

**MFA Voice & Speech 1**  
**TPP6285**  
**University of Florida Fall 2018**

**Time:** 2nd Period (8:30-9:20) **Days:** M/W/F **Room:** CON G014  
**Instructor:** Susan Schuld **Office Hours:** MWF 10.30-11.30 or by appointment  
**Email:** sschuld@ufl.edu

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

**Course Description:**

This course aims to address the voice in the context of human communication. Students will explore a progression of exercises developed by Kristin Linklater that aims to free, develop and strengthen the voice. The objective, as stated in *Freeing the Natural Voice*, is "a voice in direct contact with emotional impulse, shaped by the intellect but not inhibited by it." Voice work will progress from physical awareness, the discovery of sound in the body to opening the channel for sound and the exploration of resonance and vocal freedom. Students learn text and imagery exercises and apply these skills to their Poetry final presentation.

**Course Goals:**

- Begin the progression of Kristin Linklater's *Freeing the Natural Voice* to improve the actor's vocal production by releasing tension, connecting to the breath and opening the actor's natural resonance.
- Develop internal and external awareness
- Discover the efficiency of alignment, breath, and sound
- Examine the writings of Kristin Linklater

**Course Outcomes:**

- Learn vocal anatomy and optimal vocal alignment
- Develop a personal physical and vocal warm-up
- To improve vocal production by releasing tension, connecting to breath, and opening resonance.
- To develop a physical awareness of breathing by identifying and eliminating tension in the actor's instrument
- To identify physical vocal habits and original speaking pattern .

**Textbook:**

"*Freeing the Natural Voice: Imagery and Art in the Practice of Voice and Language*" by Kristin Linklater (2nd edition - yellow cover) ISBN: 9780896762503

**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>.

### Course Calendar (Subject to Change)

**Week 1-Unit 1: Intro, Awareness, Spine**

**Week 2: Continue Spine, releasing tension, Intro to Breathing, Touch of Sound**

**Week 3: Alignment, Spine, Humming, Releasing Vibrations**

**Week 4: Solar Plexus, Sacral Plexus, Floor Work & Releasing Tension**

**Week 5: Unit 2: Freeing the Channel/Jaw**

**Week 6: Freeing the Jaw/ Intro to Tongue**

**Week 7: Freeing the Tongue/ Intro to Soft Palate**

**Week 8: Progression Review through Soft Palate**

**Week 9 Unit 3: Throat awareness Intro to Resonators**

**Week 10: Progression through Resonators**

**Week 11: Swings, Strengthening & Developing the voice**

**Week 12: Swings, Strengthening & Developing the voice**

**Week 13 Unit 4: Voice Workout onto Text**

**Week 14: Voice Workout onto Text**

**Week 15: Voice Workout onto Text**

### **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](http://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](http://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