

Theatre Speech II
Course Syllabus
Spring 2008

Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Dance
THR 232.01
MWF 1-1:50 p.m.
UTC Mainstage

Instructor – Dr. Laura Avery
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a continuing examination of how to improve the ability to communicate through more effective use of the voice. This will be achieved through continuing to explore 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 continue to open the actor's range of speech and vocal choices beyond the habitual.
2. To further identify each individual's specific speech patterns and begin to explore a variety of dialects beyond the habitual.
3. To prepare the actor for the speech challenges presented by heightened/classical text, specifically Shakespeare.
4. To *solidify* a working knowledge of IPA as it applies to dialects.
5. To continue working articulation, diction and placement for each individual student as it applies to dialects.
6. To further explore the challenges presented by stage speech.

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. Come to class focused and ready to work. All piercings of tongue, lips and nose must 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 each of the department’s productions this semester, you will 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 and MLA formatting.

Journal: 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.

Monologue: Each student will be required to choose a Shakespeare monologue, preferably one that you can add to your audition tool bag.

Shakespeare Scenework: Each of you will be required to work on a two-person scene, no longer than 5 minutes in length.

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 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

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.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Shakespeare Monologue -1.5 minutes - worth 20 pts.	20
Journal - worth 30	30
Shakespeare Scene– 4 minutes – worth 45	45
Reaction Papers – worth 10/each	30
Class Participation	<u>15</u>

Total 140

SPRING 2008
Course Calendar
Theatre Speech II

January

- 16 W. Syllabus/ Introductions
- 18 F. NO CLASS
- 21 M. Martin Luther King Day NO CLASS
- 23 W. History of Theatre Speech
- 25 F. Introduction to Fitzmaurice Voice Work
- 28 M. Deconstructing
- 30 W. Deconstructing
- 1 F. Deconstructing
- 4 M. Deconstructing
- 6 W. Deconstructing

February

- 8 F. Deconstructing/Restructuring
- 11 M. Deconstructing/Restructuring
- 13 W. Restructuring with Movement
- 15 F. Restructuring with Movement
- 18 M. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
- 20 W. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
- 22 F. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
- 25 M. Shakespeare Text
DUE: *Skin of Our Teeth* paper
- 27 W. Shakespeare Text
- 29 F. Shakespeare Text
- 3 M. Shakespeare Text
- 5 W. Shakespeare Text

March

- 7 F. NO CLASS
- 10 M. Spring Break
- 12 W. Spring Break
- 14 F. Spring Break
- 17 M. Monologues
- 19 W. Monologues
- 21 F. Good Friday NO CLASS
- 24 M. Character Voices
- 26 W. Character Voices
- 28 F. Laughing/Crying
- 31 M. Phonetic Pillows
- 2 W. Phonetic Pillows
- 4 F. Phonetic Pillows

April

- 7 M. Phonetic Pillows
DUE: *Marisol* paper
- 9 W. Phonetic Pillows
- 11 F. Dialects
- 14 M. Dialects
- 16 W. Dialects
- 18 F. Dialects
- 21 M. Dialects
- 23 W. Dialects
- 25 F. Dialects

28 M. Dialects
DUE: *Full Monty* paper
30 W. Final Scene
2 F. Final Scene
5 M. Final Scene

May

7 W. Final Scene

Final TBA