

Voice for the Actor

DRAM-1352-001

Spring 16 Week 2026 T, Th 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM 1/12/2026 - 5/7/2026



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Office Hours

- M/W 11:00am-12:30pm
- T/TR 12:15pm-1:15pm
- F 9:00am-12:00pm
- Virtual Office Hours
 - My student virtual drop-in hours are by appointment in our classroom zoom room.
 - Send me a Course Message and we will set up a time that works for us both.

Building/Room: Levelland Campus, Helen DeVitt Jones Theater (156)

Days/Time: T, Th 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM

Course Description

Principles, practices, and exercises in awareness, relaxation, freedom, flexibility, and expressiveness in the actor's vocal instrument are studied.

Instructional Materials

- Blackboard Handouts
 - On-Campus/School Computer or Personal Computer
 - Even though the Blackboard Mobile app and website work decently well:
 - Some assignments work better with a desktop or laptop computer.
- Dress Requirements:
 - Comfortable Clothing (e.g. yoga attire)
 - Preferably with an elastic waistband to facilitate flexibility with breath.
 - You will not be given time during class to change.
 - Socks
 - You will me shoeless on most Classroom Exercises
 - Grippy socks encouraged
- Small Towel
- Water Bottle
- Course Journal - Composition Notebook Recommended
- Notecards, highlighters, pen, pencils, etc.

Course Objectives

- Recognize and reduce muscular tension; including physical, vocal and articulatory tension
- Learn and incorporate elements of a vocal warm-up for the actor and organize them into an effective personal warm-up, specific to students' educational and professional interests
- Develop physical, vocal, and emotional responsiveness to text, sound and imagery
- Identify and incorporate qualities of both articulation and projection
- Introduce and distinguish anatomy & physiology of the vocal mechanism
- Demonstrate beginning elements of breath management for the actor
- Demonstrate beginning ability to incorporate differing dialects into chosen work

The extent to which we meet these goals depends on how quickly the class is able to learn and incorporate the material.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Identify the anatomy of the vocal apparatus.
- Use techniques to aid in relaxation, muscular release, body alignment, and vocal instrument awareness.
- Develop articulation and diction for clarity of sound, thought, and intention.
- Connect emotion, language, and voice as a means of expression.
- Demonstrate proficiency and safe practices in vocal production.
- Identify and apply the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Course-Level Student Learning Outcomes

- Attendance is required and will be taken.
- Absences will affect final grade substantially.
- Please be on time to class. Classes will start promptly.
- Active and curious participation in all class activities: creative studies, physical exercises, lectures, discussions, and written assignments.
- Fulfillment of all assignments.

Participation/Discussion:

- Students are expected to participate in class through activities and discussion with their classmates about the application of things gleaned from lecture, plays watched/read and assigned readings.
- The instructor will lead the discussions and ensure that they remain pertinent to the topics of this class.
- Participating includes:
 - asking questions, answering questions, and initiating class discussions.
- If your final point count is on the border of two grades, I will take participation into account in either raising or lowering the border grade.

Attendance Policy/Makeup Work

- SUCCESSFUL "ATTENDANCE"
- You are allowed 2 unexcused absences during the course of the semester. After two unexcused absences, your grade will drop a full letter grade for every additional absence.
- Work for each week is DUE by Thursday @ 11:59pm.
- The Final Week's due date may NOT fall on a Thursday.
- Pay attention to the written due date.
- EARLY is always EXCELLENT

Arriving Late

- Being late is disruptive to the class and disrespectful to your instructor.
- If you are not present at the starting time, you will be considered late. After 10 minutes of class have passed, you will be considered absent.
- If you are late, it is up to you to check with me after class to make sure I update the attendance log.
- Three tardies or early departures will constitute an absence.
- All school related absences are excused with proper documentation.

Missed / Late Work

- There is a 30% deduction from the final grade per assignment.
- LATE IS BETTER THAN A "0".
- MID-TERM & FINAL will NOT be accepted late.
- The Final Week's due date may NOT fall on a Thursday.
- Pay attention to the written due date.

Makeup Work

- It is your responsibility as a student in this class to find out what class work, assignments, or announcements you may have missed by being absent or tardy.
 - Make friends with your fellow classmates and exchange phone numbers or e-mail addresses.
Don't let yourself be caught unprepared!
- **Work will NOT be accepted 1 week past the due date.**
- The Final Project CANNOT be made up. You must Perform/Present at the scheduled time.

Extension:

- Any extension must be requested and responded to by me IN WRITING 24 hours before the due time. If not requested, a late penalty will be assessed.

Extra Credit

- Later in the semester, there will be one opportunity for extra credit.
- Any student that has cheated and/or plagiarized his/her work will be ineligible for extra credit.
- Specific details will be addressed in class and on Blackboard.

Respect in the Classroom:

- Respect in the classroom is essential.
- Abusive language, CELL PHONES, personal attacks or disturbances will not be tolerated.
- Talking about sensitive information shared by the instructor and/or peers withing discussions outside of classroom, will result in removal from class.
- If you need to leave early, please sit close to the exit and notify the instructor, before class.

Content

- In this class you may be exposed to; strong language-graphic onscreen material- controversial ideas and points of view that may be at variance with your belief set.
 - Just keep repeating-it's only a movie/play.
- I do try my best to choose content that is appropriate for all.

Course Policies:

Dismissal Policy:

- A high standard of conduct is expected of all students.
- It is assumed that obedience to the law, respect for property, integrity, and common sense will guide the actions of each member of the class.
- If in the opinion of the instructor the conduct of a student is unacceptable, the student will be asked to leave the class or lab, counted absent, and not be allowed to re-enter without written permission from both the Dean of Students and the Dean of Instruction.
- In a case of severe misconduct, the instructor may request the dismissal of the student from class permanently.

Plagiarism:

- All written material must be the student's original ideas unless specifically indicated otherwise.
- Quotation marks should be used when the exact words of a person, a textbook, an article, or a webpage are used, and proper MLA credit should be given to that source.
- Failure to do so is one form of plagiarism.
- Students should also remember that using quoted, paraphrased or summarized ideas or information from a person, written source, or online source without giving the source credit is also plagiarism.
 - Students may not turn in duplicate work or work that expresses the same ideas in the same manner, which is also plagiarism.
- Students may not submit work that has been or will be turned in for another course.
 - ALL FORMS OF PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN THE OFFENDING STUDENT RECEIVING AN AUTOMATIC F FOR THE COURSE, and the Dean of Students will be contacted.
- ***Usage of Ai to create any work that is required to be of your own creation is considered a form of plagiarism.***
- The instructor has the final say on what is and what isn't plagiarism.
- All student work will be submitted to Blackboard and checked for plagiarism.

AI Generative Tools Class Statement:

- "Within the Creative Arts, the individual artist's voice is cornerstones. Writings, opinions and all creative work must be of your own creation. All students enrolled in this course are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on any assignments unless priorly authorized by the professor. Any usage must be properly quoted and cited or it will constitute a violation of academic integrity. Substantive assistance from others, including automated tools, is prohibited."

Netiquette

- Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette).
- Diverse opinions are welcome in this course.
- The following are PROHIBITED:
 - making offensive remarks in e-mail or the discussion board or during class forums
 - spamming, hacking, phishing, trolling, gossiping over DM, discussion boards or class forums
 - Photographing, filming, screenshotting your fellow students'/Instructor's without permission
 - Photographing, filming, screenshotting your fellow students'/Instructor's work without permission
 - using SPC e-mail or discussion board for commercial purposes
 - cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type

Language/Conduct Policy Statement:

- Students are expected to use respectful and professional language at all times in this course and as representatives of South Plains College Theatre.
 - The use of lewd, sexually explicit, vulgar, or profane language—including cursing—is strictly prohibited.
 - This policy applies in all class settings, including the classroom, the shop, and rehearsals, as well as during any events or appearances in the community or across the state where students are representing South Plains College Theatre.
- Maintaining a professional and respectful environment is essential to our creative and educational work.
 - Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with college and departmental guidelines.

Academic Integrity:

- According to the [Student Guide](#), “Dishonesty of any kind on examinations or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination, obtaining information during an examination from the text- book or from the examination paper of another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry or unauthorized presence in an office are examples of cheating. Complete honesty is required of the student in the presentation of any and all phases of course work. This applies to quizzes of what- ever length, as well as to, final examinations, to daily reports and to term papers.” (pgs. 14 & 15)
- At no time may a student be in possession of text or assessment materials without the instructor’s permission.
- Disciplinary action against all forms of cheating may include, but is not limited to, receiving a zero on the assignment and/or receiving an F in the course.
 - In some cases, the Dean of Students will also be contacted.

Institutional Policies

South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

Spring 2026 Calendar

*****All work is due by class time on the assigned due date.*****

(Subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any extension must be requested and responded to in writing 24 hours before the due time. If not requested, a late penalty will be assessed.)

- **Week 1 Introduction**
 - Syllabus
 - Course Procedures
- **Unit 1: Vocal Anatomy**
 - **Week 2**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 3**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 4**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - Quarter Project/Test
- **Unit 2: Vocal Warmups**
 - **Week 5**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 6**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 7**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 8**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - Midterm Project (Thursday)

Spring Break

Unit 3: Articulation/Projection

- **Week 9**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
- **Week 10**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - Articulation/Projection Project
- **Unit 4: Dialect**
 - **Week 11**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling
 - **Week 12**
 - In-class Exercise
 - Weekly Journaling

- **Final Project**
 - **Week 13**
 - **Final Project Work**
 - **Progress JournalingJournaling**
 - **Week 14**
 - **Final Project Work**
 - **Progress JournalingJournaling**
 - **Week 15**
 - **Final Project Presentations (T/TR)**
 - **Reflection Journaling**
- **Final Exam Date/Time ~TBA**
 - **Final Project Presentations**
 - **Reflection Journaling**

Class Assessments/Grading

Further details and due dates can be found on BlackBoard.

<u>Assignment Category</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Attendance/Participation	20%
Journal Assignments	15%
In-Class Exercise	25%
Term Projects/Performance	15%
Final Presentations	25%

<u>90-100%</u>	A
<u>80-89%</u>	B
<u>70-79%</u>	C
<u>60-69%</u>	D
<u>59% and Below</u>	F
<u>Failure to Complete / Attend</u>	FX