VOICE AND DICTION
THEA 1342.001
MTWR 2-3:55pm, BH 202
Summer Session II 2015

“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, 12:00-1:30
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 bio-dynamic 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 a working knowledge of the vocal anatomy and physiology
3. Demonstrate improved vocal quality
4. Improve articulation and pronunciation of speech sounds
5. Practice vocal expressiveness in classical and contemporary speeches
6. Strengthen volume and projection
7. Recognize the qualities of the learner’s voice by identifying and analyzing negative and positive aspects
8. Establish a plan for vocal improvement
9. Demonstrate mastery of the theories of vocal production by developing a 10-20 minute vocal relaxation and warm-up routine.

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/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a grade of “0” for that assignment.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, July 25 is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Classroom/professional behavior
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA
Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Disability Services**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Grade Appeals Process**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
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<th>DAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Syllabus and Expectations</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>July 7</td>
<td>Vocal Production</td>
<td>Lessac, Chapters 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Wendesday</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>Breathing &amp; Posture</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Relaxation</td>
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<td>July 13</td>
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<td>Lessac, Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Consonants—N, M, V, F</td>
<td>Choose Classical Monologue</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Y-Buzz Calls</td>
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<td>Choose Contemporary monologue</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Structural NRG—Vowels</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<td>General Vocal Exploration</td>
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