Fall 9-1-2018

THTR 513.01: Grad Voice and Speech I

John Kenneth DeBoer

University of Montana - Missoula, john.deboer@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/8994

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
Grad Voice & Speech I
THTR 513 – Section 01 – 3 Credits – McGill 125
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday – 2-3 PM

Instructor – John Kenneth DeBoer  Email – john.deboer@umontana.edu
Office – McGill 212B    Office Hours – TWR 1-2, PARTV 110

Aim
The purpose of this course is to master voice and speech skills for the actor. At the end of the semester you will leave with an increased kinesthetic awareness of how movement, breath, voice, and enunciation embolden your intellectual and emotional connection to text in performance. This is achieved through the study of vocal production, ear training, enunciation, and the performance of heightened texts and standard dialects.

By the end of the semester you must...

• Demonstrate kinesthetic awareness, breath support, strong phonation, and active resonance in all performances,
• Recognize and understand the poetry inherent in all dramatic texts
• Attune to the nuances of speech and language,
• Notate rhythmic patterns and common speech sounds of spoken language through descriptive and prescriptive poetic scansion and phonetic transcription,
• Exhibit growth in clear phonation, projection, and volume,
• Articulate your process in a succinct and reflective manner.
• Incorporate all skills learned in the studio into the practice of acting.

Textbooks and Required Materials

• Meier, Paul. *Accents & Dialects for Stage and Screen*. Revised/Expanded ed. Lawrence, Kan.: Paul Meier Dialect Services, Any Edition. (This text will be used throughout the entire Voice and Speech sequence).
• Other readings provided as PDF documents via Moodle.
• Recording equipment with the ability to save video files to youtube or other streaming services. Most phones, tablets, and computers have such capabilities.
• Clothes that support movement. Be prepared to work barefoot. If you must wear socks, please wear those that have slip resistant padding.

Attendance and Promptness
As a graduate level acting course there are no un-excused absences. Unexcused absences drop the final grade a third of a letter and so on. Two late arrivals equal one absence.
Grading Scale and Breakdown
Grades will be determined by attendance, involvement, intellectual and creative contribution to the process, engagement, and preparedness.

A  100 – 90%
B  89 – 80%
C  79 – 70 %
D  69 – 60%
F  59 and Below

Participation: 30%
Writing/Research/Homework: 30%
Performances: 30%
Professional Growth: 10%

Skill Assessment and Professional Growth
Your performance and growth grades are my evaluation of how your skills have developed over the course of the semester:

A  Superb Acting. The student has transcended the level of craft they brought to the course, mastered the intellectual preparation, and has begun to play imaginatively “in the moment.”
B  Good Skills. The student has mastered the intellectual preparation necessary to move on to more advanced skills, made some basic advances in craft, but is not yet playing fully “in the moment.”
C  Fair Work. The student is prepared intellectually for the work, and is making progress with some skills, but stronger choices could be made and more practice is necessary.
D  Poor work. The student has not or is not prepared for the work and it is painfully obvious to the both the student and audience.
F  Failure. The student has not or is not prepared at all, has made no specific choices, and is wasting theirs and the audience’s time.

Performances must take place on the date noted on Moodle or assigned in class by the instructor. Due to a tight schedule and limited class time, they may not be made up without prior permission from the instructor.

Professional Growth
Hopefully you will develop the skills necessary to begin playing “in the moment.” However, participation is often not enough. You are expected to show some growth in artistry by the semester’s conclusion and achieve the outcomes laid out in the syllabus.
Assignments
This semester you will seek out and research selected the work of by renowned voice and speech practitioners that will include:

- An annotated bibliography/literature review
- A research paper
- An in-class demonstration

Practitioners of interest include but are not limited to:

- Kristin Linklater
- Patsy Rodenburg
- Catherine Fitzmaurice
- Arthur Lessac
- Dudley Knight
- Cicely Berry
- Edith Skinner

Professional language and thoughtful composition are required. Points will be deducted if you do not adhere to the highest standards of composition and citation (Chicago Style). You are also expected to apply the concepts and skills addressed to your performances throughout the semester. All readings and assignments are available on Moodle.

Personal Comfort
The study of acting often requires the instructor or peers to touch each other or be in close proximity. We all have bad days when we do not want such contact. Feel free to bow out of a particular exercise if you are having a “Wounded Warrior” day. However, frequent sitting out is a sign that you might not be ready to advance in your training.

Sacred Space
In order to foster an appropriate environment for our work, we will treat the studio as a sacred space. Please remove your shoes and socks upon crossing the threshold into the classroom and store your belongings neatly. If you arrive early, use this time for reflection, stretching, sweeping the floor, and organizing any furniture scattered about. Be mindful of any rehearsal furniture designated for a School production that may be using the space and treat it with respect. When class has ended, restore the room. Return any furniture to its designated area and retrieve all belongings that you brought with you to class. There is no overnight storage allowed and the safety of your belongings is not guaranteed.
Procedure/Policy
You are expected to abide by the following School regulations. There is no eating, drinking, or gum chewing during class. Please let me know if in writing if you have a medical exception to this policy. Water in a capped container is acceptable. Absolutely no weapons, real or fake, are allowed in the classroom.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre classes, as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class and rehearsals with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in classes, rehearsals, and performances do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student’s time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student’s grade.

Academic Misconduct and the 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. The Code is available for review online at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook
All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Student Handbook. The Handbook is available online at http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php.

Disability Services for Students (DSS):
If you have a disability for which accommodations are needed please provide me, in writing, your official DSS accommodation letter. Please visit the website linked below for more information. https://www.umt.edu/dss/