

**Theatre Speech I**  
**THR 231**  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2007

Sam Houston State University  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
THR 232.01  
MWF 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. AND 12 p.m.-12:50 p.m.  
UTC Mainstage

Instructor – Dr. Laura Avery  
Office – Smith-Kirkley, Room G21  
Office hours – by appt.  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of how to improve the ability to communicate through more effective use of the voice. This will be achieved through exploring the basic processes of voice, speech, movement and acting and how they can be further integrated and unified for the performer.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To open the actor's range of speech and vocal choices beyond the habitual.
2. To identify each individual's specific speech patterns and begin to address means to expand beyond perceived limitations.
3. To prepare the actor for the speech challenges presented by performed text.
4. To establish a working knowledge of IPA.
5. To work through problems in breathing, resonance, and articulation for each individual student.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class participation is an important part of class, so it is imperative that you attend all classes. If you are absent from more than **three (3)** classes, your final grade will be reduced by **two (2)** points for **each** absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy **three (3)** times, that equals **one absence**. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

PREPARATION

Please wear clothing that is comfortable and loose fitting, especially on days when we'll be doing floor work. Come to class focused and ready to work. All piercings of tongue, lips and nose should be removed before class time. All students are expected to participate in all activities and exercises. That means 'coming to the party!' Evaluations will be made on all exercises, etc.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, talking among each other at inappropriate

times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Please talk to me prior to class if you would like to bring a visitor to class.

REQUIREMENTS:

**Evaluation Papers:** For the department’s productions this semester, each of you is required to write a 2-3 page typed paper summarizing the voice and speech work in the production. The paper should focus on the vocal production of the actors and how it impacted the effectiveness of their performance and the overall quality of the production. Papers are due at the beginning of class the Monday following the show’s closing. Late papers will not be accepted. Your paper must be double-spaced. Times New Roman or Arial font size 12, with one-inch margins.

**Journal and Recorded Assignments:** Each student will keep a journal throughout the semester. You are to bring this journal with you to class. Entries will be made regularly during and following class work. Journals will be checked toward the end of the semester for content and participation. In addition to the journal, you will be asked to make various recordings on cassette tape. These recordings will be done outside of class and turned in to me at the end of the semester. At the end of the semester, your last journal entry will be your observations about your completed tape.

**Monologue:** Each student will be required to choose a serious contemporary monologue that will be worked throughout the semester. If you already have a contemporary monologue in your current audition repertoire, you may use that one. Otherwise, you will need to find one.

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**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy** University policy states that if any student must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their instructor by the 12<sup>th</sup> calendar day after the first day of the semester (Wednesday, September 5, 2007).

**Americans with Disabilities Act** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center by calling (936) 294-1720.

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GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Quizzes – worth 10/each	50
Contemporary Monologue -1.5 minutes - worth 20 pts.	20
Journal - worth 30	30
Cassette recorded samples – worth 30	30
Reaction Papers -worth 10/each	20
Class Participation	15

Total 165

**FALL 2007**  
Course Calendar  
Theatre Speech I

**August**

- 20 M. What's in a name?
- 22 W. Floor Work
- 24 F. Floor Work
- 27 M. Introduction to Respiration
- 29 W. **Quiz 1: Respiration**  
Floor Work
- 31 F. Floor Work

**September**

- 3 M. Labor Day (NO CLASS)
- 5 W. Introduction to Phonation
- 7 F. Phonation Continued
- 10 M. Floor Work
- 12 W. **Quiz 2: Phonation**  
Vocal Exercises: Phonation
- 14 F. Articulator Isolation
- 17 M. Obstructing the airflow
- 19 W. Exploring the limits: "Outlandish"
- 21 F. The Physical Action of Consonants
- 24 M. Tackate/Malooma/Da-Da
- 26 W. *Oedipus* opens  
Phonetic Exploration
- 28 F. Phonetics Continued

**October**

- 1 M. **Reaction Paper 1 Due: *Oedipus***  
Phonetics Continued: Flashcards
- 3 W. Phonetics Continued: even more "Outlandish"
- 5 F. **Quiz 3: Consonants**  
**Workbook Pages Due**  
Contemporary Monologue Work
- 8 M. Columbus Day (NO CLASS)
- 10 W. Care of the Voice
- 12 F. Care of the Voice: Fiberoptics
- 15 M. Introduction to Resonance
- 17 W. Resonance continued
- 19 F. Vocal Exercises: Resonance
- 22 M. Floor Work
- 24 W. Work with "Omnish"
- 26 F. Work with "Omnish"
- 29 M. Vowel Articulation
- 31 W. Phonetic Exploration: Vowels

**November**

- 2 F. Phonetics Continued
- 5 M. Phonetics Continued
- 7 W. Phonetics Continued: More "Omnish"
- 9 F. **Quiz 4: Vowels**  
**Workbook Pages Due**  
Contemporary Monologue Work
- 12 M. Working with the complete sound hoard
- 14 W. *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* opens  
Working with the complete sound hoard

- 16 F. Working with the complete sound hoard  
19 M. **Reaction Paper 2 Due: 42<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Quiz 5: Complete Sound Hoard**  
Building a Tribe  
21 W. Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)  
23 F. Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASS)  
26 M. Putting it all together  
28 W. **Journals and Recorded Samples Cassette Due**  
Putting it all together  
30 F. Contemporary Monologues

**December**

- 3 M. Contemporary Monologues  
5 W. Finish Monologues  
Final Thoughts