

# SYLLABUS

Fall Semester 2006

Instructor: Varlo Davenport

Course Number: THEA 1113, COMM 1400

Office: FAC 113

Course Title: Voice and Diction

Phone/email: 652-7797, <[davenport@dixie.edu](mailto:davenport@dixie.edu)>

Credit: 3

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

Class Meetings: T/Th, 9:00 - 10:15 A.M. FAC 156

## Required Texts:

Lessac, Arthur *The Use and Training of the Human voice: A Bio-Dynamic Approach to Vocal Life*, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 ½ 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 unexcused 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)
	<b>380 pts. total</b>	

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.

		<b>Syllabus</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignments</b>	
<b>Aug.</b>	22	Introductions		
-----				
	24	Alignment, breathing	Read ch. 1, 2	
-----				
	29	Warm Up exercises Alignment, breathing	Read ch. 3	
-----				
	30	Warm Up exercises Alignment, breathing		
-----				
<b>Sept.</b>	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	
-----				
<b>Oct.</b>	3	<b>Consonant Performance</b>	2 min prepared piece, notated and rehearsed	
-----				
	5	Linking/Intro to Tonal NRG	pp. 113-121	
-----				
	10	Tonal NRG	Chap. 6, 122 - 136	<b>Crimes critique due</b>
-----				
	12	<b>Semester Break - No Class</b>		
-----				
	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	
-----				
<b>Nov.</b>	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	<b>Structural Performance</b> (2-3 minute notated and rehearsed vocal performance)	<b><i>Drood critique due</i></b>
-----			
	23	<b>NO CLASS - Thanksgiving break</b>	
-----			
	28	Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories
-----			
	30	Warm Up	Work Sonnets/Stories
-----			
<b>Dec.</b>	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 ___ <i>5 points per class</i>
	20 ___	25 ___	6 ___ <i>2 points if late</i>
	21 ___	27 ___	8 ___ ___ 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

<i>Tartuffe</i> ___ pts	<i>The Mikado</i> ___ pts
-------------------------	---------------------------

\_\_\_total vocal analysis pts.