

THTR 397— Basic Voice

Spring 2025 — M/W/F— 2-4:50pm

2 units

Location: MCC107

63104

Instructor: Laura Flanagan

Office: JEF 200a

Office Hours: By appointment

Contact Info: lgoldsch@usc.edu

Will return emails within 48 hours

Course Description

Substantive participation in a production sponsored by the school and supervised by the faculty.

Learning Objectives

- Hone professional acting skills: being one time, attentive, proactive, prepared, flexible and collaborative.
- Apply personal technique to a production situation.
- Creating a role: from impulse through analysis to physical realization and collaboration.
- Embracing an audience: culminating in an audience performance.

Course Notes

This course will take place in person.

An absence is excused for only these reasons: 1. a positive Covid 2. A documented fever. Anything else is NOT excused. In order to receive an excuse you must have documentation of either Covid or a fever. Doctor's notes or evidence to support your claims is imperative. Tardiness is unacceptable and will be treated as one absence. .

Early is on-time. On time is late. Come early.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

Participation: Includes your presence in class - on time and with your proper materials- your willingness to take risks and respect for others. See “Additional Policies” and “Required Materials” below)

Script Book : You will create a space for you to chart your Active Analysis for yourself. One page of the book will contain the script, the page facing will be blank for the written portion of your analysis. Your analysis will break down into three columns: ACTION/OBJECTIVE/OBSTACLE. You will find simple actionable language for these three columns that will help you chart your way through your role.

Performance: You will be graded on your performance for your professional and collaborative skills.

Grading Breakdown

Scriptbook: 25%
Participation: 50%
Performance: 25%

Grading Scale

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Assignment Submission Policy

All written assignments will be handed in before class on the date specified via Blackboard. No late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercises shall be accepted unless advance extensions have been arranged between the student and the teacher or unless exceptional circumstances occur.

Grading Timeline

Written assignments to be graded within one week.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in

class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Course evaluation

Course evaluation occurs at the end of the semester university-wide. It is an important review of students' experience in the class. You should expect to receive an email update once the system has launched to provide your feedback on this course. In addition, you are always welcome to connect with me as the instructor to offer any feedback on the course.

Additional Policies

Proper Attire: By week three you will come on time in proper and appropriate clothing for your role in the play. If you are unsure what that still might be, you will come in neutral clothes that you can move in easily without adjusting. No midi blouses that need to be pulled down or loose or tight pants that need constant adjusting. Limit your jewelry/ heavy belts etc.. Wear easy flat shoes you can do anything in. Sneakers are great.

Absences: We can't do this play without you. Any unexcused absence may result in your grade being lowered half a grade. Unless you have a D clearance with another course - of course.

Lateness: You are not allowed to be late. You will be marked absent. (See above)

Required Materials

- Script book - with room for notes (see above)
- Pencil - don't make notes in pen..
- Appropriate attire (see above)

Process and Progression

Process and Progression will change according to the needs and progress of the group; therefore, the syllabus (other than the weekly journal) is subject to change. Assignments and deadlines will be clearly articulated in class. Please reach out with any questions regarding assignments or deadlines.

	Day	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	M	1/13	Active Analysis and A Midsummer Nights Dream	

	W	1/15	Auditions	
	F		Auditions	
2	M	1/20	No Class - MLK day.	
	W	1/22		
	F	1/24	Act 1 - Active Analysis	
3	M	1/27	Act 2 - Active Analysis	
	W	1/29	Act 3 - Active Analysis	
	F	1/31	Act IV - Active Analysis	
4	M	2/3	Act V - Active Analysis	

	W	2/5	Act 1 - with Text	Scene Book DUE
5	M	2/10	Act II with Text	
	W	2/12	Act III with Text	
	F	2/14	Act IV with Text	
6	M	2/17	Presidents Day!!	
	W	2/19	Act V with Text.	
	F	2/21	Stumble through ENTIRE PLAY with Text!	
7	M	2/24	Blocking/ Environment Work with Text ACT I	

	W	2/26	Blocking/ Environment Work ACT II	
	F	2/28	Blocking/ Environment Work Act IV	
8	M	3/3	Blocking Environment work Act V	
	W	3/5	Dancing Day with Sydnie and Elijah	
	F	3/7	Work Through of scenes... and run/through Dance!	
9	M	3/10	Scene work with environment/ text/ Singing!!	
	W	3/12	Scene work with environment/Text/singing and dancing...	
	F	3/14	Run through whole play with singing/dancing/ environment and text.	Scene Book Due Part II
	M	3/17	SPRING BREAK!!!	
	W	3/19	SPRING BREAK!!!	
10	M	3/24	Run/Through Scene work with Steph and Dress	
	W	3/26	Run/through scene work with Steph and Dress	Journal week 10

11	F	3/31	Run/through scene work with Steph and Dress	
	W	4/2	Run/through Scene Work with Notes/	
	F	4/4	Run/through Scene work With Notes!	
12	M	4/7	TECH/. In the Space - from 6-10pm	
	T	4/8	TECH: In the space from 6-10pm	
	W	4/9	OFFICIAL DRESS: in the space from 6-10pm	
	Th	4/10	OPENING NIGHT 7:30pm	
14	F	4/11	Performance 2 7:30pm	
	Sat	4/12	Performance 3/ 4 2;30pm and 8pm	
15	Su n	4/13	Performance 5 2:30pm	Final Scene Book Due!!!
	M	4/28	Debrief	
FI N AL	M	Mon day May 12th		

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. 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>.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 814-4618 (Video Phone), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776

<https://osas.usc.edu>

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/ notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

