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THTR 113A.50: Introduction to Vocal Acting

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THTR 113A 50, Introduction to Vocal Acting Spring 2014	
Instructor John Kenneth DeBoer Assistant Professor of Theatre	Class Dates & Location The online course runs from January 27 to May 16. It is delivered online, via Moodle .
Contact Information Email: johndeboer@umontana.edu Office: McGill 212B UMOnline: 406.243.4999 Tech Support	Office Hours I will hold live office hours on the UM-Missoula Campus MWR 1-2 PM. I will respond to all other calls, emails, and discussion posts within 24 hours, M-F.

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to dramatic performance as well as broaden your communication, presentation, and personal skills in a creative and interactive online environment.

Target Student:

Students interested in achieving a demonstrated confidence in the presentation of him/herself—socially and professionally—through exploring their vocal identity through creative and dramatic interpretation of text.

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:

Students in this course must have rudimentary knowledge of or willingness to learn to record, save, and upload compressed audio files (MP3 or MP4 format for example) —tutorials on this process are part of the course content. The ability to compose basic text documents and save as PDF files is also necessary.

Course Importance and Relevance:

How you “perform” yourself and your identity is often the first impression you make socially and professionally. As the world becomes increasingly reliant on web-based interaction for both business and pleasure, this course will also help you develop a more articulate, responsive, and expressive identity online. At the end of the semester you will complete the course with an increased understanding of yourself, your peers, and the world.

Participation and Grading Criteria:

Participation Expectations: Acting is participatory: there is no way to learn without doing, no adequate substitute for a missing partner, and no way to “make up” missed experience. You should log into Moodle, and work within the course approximately five times a week. More than ONE (1) week without submitting class work will result in your final grade being lowered by a third of a letter grade. If you need to be away from Internet access for a period of time, please contact me immediately. If I know in advance that you cannot log on for a period of time I will take that into consideration.

Grading Scale: Each assignment will is worth variable number of points. Percentages will be figured using these points and letter grades will be assigned using the following grading scale:

A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	60-63%
F	59% and Below

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcomes:
A demonstrated confidence in the presentation of yourself—socially and professionally
The ability to express yourself through the study and exploration of vocal performance of a variety of material
Understanding the fundamental concepts necessary to vocal performance and craft of acting
Analysis of and respect for vocal performance—including audience and forum etiquette
Understanding the important contribution vocal performance makes to the world—both in everyday life and in the arts and media.

Assignments and Assessments:

Assignments/Assessments	Total Possible Points
Recorded Performances and Critiques	50% of Grade
My Name, My Voice	10
First Performances (x3)	10
Storytelling	50
Open Scene	50
Dramatic Monologue	50
Vocal Critiques (x2)	10
This I Believe	100
Forum Participation and Quizzes	25% of Grade
Welcome Questionnaire	10
Reading Quizzes (x5)	10
<i>The Right to Speak</i> , Responses (x5)	25

Describing Beats and Tactical Shifts	20
“This I Believe” Forum	35
Writing Assignments	25% of Grade
Analysis and Reflection Assignments (x5)	50
Critiquing Acting in Context x2	50
“This I Believe” Essay, Rough Draft	40

Assignment details and grading rubrics will be found in each individual assignment module and available to you before you begin your work. The course will run on a Wednesday to Monday Schedule. All assignments, quizzes, and recordings are due by 12:00 PM Mountain time on Monday to be given full credit. I will begin grading assignments on Monday afternoons and continue through Tuesday. New lectures and section activities will be posted on Wednesdays. Late assignments will be accepted for half-credit. Start assignments early, to correct any technology related issues early.

Course Textbooks/Materials:

The Right to Speak, by Patsy Rodenburg. 1993. ISBN-10: 0878300554

Course Schedule:

Day of:	Readings/Recordings:	Assignment/Assessments Due:
Topic 1: Speaking		
2/3	<i>The Right to Speak</i> 1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz – Chapters 1-2 • My Name, My Voice
2/10	“Journey of the Voice”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Response – Chapters 1-2 • Reading Quiz – “Journey of the Voice • My Name, My Voice Reflection
Topic 2: Hearing		
2/18*	<i>The Right to Speak</i> 3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz – Chapters 3-4 • Voice Analysis 1
2/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Response – Chapters 3-4 • Voice Analysis 2
Topic 3: Storytelling		
3/3	<i>The Right to Speak</i> 5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz – Chapters 5-6 • Storytelling Analysis
3/10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Response – Chapters 5-6 • Story Performance
3/17		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Story Performance, Take-Two • Storytelling Reflection
3/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critiquing Acting in Context Essay 1
Topic 4: Acting		
4/7	<i>The Right to Speak</i> 7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Quiz – Chapters 7-8 • Describing Beats and Tactical Shifts
4/14		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Response – Chapters 7-8 • Open-Scene Performance

4/21		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monologue Performance
4/28	<i>The Right to Speak</i> 9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Response – Chapters 9-10 • Monologue Performance, Take-Two
Topic 5: Being		
5/5	“This I Believe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This I Believe” Discussion • “This I Believe” Rough Draft
5/16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This I Believe” Final Performance • Critiquing Acting in Context Essay 2

Course Policies and Procedures:

[Student Conduct Code](#): All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.

[School of Theatre and Dance Handbook](#): All students in theatre courses must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Handbook*. The Handbook is available online if you have any questions.

[Disability Services for Students \(DSS\)](#): If you have a disability for which accommodations are needed please contact me in the first week of the semester. We will discuss what accommodations you need and will receive in this course. Please contact:

Disability Services for Students (DSS)
 Lommasson Center 154
 The University of Montana
 Missoula, MT 59812
 (406) 243-2243 (Voice/Text)
 FAX (406) 243-5330

[Production Attendance](#): As part of your grade for this online course, you must attend all four theatre productions presented by the School of Theatre and Dance this spring. The class fee that you have paid allows you to get one ticket for the spring shows at no extra expense. These productions are:

The Miracle Worker – Montana Theater
Book of Days – Masquer Theater
A Midsummer Night's Dream – Montana Theater

You may pick up your ticket at the Theatre box office located in the lobby of the PARTV building in person between 11:30 AM and 5:30 PM, Monday – Friday after the start of the Spring 2010 semester. You must present your GRIZ CARD to pick up your tickets and you must identify which class you are in, therefore you must know your section number and instructor's name.

You are in section: **THTR 113, Section 50**
 Your instructor's name is: **John Kenneth DeBoer**

Visit umtheatredance.org for dates and times of the performances. Seating in the Masquer Theatre is general admission. Seating in the Montana Theatre is reserved. The fee that you have paid does not guarantee you a ticket on a particular night, nor does it guarantee that you will be able to get a ticket if the show sells out, therefore do not wait until the evening of the performance to pick up a ticket.

If you pick up your ticket to a production and wish to change performances, you will be charged a \$2 exchange fee **before** the performance date printed on the ticket. If you come in to exchange your ticket **after** the performance date printed on the ticket (and therefore need a new ticket), you will be charged the full student ticket price.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit for this course.

Naming and Submitting Assignments: All file formats (doc, docx, txt, rtf, pdf, mp3) must be uploaded using the following naming standard: Lastname_Assignment

Ex. deboer_thisibelieve

Specification for papers: All papers for this course will be reflective in nature, but must also center on a strong thesis statement or point of view. The general outline of a successful reflective essay follows the standard Introduction, body, conclusion format. Specific rubrics for each paper will be provided on the assignment page. Please upload your assignments as **PDF documents**.

Turn-around time for grading assignments, providing feedback, etc: You should expect to have all your assignments for the week returned to you three days from the date submitted, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Technical Requirements: Visit the UMOonline web page that lists downloads and plug-ins that they may need to complete your course.

Readiness for Online Learning: If you haven't taken an online course before and are curious about it, take the Online Course Readiness Assessment. It takes about 5 minutes to complete and will help you decide if you're ready. You will need to ensure you have the appropriate technology requirements before participating in an online course. Access [Computer System Requirements](#) here. In 2014 it is often easier answer your technology questions yourself by doing a Google search of the problem your having or the task you wish to complete. There are many excellent resources online if you know where to look.

Moodle: If you would like to preview Moodle, you may take this free Moodle tutorial. It takes less than 30 minutes of your time and will allow you to experience an actual Moodle course.