

USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre 445a Developing your Speaking Voice

Fall 2017 TH: 6:00 to 8:50 p.m.

Section: 63060R 001

Location: MCC 106

Instructor: Kathleen Dunn-Muzingo

Office: Jeff Bldg. 200a

Office Hours: 4 to 5 p.m. TH or by appointment

Appointments confirmed by email.

Contact Info: kdunn@usc.edu

Teaching Assistant or Assistant Instructor: N.A.

Course Description and Overview

THR 445a: Designed to expand the uniqueness of one's own voice in the areas of clarity, pitch, power, range and warmth and its application to speaking English expressively and professionally.

Learning Objectives Upon completion the student will be able to:

1. Identify the various sensations of speech in order to bring clarity and expressiveness to communication.
2. Develop and Apply a personalized voice and speech warm up for presentations
3. Deepen the student's appreciation of his/her own unique voice and through application and discussion
4. Understand how the voice functions under stress and utilize sensations to release the voice
5. To gain confidence and ownership of one's own personal speaking and expressing

Prerequisite(s): none

Co-Requisite (s): none

Concurrent Enrollment: n/a

Recommended Preparation: This is not a course on English Grammar; however it may help if you have passed and adhered to the University's policy or fulfilled the equivalent:

<http://www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate/firstyear/prospective/international.html>

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials:

The Use and Training of the Human Voice by Arthur Lessac 3rd Edition.

(The book is on reserve at the Levey library, available for rent via internet, or you may share the cost of the book with a fellow class mate.)

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments 400 points

Three Vocal Projects 100 points each (totaling 300 points)

Journals 100 points (Journals will be picked up twice during the semester)

Vocal Unit Projects: Three Projects Totaling 100 points each

There will be a total of three vocal projects during the semester. The student is free to decide on the type of material they wish to present. The main criterion is that it not offend populations of students and that it is something the student feels passionate about. Short selections, famous Speeches or poetry will be provided in case the student gets stuck in searching for material. This text will be used throughout the entire semester. Remaining with the same text frees the student from having to ‘memorize’ for each unit, and therefore, makes it easier to focus on the different sensations of voicing and expressing.

Vocal Project Units are Broken Down as Such:

<i>Participation in Exercises and Voice Warm up</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Text Identification on Material</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Rehearsal</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Performance</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Spontaneous Speaking Assignment</i>	<i>25%</i>

Participation in Exercises and Voice Warm Up: *It is important that you arrive five minutes early to put the room in order and get ready to warm up. Warm ups serve many functions: to review what has been covered, to address vocal needs and questions, and to check in on the progress and understanding of the student 15pts. each unit.*

Text Identification on Material: *For each vocal unit, there will identification and marking of vowel and consonant features being studied. The student will double space a copy of the text or speech and mark for the appropriate vocal opportunities. This is part of the overall grade of vocal unit.*

Submission Requirements for Text Identification on Material: *You may type and double space your text so you have room for identification, or you may write your text out by hand and then identify. Due at the end of the day on the due date. Please submit a copy with the appropriate markings by hand. 10 pts.*

Rehearsals: *Prior to each Vocal Project Presentation, students will have the opportunity to rehearse. In- class rehearsals cannot be made up unless advance notices have been arranged one week before the due date. Rehearsals are an important part of prep and practice for the voice student. 25 pts.*

Performance: *For each Vocal Unit, the student will share his/her voicing of the chosen text. Utilizing the vocal energies learned thus far, the student will be graded on clarity, expressiveness, embodiment and variety. 25 pt.*

Application to Spontaneous Speaking: *After each unit, the student will participate in a vocal project that is loose-form speaking (not completely scripted). The purpose of this exercise is*

to apply the physical sensations of healthy voicing to real life tasks. See the below units for the spontaneous speaking assignments. 25 pts.

Below are the Three Vocal Units and Spontaneous Speaking Assignments:

Vocal Unit One: The Rhythm of the Consonants and Forward Flowing Tonal Resonance

Spontaneous Speaking Assignment: Teach us something. Bring in something you love to do, whether it be cooking, teaching, painting, and teach us. (five to 10 minutes in length).

Vocal Unit Two: The Music & Shaping of the Vowels-Healthy Variety & Dynamic Resonance

Spontaneous Speaking Assignment: Bring in your favorite poem, or song, or share a story of someone who has inspired you.

Vocal Unit Three: Pitch Range and Volume and Putting it all Together

Spontaneous Speaking Assignment: This assignment is putting together all what you have learned. Present something from your work, share a topic you feel passionate about, or present a famous speech.

Journals: Journal entries are discoveries and applications of the vocal sensations (consonant energy, the musicality of the vowels, and tonal energy in daily life situations. The student must write observations of his/her own voice twice a week.

Submission Requirements for the Journals: The student may type up the entries in a Word Doc, 10 to 12 fonts - Times New Roman. The student may also submit hand written entries as long as they are in a binder/notebook with no loose pages. Drawing what you are sensing inside and how your voice feels is also a way of recording your entry. Journals will be picked up twice during the semester. 50 pts per submission. Journals are due at the end of the day on the due date. (50 pts each submission—journals will be picked up twice)

Some examples for journal entries:

Week 1: *The Relaxer Energizers in Daily Life*

Week 2 *Consonant Energy and Breath and Posture in Daily Life*

Week 3: *Consonant Energy and Forward Tone in Daily Life*

Week 4: *Consonants in Daily Life and The Body Energy of Buoyancy* in Daily Life*

Week 5: *Consonants in Daily Life and The Body Energy of Radiancy* in Daily Life*

PICK UP JOURNALS HERE (HAVE TEN ENTRIES)

Week 6 *The shaping of the vowels in Daily Life*

Week 7 to 8 *The Shaping of the Vowels in Daily Life*

Week 9 to 12 *Pitch Power and Range in Daily Life*

PICK UP JOURNALS 12th WEEK (SEVEN ENTRIES)

Week 12 to 15 *Putting it all together.*

**body wisdom terms from the use and training of the human voice by Arthur Lessac*

SDA Assignments: No late papers, markings, rehearsals or performances unless advanced arrangements have been addressed with the instructor one week prior to the missed class. In the case of extreme emergencies, it is up to the student to communicate to the instructor in keeping up with the missed assignments, and at the instructor's discretion regarding grades for missed work. Each day the paper work is late, 10 points will be deducted. After the third day, paperwork is no longer accepted.

Grading Scale for SDA:

A indicates work of excellent quality—crafted, utilized the vocal opportunities, connected to body and communicating. Free of Carefulness. Actively Clear and Engaged.

B indicates work of good quality- Perhaps a bit too careful, take your time, or allow more energy. You might need more practice with a particular speech feature. Overall, it is generally very clear and is still communicating.

C of average quality; --unclear communication, more practice with a particular vocal energy.

D of below average quality- not prepared

F is a No Show

Each Vocal Unit is 100 pts	
Participation, exercises, and warm up	15 points
Text Identification of the applied vocal energy	10 points
Rehearsal	25 points
Performance	25 points
Spontaneous Speaking Assignment	25 points
Three Units Totaling 300 points	
Journal Unit	
Journal Entries Submission 1	50 points
Journal Entries Submission 2	50 points

Total Points: 400 points

OVERALL GRADE AND HOW TO CALCULATE

Grading Scale: Each unit will be given a letter grade based on the 100-pt. system that the University of Southern California follows, (SEE BELOW), the four-unit grades will be averaged and that will be the final grade, based on the grading scale below: If you are wondering on how to calculate a rehearsal or performance worth 25 pts, divide your score by 25 and you will get a percentage that correlates with the grading scale below.

GRADING BREAKDOWN FOR UNIVERISTY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA:

94-100	A	4.0	74-76	C	2.0
90-93	A-	3.7	70-73	C-	1.7
87-89	B+	3.3	67-69	D+	1.3
84-86	B	3.0	64-66	D	1.0
80-83	B-	2.7	60-63	D-	0.7
77-79	C+	2.3	0-59	F	0

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Reading Schedule: The Use and Training of The Human Voice 3rd Edition-Arthur Lessac

Week 1	Chapters 1 to 4
Week 2 to 5	Chapter 5 Consonant Energy
Week 6 to 9	Chapter 7 to 8 Music of the Vowels
Week 10	Chapter 6 Dynamics of Tonal Energy
Week 11 to 15	Chapters 9 to 11 Reaping What We Sow

Tentative Schedule:

Each Week, you will have approximately two hours consisting of practice drills from the workbooks as well as writing journal entries on vocal discoveries in your daily life. So, allow for practice and writing about your voice in your life's schedule. Practice and Drill Work will be posted each week on Blackboard.

August 24th	Body Concepts for the Voice
August 31st	Breath Awareness into Body into Consonant Energy Assign: Choose a piece of text you wish to work with for this semester Please Double Space the Text and make two copies
September 7th	Consonants in Communication Assignment: Sight Read your text for Consonants
September 14th	Consonant Sight Reads and How to Mark for Consonants Assign: Marking your text for Consonant Energy & Memorize
September 21st	Consonant Explorations and Rehearsals of your Text Due: Consonant Markings Assignment: Journals due next Class-Ten Entries
September 28th	Consonant Performances and Journals Due Spontaneous Speaking: Teaching Talks Begin
October 5th	Spontaneous Speaking: Finish Teaching Talks Introducing the Vowels Practice the Vowel Word Lists and Apply to your text
October 12th	The Vowel Universe Games and Exercises

Assignment: Practice the Vowel Universe
Sight read your text for the Music of the Vowels

- October 19th** **More practice with the Vowel Universe**
Sight-reading of your text exploring the musicality of the vowels
Assign: Vowel Markings in your Text
- October 26th** **Rehearsals of Vowels in your Text**
Due: Vowel Markings in your Text
Assign: Spontaneous Speaking: Poetry or Personal Stories
- November 2nd** **Performance of your Text Exploring the Vowels**
Assign: Spontaneous Speaking: Poetry or Personal Stories
Introduction to the Call Voice and Resonance
Assign Character Calls (Part of participation points)
Assign Final Project Ideas
- November 9th** **Share Character Calls**
Share Spontaneous Speaking: Poetry and Personal Stories
Final Project Preparation Begins
Assign Journal Entries (10 entries)
- November 16th** **Final Project Work and Preparation**
Finish Spontaneous Speaking: Poetry and Personal Stories
Journal Entries Due
Assign Markings on Final Projects
- November 30th** **Rehearsal of Final Projects**
Markings on Final Projects
- December 7th** **Final Project Presentations**
Time: 7 to 9 p.m.

Final Examination Date: December 7th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

There are no written exams. However, the journals represent your knowledge usage of the vocal and body energies in daily life tasks.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu/> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.