with unanswered questions is a valuable skill as an actor/artist.

Skills that define a Professional Attitude are:

1. Demonstrate empathy, integrity, honesty, good interpersonal skills, curiosity, courage, and desire for change.
2. Ability to adapt to a working environment that is both rigorous and demanding.
3. Ability to show flexibility to changes.
4. Ability to function in the face of uncertainties questions and stresses, which are inherent in the training and artistic process, as well as the profession.
5. Ability and willingness to respond physically to appropriate verbal and tactile cues given by their teachers.
6. Acknowledgment that the work is the discipline and self-discipline will lead to the attainment of one’s goals.

Mistakes to Avoid:

1. Refusing to Ask for Help
2. Not Being Able to Handle Feedback
3. Gossiping
4. Being Afraid to Make Mistakes
5. Not Admitting You Made a Mistake
6. Having a Bad Attitude
7. Not Learning from Your Classmates
8. Not Being Prepared
9. Comparing your Artistic Journey to Other's Journey's

Email Policy

Electronic mail or "email" is considered an official method for communication because it delivers information in a convenient, timely, cost effective and environmentally aware manner. Students are expected to check their official UF email on a frequent and consistent basis in order to remain informed of university-related communications. The university recommends checking email daily. Students are responsible for the consequences of not reading, in a timely fashion, university-related communications sent to their official student email account. This policy ensures that all students have access to this important form of communication. It ensures students can be reached through a standardized channel by faculty and other staff of the university as needed.

Online course evaluation:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semesters, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Holidays:

Jan 15th Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Spring Break March 3-10
(Jan 28 – Feb 2nd URTA)

Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

Section 1: Vocal Tract Anatomy and IPA
January 8 – February 9

- Anatomy: the space and muscles that shape sound
- Shaping and Obstructing the flow of sound
- Physical actions
- Empty Chart
- IPA and Writing it down

Section 2: “So Called” General American
February 12 – March 2

- Continue IPA
- Diacritics and Acquisition
- SCGA Tongue Twisters

Section 3 Accents & Dialects
March 12 – April 9

- Diacritics and Acquisition
- RP, Jamaican, Estuary, MLE, Cockney, Nigerian, French

Section 4
April 11 – 18

- Solo Accent Project Presentations

Section 5
April 20 - 25

- Final Presentation Practice and Preparation

April 30 -May 4 TBA: Final Presentations & Jury meetings

UF Policies:

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities (Required): “Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

University Policy on Academic Conduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Class Demeanor or Netiquette: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. [Describe what is expected and what will occur as a result of improper behavior [See Sample Netiquette Document](#)]

Getting Help:

For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- (352) 392-HELP (4357)
- Walk-in: HUB 132

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES:

UF Counseling Center 3190 Radio Rd. P.O. Box 112662, University of Florida Gainesville, FL
32611-2662 352-392-1575
www.counsel.ufl.edu

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.