



**THE-236-001: VOICE AND DICTION
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2024
TTR: 9:30-10:45**

Instructor: Tabitha Ray, Adjunct Professor of Theatre
Office Location/hours: By appointment
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COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook:

Freeing the Natural Voice (Revised and Expanded) by Kristin Linklater

Suggested Textbooks:

Stage Dialects by Jerry Blunt

The Laban Workbook for Actors: A Practical Training Guide by Katya Bloom
The Expressive

Actor: Integrated Voice, Movement and Acting Training by Michael Lugering

Handouts provided from these books in class.

Software Required:

- Internet Access; Access to D2L via MyLeo
- Word-processing software (Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.)

Materials Required:

- Something with which to take notes (computer/pen & paper etc)
- Clothing that allows for freedom of movement. No jeans, skirts, overly-loose shorts, or restrictive tops. **Wear something that would be appropriate for a yoga class.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on a practical application of the Linklater, Laban, and Lugering techniques. Student actors will learn to identify and remove physical and psychological blocks that prevent healthy vocal production, and become familiar with basic phonics. They will explore emotional impulses and how these impulses connect to sound and movement. They will develop a regimen to be used in preparation for performance that produces a state of relaxed readiness.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Demonstrate an academic mastery of the Linklater, Lugerling, and Laban techniques

Assessment: class discussions, quizzes, mid-term exam

Demonstrate a practical mastery of the Linklater, Laban, Lugerling, and IPA

Assessment: participation in class exercises, leading group work

Develop a pre-performance regimen

Assessment: participation in class exercises, discovery journal, leading group work

<h2>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</h2>

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

Students must be able to navigate myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and word processing software.

Instructional Methods:

This course is taught face to face. Student learning is dependent upon fully engaging with in-class exercises.

Class Behavior Policy:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for their classmates and their instructor. Rude, abusive, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. The first infraction will result in a verbal warning and an after class conference. If repeated infractions occur, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss any student from the classroom. Additionally, if the instructor determines that a student's behavior is particularly egregious, the instructor reserves the right to dismiss the student from class even if they have not received a prior warning. If the student wishes to return to class, they must schedule a meeting with the instructor and the appropriate disciplinary authorities.

Students are also expected to comply with all policies listed in the student guidebook:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuid ebook.aspx>

Late Work Policy:

All assignments must be submitted by the assigned date and time. For example, if a student misses a quiz given at the beginning of class because they are tardy they will not be allowed to make it up. As a general policy, I rarely accept late work. The intention of the no-late work policy is to encourage students to develop time management skills critical for professional success. If late work is accepted, the instructor may assign a grade penalty to the assignment. Late work exceptions are made at the discretion of the instructor if extenuating circumstances arise.

Recording of Lectures:

Students are expected to attend class to take notes. If you intend to record lectures, you must ask the permission of the instructor and the class. Video recording is prohibited. Exceptions made for students who have made arrangements via the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services.

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy:

Cell phones must not become a nuisance during class. If the instructor determines that a student is causing a disturbance with their cell phone, the instructor may dismiss the student from class. If a student is dismissed, the student may not make up missed work. Laptops are to be used for classwork only.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course:

- Be on time- We will have a class activity and a minute paper in most classes. You will be unable to fully engage with the activity if you are late.
- Choose to engage- Elements of this course are meant to be personalized. Decide to embrace the work and discover what works for you and your body.
- Turn cell phones off- Generally speaking, you do not need to be on your cell phone in class. If you are

expecting an emergency call, please speak to the instructor before class.

- Plan ahead- Use the calendar in the syllabus to plan for assignments. Avoid last minute scrambles!
- Complete all assignments and readings on time- I rarely accept late work. If late work is accepted, I may assign a grade penalty to the assignment.

Major Course Assignments and Examinations

Daily Class Exercise Evaluation (390 points total)

Students are expected fully participate in each in-class lesson. They will be evaluated after every session on their willingness to embrace the work. If a student misses a session for any reason, they cannot make up their daily evaluation grade. Arriving late or leaving early will effect your daily evaluation grade.

Quizzes (200 points total)

Students will take quizzes over assigned readings from *Freeing the Natural Voice*, *Stage Dialects*, *The Expressive Actor*, and *The Laban Workbook for Actor*.

Discovery Journal (105 points total)

Students will submit a journal entry each week via D2L. Journal entries should detail discoveries they have made about their physical and vocal instrument in class. Outside of class, students are to explore relaxation through exercise, music, meditation and other methods of conscious tension release. Students should include theses experiences in their weekly journal.

Midterm (100 points)

Students will be given one comprehensive written midterm on **03/07/2024**. The midterm will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions.

Final (105 points)

Student actors will divide into small groups. They will take turns leading their group through a Linklater performance preparation routine. Student actors are to integrate personal relaxation discoveries and movement work discoveries they have made over the course of the semester.

GRADING

Letter Grade	Points Earned
A	800-900
B	700-799
C	600-699
D	500-599
F	0-499

Interaction with Instructor Statement

All emails from students should include:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Please be concise

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Student Resources:

Department of Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail online in the Student Guidebook. Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette Webpage for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the Attendance Webpage and the Class Attendance Policy.

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such

software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University

Commerce Velma K. Waters

Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus document and/or consult your event organizer. Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

01/11	Discuss syllabus and class expectations
01/16	Linklater Workday One
01/18	Linklater Workday Two
01/23	Linklater Workday Three
01/25	Linklater Workday Four
01/30	Linklater Workday Five
02/01	Linklater Workday Six
02/06	Linklater Workday Seven
02/08	Linklater Workday Eight
02/13	Linklater Workday Nine
02/15	Linklater Workday Ten
02/20	Linklater Workday Eleven
02/22	Linklater Workday Twelve
02/27	Linklater Workday Thirteen
02/29	Linklater Workday Fourteen
03/05	Linklater Workday Fifteen
03/07	Midterm
03/12	Spring Break
03/14	Spring Break
03/19	Linklater Workday Sixteen
03/21	Linklater Workday Seventeen
03/26	Linklater Workday Eighteen
03/28	Laban, Linklater Workday Nineteen

04/02	Laban, Linklater Workday Twenty
04/04	Laban, Linklater Workday Twenty-One
04/09	Lugering, Linklater Workday Twenty-Two
04/11	Lugering, Linklater Workday
04/16	Lugering, Linklater Workday
04/18	IPA, Linklater Workday
04/23	IPA, Linklater Workday
04/25	Final- Linklater Group Work
04/30	Final- Linklater Group Work
05/02	Final- Linklater Group Work
05/09	9AM Final- Linklater Group Work