VOICE AND DICTION
THEA 1342.001
Summer Session II, 2012
CA 103

“How wonderful is the human voice! It is indeed the organ of the human soul.”
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Instructor: Kelly Russell
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00-10:45, 12:30-1:30
Office Location: Bay Hall 3.22
Phone: 825-5992
Instructors’ E-mail: Kelly.Russell@tamucc.edu
Textbook: The Use and Training of the Human Voice by Arthur Lessac

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course focuses on vocal production, with emphasis on freeing the natural voice and developing awareness of the voice and body as creative, expressive instruments. This course supports the work done in acting and communication core courses.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: This course is designed to introduce students to the natural functioning of the voice through the application of Arthur Lessac’s biodynamic approach to vocal life. We will explore the expressive and creative possibilities of breath support, placement, resonance, and range; and develop awareness of and muscularity for clear, flexible, articulate speech by cultivating the body’s vocal energy states, consonant NRG, tonal NRG, and structural NRG. Through this course, students will be able to:

1. identify the basic process for developing an effective voice.
2. demonstrate improved vocal quality
3. improve articulation and pronunciation of speech sounds
4. practice vocal expressiveness in classical and contemporary speeches
5. strengthen volume and projection
6. demonstrate mastery of the theories of vocal production by developing a 20 minute vocal relaxation and warm-up routine.
7. demonstrate mastery of the International Phoenetic Alphabet by scoring a minimum of a 70 percent on the transcription of a British monologue into IPA.
8. demonstrate understanding of the function of the vocal apparatus by scoring a minimum of a 70 percent on the quiz on the parts of the human vocal apparatus.

COURSE GUIDELINES:
1. Wear clothing suitable for movement and floor work.
2. Your participation in all discussion and exercises is necessary to the success of the class and to your personal growth.
3. There will be no make-up work unless you have a verified medical emergency.
4. I will schedule individual conferences from time to time throughout the semester; however, if you would like to talk to me, feel free to make an appointment by e-mailing me.

GRADED EXCERCISES:
A. Reading assignments and discussions (20 %) Throughout the class you will be required to read specific handouts. In addition to participation in class discussions, you will also take periodic quizzes to determine your comprehension of the material.
B. Participation in vocal exercises (20 %) Active participation in class exercises and activities will lead to improved vocal production.
C. Classical monologue (20 %) Monologue must be marked, memorized, and rehearsed. You must perform text from each of the three body NRG states focusing on Consonant NRG. See pages 225-236 in textbook.
D. Contemporary monologue (20 %)
E. Final Examination. The final exam will be a combination of vocal performance demonstration and written examination. (20 %)

GRADING SCALE: The final course grade will be based on the student’s earned percentage of total points available.
90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
0-59% = F

ATTENDANCE
Attendance in this course is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) Your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You must consult with me immediately to make such an exception viable.

Lateness: Three late arrivals constitute one absence. If you arrive more than ten minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

Missed Assignments: No make-up work for quizzes or missed in-class activities. Reviews are due on the assigned deadlines and will not be accepted late. An unexcused absence on the date of an assigned performance will result in a failing
grade for that activity. (Exceptions to deadlines will only be made in extreme circumstances at the discretion of the instructor.)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating will receive an “F” for the assignment, and, if the situation warrants it, for the entire course.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

GRADE APPEAL PROCESS
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Vocal Production Warm-up exercises</td>
<td>Lessac, Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Exploring Consonant Energy—Gettysburg Address</td>
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