

TPP4287: Voice, Speech, and Body Training for the Actor 1

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MWF: 8:30-10:25 Location: G13

Spring 20225

“To Free the Voice is to free the person, and each person is indivisibly mind and body”

--Kristin Linklater

**“No, no, I will not, having breath to cry.
O that my tongue were in the thunder's mouth,
Then with a passion would I shake the world.”
-King John**

**“Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say”
-King Lear**

Course Description & Objectives

Voice I bases the actor's work in a fully embodied experience of voice and language. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to unlock the voice from the body, and to learn how to express every subtlety and nuance of thought and feeling with clarity, ease, and truth. The course guides students through an awareness of and release from habitual tensions into a more effective and economical use of the body as the primary instrument for human communication. Additional focus is on self-awareness, emotional awareness, breathing, resonance, sound and movement, ensemble-building skills, and the actor-audience relationship. Students will use both scripted and improvised materials as they learn to release and strengthen the two to four octaves of their speaking range and its connection to thoughts, words, and feelings.

This course utilizes The Linklater Voice technique, Knight Thompson Speechwork, Alexander Technique, and others.

INSTRUCTOR PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am still learning (hopefully always will be). I renew my commitment each day to hearing the voices of those around me, and working to create an equitable, kind, affirming place for all students and colleagues. I commit to being responsive to conversations, and accountable for my actions and the spaces that I hold for students in the SOTD.

ON CONTENT:

Being an actor is rigorous. It requires us to be a master of our own bodies, voices, truths, and language. But perhaps most importantly (and most challengingly) it requires us to be vulnerable and to be SEEN. It can be (and often is) emotionally and intellectually exhausting.

Kristen Linklater said “To Free the voice is to free the person. And each person is indivisibly mind and body”. We cannot separate ourselves from our own experiences. And as such, we must BRING them to the work we do and the truth we tell. Together with the given circumstances of a

script, they create the bridge of truth.

There is no right or wrong in Voice work. Everyone's mechanism is different. As more truthful work is exposed, this can lead to discomfort. Please embrace the discomfort. Push against it. Roll around in it. Live in it.

However, there is a difference between experiencing discomfort and being unsafe. **Please be judicious in learning the difference for yourself.** You are the owner of your educational experience, your own emotional experience, and your own physical safety. If at any point you are *unsafe*, please notify the instructor and take care of yourself.

As actors, our job is to "hold the mirror up to nature" (Hamlet), and to be students and communicators of the human experience in all of its complexities. This often means confronting topics that are controversial, challenging, ugly, and frightening. Let us all approach those conversations with equal parts tenacity and grace!

Required Text

Freeing the Natural Voice by Kristin Linklater (2006 expanded and revised version, yellow cover), other readings provided on Canvas as needed.

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GRADING

Participation (attendance, preparedness, and discussion): 30%

Macbeth OR Earnest Voice Analysis Essay: 10%

Anatomy Quizzes: 20%

Journals: 20%

Shakespeare Monologue Final: 20%

ASSIGNMENTS

Voice Analysis Essay: Students are required to attend either Macbeth OR the Importance of Being Earnest at SOTD, and choose one or two actors about whom you will write a voice analysis essay. What was your overall feeling and (both emotionally and physically) when listening to their voice? Where there any distinctive patterns you noticed? Any areas of freedom and ease? Any areas of tension? Be curious, as it relates to the work we are doing in our class to free the body, breath, and voice.

Journals: Students will be required to keep a journal in the class. You will sometimes be given time at the end of class to jot down thoughts, though not always. An entry should be made for every class. These are handwritten journals. What was covered? What made sense to you? What was a road block? How did the work make you feel physically? Emotionally? Are there any images that came up? Students can be as literal or as creative as they want. These are for you to consolidate your thoughts, and for me to make sure you are absorbing the information we are covering in a coherent way. What is your learning style? Cater to that. **I will collect your journals 2 times through the course of the term, unannounced.**

Anatomy Quizzes: We have 2 anatomy quizzes through the course of the term. Visuals will be provided and more information will be made available.

Final/Shakespeare Monologue: We will be workshopping Shakespeare text in class toward the end of the semester. This is in service of the voice work we do through the course of the term, as well as the breath and audience relationship work we have covered. These will be in process (as everything is) with a final “showing” for just our class.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: Intro and discussion about the “Voice”. Body and Breath Awareness

Week 2: Anatomy, Intro to touch of sound

Week 3: Voice Poem creation

Week 4: Voice Poem workshop/Actor Audience relationship

Week 5: Anatomy, Vibrations, and The Channel

Week 6: Releasing sound from the body, Anatomy Quiz #1

Week 7: Freeing the Channel: Jaw, Intro to Pthongs and Obstruents, Outlandish

Week 8: Freeing the Channel: Tongue and Soft Palate

Week 8: Soft Palate, Omnish Exploration

Week 9: Anatomy, Intro to resonators

Week 10: HAPPY SPRING BREAK!!!

Week 11: Resonating Progression, Articulation

Week 12: Anatomy Quiz #2, Putting it all together (Shakespeare monologues)

Week 13: Putting it all together (Shakespeare monologues)

Week 14: Putting it all together (Shakespeare monologues)

Week 15: SOTD showings, Class TBD

Course Requirements & Policies

- Bring a journal and writing utensil to every class!
- Please come prepared to move. This means clothing that doesn't inhibit you. You will be barefoot or in socks, so plan accordingly.
- No shoes, jeans, jewelry, or clothes that you need to adjust frequently.

- Phones on silent.
- Be responsible for what time our break ends. You'll be considered tardy if you return back from break late.
- Should any issues arise in class, you must be in direct communication with me. Your physical, emotional, artistic, and vocal well-being are my first priority.

Attendance:

Students are expected to be in attendance daily and to be on time. Students are allowed 2 “unexcused” absences that do not require documentation and do not conform to the UF “acceptable reasons for absence.”.

Any other “unexcused” absence will result in a penalty of a full letter grade (10%) from the final grade per “unexcused” absence. To be considered “excused” an absence must be accompanied by appropriate official documentation. Religious observances do not require documentation.

Any absence from class for the following reasons must be supported by official acceptable documentation to avoid a grade penalty:

- Illness—doctors note must be on official letterhead with address and phone number, noting the date and time of visit and diagnosis verifying that an absence from class is warranted, doctor name and signature
- Serious family emergencies
- Special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
- Military obligation
- Severe weather conditions
- Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate
- Court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena)

*To help organize accommodations, students should inform the instructor by the end of the second week of classes of religious observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance this semester.

Any student that acquires 3 absences (either excused or unexcused) will be required to meet with this course's instructor and/or area faculty to discuss the student's continued participation in the course.

For Majors: Failure to attend this meeting will result in Artistic Probation.

Tardiness:

Tardiness is disruptive to a class of this nature and will not be tolerated. **It is also my personal pet peeve.** Any tardiness will be recorded along with attendance. Attendance will be taken promptly at the start of class. If you enter the room 5 mins after the we have started, you will be considered tardy.

That being said, I am a reasonable human being who has my own set of access needs. As such, please communicate with me if something comes up.

2 tardies = 1 absence

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor

*Plagiarism is an act of Academic Misconduct. Any act of plagiarism may result in failing the course.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with the instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website (nsceling.ufl.edu) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website (<https://gatorwell.ufsa.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- Writing Studio: <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> --2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. For help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is

available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

FINAL NOTES FROM INSTRUCTOR:

I am a very nice instructor. I'm understanding and generous, because I know that life is a challenge. Do not be a person who takes advantage of my kindness. Please. This kind of specialized education (really any education) is a serious privilege. Please honor that. Honor those people who don't have this opportunity. Honor those who are not allowed any education. Honor the people who have supported and cared for you to make this possible, by always bringing your best, your most curious, your most eager, your most dedicated selves to our work.

You are the owners of your experience.