

SYLLABUS

Fall Semester 2006

Instructor: Varlo Davenport

Course Number: THEA 1113, COMM 1400

Office: FAC 113

Course Title: Voice and Diction

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Credit: 3

Office hours: 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M., MWF
FAC 156

Class Meetings: T/Th, 9:00 - 10:15 A.M.

Required Texts:

Lessac, Arthur *The Use and Training of the Human voice: A Bio-Dynamic Approach to Vocal Life*, 3rd edition. Mayfield Publishing Company, Mayfield CA. 1997.

Course Description:

For all students seeking to improve articulation and increase control of the speaking voice. Teaches the mechanics of speech production, including respiration, phonation, resonance, and articulation. Teaches the Lessac system of vocal notation and production. Uses textbook reading, lecture, media, demonstration, discussion and individual performances. Quizzes, tests and exercises may also be used. Emphasizes skill development. Students who complete this course will be prepared to enroll in THEA 1033, First Year Acting. This class is a prerequisite to THEA 1410.

Course Objectives:

By active participation in this class the student will:

1. Develop an understanding of the bio-mechanics of vocal production.
2. Know how to correctly produce vowel and consonant sounds, using Lessac Methodology.
3. Increase range, articulation, projection, precision and vocal resonance.
4. Evaluate the vocal performance of others, demonstrated by written criticism analysis of performances they observe.
5. Demonstrate growing vocal skills and analysis to stage performance and public speaking, through performance assignments throughout the semester.

Policies and Procedures:

1. Attendance and participation is expected and constitutes a very high percentage of your grade. If you know in advance that you will be absent from school for reasons you feel deserve special consideration, you may, with the instructors permission, be able to take the quiz before your absence. Permission to allow you to complete work early is entirely at the instructors discretion. Vacations, weddings, and trips will not justify missing class.
2. This class requires movement, floor work and stretching, please dress accordingly. (Dresses, skirts and tight pants are not appropriate for this class.) If you are not dressed to move, you are not prepared for the class and will lose 1/2 of your attendance points for the day.
3. The vocal warm up is one of the first things we do each class and is an important part of this class as it protects your voice from strain and damage. Being tardy may mean that you miss part or all of warm up and are therefore unprepared for class. You will lose one grade level (From an A to an A-) for three un-excused tardys.
4. Any student wishing to take the final early will have to have instructor permission and write a 250 essay to the Dean indicating why they need to take the test early.
5. At times it is necessary for the instructor to physically show you where breath support, posture and vocal dynamics take place in the body. This occasionally will entail gentle

touches and demonstration. If you are in any way uncomfortable with this, please don't hesitate to let me know either by phone, email or an informal chat and your feelings will be discreetly regarded.

6. At instructors discretion the syllabus may be altered to accommodate class needs
Grading is done on a percentage of points earned/# of points possible:

94% = A	83% = B	73% = C	63% = D
91% = A-	79% = B-	70% = C-	60% = D-
87% = B+	76% = C+	67% = D+	

Points are distributed as follows:

Growth	20 pts
Attendance	145 pts. (5 pts per class)
Quizzes	20 pts. (On reading)
Vocal analysis	20 pts (See notes below)
Consonant Performance	50 pts (2-3 minutes with Lessac notation)
Structural Performance	50 pts (2-3 minute notated performance)
Final Vocal Performance	50 pts (Sonnet or Group presentation)
Final Written Exam	<u>25 pts</u> (Lessac Notation)
	380 pts. total

Production vocal analysis:

Please submit a 2 page vocal critique of two DSC Theater productions, two public speakers, or a combination of the two. Discuss the following:

1. Performers use of the voice in relation to believability for the character
2. Performers use of the voice in relation to health and variety.
3. Identify vocal tensions, if there are any.
4. Describe the performer's voice in terms of the vocal energies
5. Identify if the performer leads with a certain vocal energy and if it works well for the play.
6. Do not include plot summaries or costume and set design critiques.
7. If you are in the production, write a self analysis about your own vocal research, preparation and performance.

Syllabus

Date	Subject	Reading	Assignments
Aug. 22	Introductions		

24	Alignment, breathing	Read ch. 1, 2	

29	Warm Up exercises Alignment, breathing	Read ch. 3	

30	Warm Up exercises Alignment, breathing		

Sept. 5	Warm Up Diagnostic Reading	Read Ch. 5	

7	Warm Up Intro to Consonant NRG	pp. 61 - 75	

12	Warm Up		

-----		Consonant NRG	pp. 75 - 82	
	14	Warm Up Consonant NRG	pp. 89 - 91	

	19	Warm Up Consonant NRG	pp. 91 - 95	

	21	Warm Up Consonant NRG	pp. 95 - 99	

	26	Warm Up Consonant NRG	pp. 99 - 104	

	28	Warm Up Consonant NRG	pp. 104 - 111	

Oct.	3	Consonant Performance	2 min prepared piece, notated and rehearsed	

	5	Linking/Intro to Tonal NRG	pp. 113-121	

	10	Tonal NRG	Chap. 6, 122 - 136	Crimes critique due

	12	Semester Break - No Class		

	17	Tonal NRG	Chap. 6, 136 - 145	

	19	Warm Up Tonal NRG	Chap. 6, 145 - 159	

	24	Warm Up Tonal NRG w/Shakespeare		Short sonnet or monologue

	26	Warm Up Tonal NRG w/Shakespeare		Short sonnet or monologue

	31	Warm Up Introduction to Structural NRG Structural NRG	Chap. 7, 160 - 167	

Nov.	2	Warm Up Structural NRG	Chap. 7, 168 - 176	

	7	Warm Up Structural NRG	Chap. 7, 176 - 183	

	9	Warm Up Structural NRG	Chap. 8, 184 - 192	

	14	Warm Up Structural NRG	Chap. 8, 192 - 197	

	16	Warm Up Structural NRG	Chap. 8, 197 - 199	

21	Structural Performance (2-3 minute notated and rehearsed vocal performance)	Drood critique due

23	NO CLASS - Thanksgiving break	

28	Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories

30	Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories

Dec.	5 Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories

	7 Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories

14	8:00 A.M. Warm Up Final Performance	Sonnets and Group presentations, with all notation

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to discuss their needs with the instructor, preferably during the first week of the quarter. Course materials in alternative format -- large print, audio, and braille -- will be provided in cooperation with the Disability Resource Center. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities to ensure equal participation in class. (Disabilities require medical documentation).

Students in need of special accommodations and auxiliary aids, or who have other needs related to their disabilities, are encouraged to utilize the support network available through the Academic Support Center.

Add/Drop dates

August 25	Last day to add classes w/o instructor permission
September 21	Last day to add classes
September 28	Last day to drop or audit classes
November 18	Last day for complete withdrawal
December 9	Class work ends

Incomplete Grade Policy

An incomplete "I" grad may be given only under the circumstances outlined in the Dixie State College Catalogue, page 16. Please familiarize yourself with that policy.

Points

Attendance

Aug.	23	___		27	___	Nov.	1	___
	25	___		29	___		3	___
	30	___	Oct.	4	___		8	___

Sept	1 ___	6 ___	10 ___
	6 ___	11 ___	17 ___
	8 ___	13 ___	22 ___
	13 ___	18 ___	29 ___
	15 ___	20 ___	Dec. 1 ___
	20 ___	25 ___	6 ___
	21 ___	27 ___	8 ___

5 points per class
2 points if late
 ___ total attendance points

Reading Quizzes

Ch. 2 ___	Ch. 3 ___	Ch. 4 ___
Ch. 5 ___	Ch. 6 ___	Ch. 7 ___
Ch.11 ___		

___ total quiz pts

Play Vocal Analysis

Tartuffe ___ pts *The Mikado* ___ pts

___ total vocal analysis pts.