Theatre 6821: Foundations in Voice

SYLLABUS

TERM: Autumn 2018   INSTRUCTOR: Mandy Fox
CREDITS: 3   OFFICE: 1105
LEVEL: G   OFFICE EMAIL: fox393@osu.edu
CLASS TIME: T & R, 2:20-3:40   OFFICE HOURS: TBA & by appt
LOCATION: 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
An introduction to foundational voice skills for graduate-level actors, centering on the
techniques of Kristin Linklater.

COURSE GOALS:
• To master the purpose, construction, and execution of a vocal warmup.
• To introduce the concepts of “public relaxation”, alignment, breathing, energy,
focused-thought, and imagination as useful tools for voice.
• To become aware of individual habits and tendencies and incorporate practices to
achieve greater vocal range and freedom.
• To identify potential influences on voice development for the purposes of personal
growth and character-specific vocal design.
• To become aware of and able to provide informed responses to the voices around
you.
• To experience and understand the relationship of thought/impulse/idea to breath and
sound.
• To identify and strengthen the sensation and sound of each vocal resonator.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
https://tinyurl.com/THEATRE-6821-34405
• Freeing the Natural Voice, Imagery and art in the practice of voice and language, by
Kristin Linklater (revised and expanded version), Drama Publishers, 2006.
• Stanislavsky and Yoga, by Sergei Tcherkasski, Routledge, 2016.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES/POLICIES:
• Comfortable clothing. No jeans or belts. Bare or stocking feet (dance shoes ok).
• Bound notebook for journal entries.
• Secondary place for writing notes – in the unlikely event that I am in possession of
your journal and you would like to take notes.
• Yoga mat for floor work.
• Optional, but recommended: hand sanitizer, tissues, and water. No food once class
begins.
• Please bathe the night before or day of class. We will be working in close proximity and excessive body odor can be distracting.
• Please remove all tongue and face jewelry before class.
• Please see me if you have any concerns regarding these supplies/policies.

SCHEDULE:
Assignments listed below are due the following class. Notice that you are assigned the reading for each section after we experience it in class. The schedule is subject to change.

**Week 1**
8/21/18 Intro to the course and preparing for the work ahead
Assignment: Read p. 1-25. Journal about questions that come up for you in the reading. Bring one of those questions to the next class. Frame your question to spur group discussion.

8/23/18 Discussion; Anatomy, Physical Awareness: Workday 1
Assignment: Read p. 343-355, p. 375-380, and review p. 31-41. Write questions/comments in your journal. Also, complete the Voice Inventory and bring to the next class.

**Week 2**
8/28/18 Breathing Awareness: Workday 2; **VOICE INVENTORY DUE**

8/30/18 The Touch of Sound: Workday 3; Freeing Vibrations: Workday 4

**Week 3**
9/4/18 Intermission Warmup (p. 117)

9/6/18 Freeing the Channel (jaw): Workday 5; Freeing the Channel (tongue): Workday 6

**Week 4**
9/11/18 Freeing the Channel (soft palate): Workday 7; Spine and Channel: Workday 8

9/13/18 Throat Awareness: Workday 9; **JOURNALS DUE.**

**Week 5**
9/18/18 Chest, Mouth, Teeth Resonators: Workday 10; Releasing the Voice: Workday 11

9/20/18 Intermission Workout (p. 206)
Assignment: Review p. 206-212 and read Stanislavsky and Yoga p.82-89 (Communication and Prana). Journal if you have questions.

**Week 6**
9/25/18 Breathing Power: Workday 12 & 13
Assignment: Review 213-244. Journal observations from class and reading.

9/27/18 Sinus Resonator (middle sinus): Workday 14

**Week 7**
10/2/18 Nasal Resonator: Workday 15

10/4/18 Range: Workday 16; Skull Resonator Workday 17

**Week 8**
10/9/18 Exercising Range: Workday 18

10/11/18 Fall Break

**Week 9**
10/16/18 Workout (p. 321)

10/18/18 Articulating the Voice in Words: Workday 19/20

**Week 10**
10/23/18 Intro to Group Warmups
Assignment: Journal observations from class.

10/25/18 Warmup design and rehearsal
Assignment: Journal observations from class.

**Week 11**
10/30/18 Words...Imagery; **Group 1 lead warmup**
Assignment: Journal class observations.
11/1/18 Words...Imagery; **Group 2 lead warmup**

**Week 12**
11/6/18 Tuning Into the Text...Imagination; **Group 3 lead warmup**
Assignment: Journal observations from class.

11/8/18 Tuning Into the Text...Imagination; **Group 4 lead warmup**

**Week 13**
11/13/18 Intro to Project Work; **Group 5 lead warmup; JOURNALS DUE**
11/15/18 Project Work

**Week 14**
11/20/18 Project Work
11/22/18 Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15**
11/27/18 Project Work
11/29/18 Project Work

**Week 16**
12/4/18 Project Work

**Final Exam (Time TBA):** Stanislavski Class Project

**GRADES:**
- Journals and Voice Inventory ........................................... 20%
- Studio Work (prepared, willing and dressed) ................. 35%
- Participation in Discussions/feedback ................... 15%
- 30 Minute Partnered Warm-up ................................ 15%
- Stanislavsky Project Voice Work (7.5% in class 7.5% final) 15%

*Attendance: 2 absences = no penalty. Every absence following the 2nd is a deduction of 1/3 letter grade off the final grade. 2 late arrivals equal an absence.*

**PARTICIPATION:** True participation is a fully engaged activity.

You will be expected to participate fully in both the vocal and physical activities of the class. You should work within your capacity of that day, but be willing to exert yourself within that capacity. Be safe, but be rigorous.

If you are unable to perform a particular activity, please be responsible for your own experience and let me know. I will do my best to give you modifications or ask you to
simply observe. But ultimately, we don’t want you to do anything that will hurt you. I will also do my best to be aware of any ongoing physical limitations as they come up, but, again, use this as an opportunity to take further ownership of your own body and your own experience.

You will also be expected to develop your capacity to respond to ideas I present, experiences you have, and observations you make of your classmates. You should be ready to risk and own your point of view, to listen to others, to question your peers and the instructor. True participation includes being present and prepared, asking questions, and offering thoughtful comments throughout the course.

Failing to pay attention, choosing not to participate in activities or contribute to discussions, or exhibiting distracted or distracting behavior (including, but not limited to, using electronic devices for non-course related activities, reading or engaging in discussion about non-course related material, or acting inappropriately toward students, guests, or the instructor) during class will negatively impact your grade.

Please silence electronic devices before class. But, if you forget and your cell phone rings, own up to it and turn it off ASAP. It happens, but don’t let it go on.

Finally, in this course, as in all courses at within the Theatre Department, we are committed to engaging you as citizens of the world who value social and cultural difference, free speech, collaboration, and self-reflection. As such, you are expected to demonstrate integrity, responsiveness to the welfare of others, a commitment to a vibrant classroom climate based on trust and mutual responsibility. You are also expected to exhibit sensitivity to and respect for multiple socio-cultural realities, diversity and difference including, but not limited to, ability, class, race, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, and age. Together, we will learn from each other.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/.
OTHER RESOURCES:

- OSU Counseling and Consultation Services: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life Counseling and Consultation Services (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling (614) 292-5766. CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at 614-292-5760 and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org

- OSU Student Wellness (614.292.4527/swc.osu.edu)
- University Police (Emergency 911/Non-Emergency 614.292.2121/www.ps.ohio-state.edu)
- OSU Campus Safety/Escort Service (614.292.3322)
- SARNCO/Sexual Assault Response Network (614.267.7020/ohiohealth.com/sexualassaultresponsenetwork/)