

Undergraduate Voice & Speech Training 2
Speech for the Actor in the 21st Century
TPP 4288 University of Florida Spring 2020

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10:40 AM - 12:35 PM

Room: CON G015

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

This term we will complete the Linklater Progression of Voice exercises. The desire is to restore the connection of language to the body by re-circuiting of sensory experiences to oral communication. Our goal as an actor is to be ultra-verbal: to simultaneously experience language in tactile, auditory and imagistic ways; indeed, to savor the tastes and smells of language. Voice exercises address adding breath capacity, calling, yelling, upper range resonance, and connecting the voice bottom to top.

The second aim is to learn speech actions using the Knight Thompson Speechwork and learn several accents and dialects. Some of these accents could include a “So Called” General/Neutral American, Appalachian, Deep South, RP, Cockney, Multicultural London English, Brooklynese, and New Jersey. Students will be responsible to work in small groups to learn a Nigerian or Russian or French accent, as well as perform a solo accent at the end of the term.

We will study vocal anatomy and physiology and move to a very full overview 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 continue to learn the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and develop phonetic transcription skills for future dialect study and script notation. At the same time we are guided by Patricia Fletcher’s “Classically Speaking” to learn and apply a “So Called” General/Neutral American Accent to text. We become more aware of the options available to the actor through speech. We explore the notion that proficiency in these American accents might open doors in terms of character choice and can assist the actor in learning the sounds essential to many other accents.

The third ambition is to continue to practice voiceover acting techniques for animation, and video games. Class will continue to provide information on the industry, professional work and studio etiquette. We will be also be investigating vocal health strategies and rehabilitation techniques to aid us in the vocal extremes of VO for Gaming and Characters for Animation.

COURSE OUTCOMES

The student who completes this course successfully will:

- Continue to Eliminate old habits that interfere with the free flow of sound
- Strengthen and Develop our range and resonance
- Demonstrate knowledge of speech anatomy
- Aurally distinguish & demonstrate accent phonemes
- Demonstrate transcription competency when using the International Phonetic Alphabet
- To develop a personal process when approaching Voice Over
- Develop vocal variety and expressiveness through: volume and emphasis, rhythm and speed, phrasing and pausing, inflection and range

TEXTBOOKS

Classically Speaking by Patricia Fletcher (2nd Edition)

MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS

Spring 2020 A final showing will be presented for other classes, instructors, and invited guests.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Classically Speaking textbook, Yoga Mat, Water bottle, pencil, Small hand mirror, Digital recorder

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF PRACTICE: Syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Week 1- Jan 6, 8, 10 – Introductions Review Progression, Intro to Swings and Extra Capacity, IPA, and How to Learn Accents and Dialects Articles and Videos

Week 2- Jan 13, 15, 17 - Finish Linklater Extra Capacity Exercises, & Introduction to Knight-Thompson, Space that Shapes Sound, Anatomy and Gurning, Upper RP/ Modern RP

Week 3- Jan 23, 25 Sinus Resonator Points of Obstruent Focus, Physical Actions, Cockney & Multicultural London English (Mon Jan 20th off Holiday)

Week 4- Jan 31st – **UK monologue presentation** (Jan 27 & 29th no class URTA recruiting)

Week 5- Feb 3, 5, 7 Nasal Exercises & Introduction to SCGA Front Vowels /i/ /ɪ/ /ε/ /æ/ & /t/d/n/l/ & /b/ /d/ /g/, introduction to Southern Accents

Week 6- Monday Feb 10th – Southern Monologue Presentation

Week 6 - Feb 12, 14 - Skull & Range Resonator /s/ & /z/ & /sts/ /str/ /dr/ /tr/, introduction to NY Accents

Week 7- Feb 17 – NY Monologue Presentation

Week 7 - Feb 19, 21 - & Arpeggios' Back Vowels /ɔ/ & /ɑ/ & /m/ /n/ /ŋ/ /l/ & syllabics, Group Accent work from Nigerian, Russian, or French

Week 8- Feb 24, 26 -Back Vowels /u/ /ʊ/ /o/ & /oʊ/ **Tongue Twisters and IPA Midterm**

Week 8- Friday March 28 Nigerian, Russian or French presentation

Week 9- March 2, 4, 6 Spring Break

Week 10- March 9, 11, 13th Mid Vowels /ʌ/ /ə/ & /r/ /j/ /l/, VO techniques

Week 11- March 16, 18, 20th /eɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɔɪ/ VO techniques

Week 12- March 23, 25, 27 /oʊ/ /aʊ/ & /ɜ/ /ɝ/ VO techniques, solo presentations

Week 13- March 30, April 1, 3 - Chekov Tools, /ɪə/ /eə/ ɔə/ /ɑə/ & /tʃ/ /ʃ/ VO techniques, solo presentations

Week 14- April 6, 8, 10 /aɪə/ /aʊə/ & /θ/ /ð/ /f/ v/ **Tongue Twisters and IPA FINAL**, solo presentations

Week 15- April 13, 15, 17 Chekov Tools, work final presentation

Week 16- April 20, 22 – Final presentations TBA

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 So Called General/Neutral American speech skills*)

Final Performance 20% (*level of progress in voice skills, application of acting skills, and So Called General/Neutral American speech 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:

- Demonstrate empathy, integrity, honesty, good interpersonal skills, curiosity, courage, and desire for change.
- Ability to adapt to a working environment that is both rigorous and demanding.
- Ability to show flexibility to changes.
- 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.
- Ability and willingness to respond physically to appropriate verbal and tactile cues given by their teachers.

Mistakes to Avoid:

- Refusing to Ask for Help
- Insubordination to your Authority Figure
- Not Being Able to Handle Feedback
- Gossiping
- Being Afraid to Make Mistakes
- Not Admitting You Made a Mistake
- Having a Bad Attitude
- Not Learning from Your Classmates
- Not Being Prepared

- 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 Illinois 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.

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 roll-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.

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.