Meeting Times

Tuesday/ Thursday 9:35AM-10:55AM

Contact Information

Professor Joel Grothe
Office: TAR Room 216
Office Phone: 409-880-7244
Text: 434-284-3667
E-Mail: jfgrothe@lamar.edu
Office Hours: Tue/Thu, 1:30-2:30PM
Or by Appointment

Catalog Description

Voice work is for everyone. This course is designed to help the actor expand their resonance, breathing, and vocal range. It is also focused on helping the actor find a clear, neutral sound as a point of departure. The focus of our course content is Shakespeare; this is the main Shakespearean acting course offered in the department.

Requisites
THEA 1351

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will

1. Have developed a vocal routine of exercises, and a healthy voice.
2. Have developed their focus, etiquette, attitude and work ethic.
3. Have enhanced their abilities for close, thorough readings of a text, and understanding of Shakespearean language.
4. Have expanded their abilities in vocal expression.
5. Have enhanced their abilities in performance.

Course Materials

REQUIRED READING:
One Shakespeare play (to be chosen by the class)

RECOMMENDED READING:
The Use and Training of the Human Voice, Arthur Lessac

Playing Shakespeare, John Barton

The Right to Speak, Patsy Rodenburg

***I may post some additional readings/ readings from these books on blackboard***

Course Policies

COURSE POLICIES

All assigned readings must be read by the day they are assigned. Failure to do so will result in the lowering of the students' participation grade.

ATTENDANCE in class is mandatory. You may be granted an excused absence, but you should NEVER miss class unless it is an emergency. Do not assume your absence will be excused. Always contact the professor as soon as possible regarding an absence. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in an automatic lowering of the students' letter grade by one grade level. More than 4 unexcused absences will result in removal from the course or failing of the course, depending on the time in the semester. Numerous excused absences may result in removal from the course or failure of the course. This is a studio class, so work cannot be made up at other times. To be on time is to be late. Students should arrive AT LEAST five minutes before the starting class time and be prepared to start their work immediately at the start of class. Seeing 'cold' work is never interesting. Come to class prepared to warmup, be engaging, and a good listener. I highly discourage you from planning to take an extra day off around Spring Break/ Department Shows. I take no exception on these days and often have work due on them. Your attitude is everything. If you come to class not willing to work, not focused, trying to 'hide' amongst your classmates, or being unprepared/ not dressed properly, you may be asked to leave class, and this will count as an unexcused absence.

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Because I value your feedback and want to be sure the class best meets your needs, I encourage you to take advantage of online end-of-semester course evaluations. I also encourage you to meet with me outside of class (office hours or by appointment) to discuss your progress on a regular basis.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR POLICY:***All cell phones, ipods, and other electronic devices must be turned OFF at the beginning of class. If you use any electronic devices for purposes not pertaining to class (e.g. text messaging, Facebook, etc), you will be given a warning. Repeated instances will result in dismissal from the class.

There is no food or drink allowed in the classroom, except for water in a capped bottle. Different students are likely to have different issues that interest them, different understandings of class materials, and different opinions on a wide range of topics. It is important to the environment of this class that we are able to speak honestly and to disagree openly. It is essential, however, that we do so from a position of respect for each other. Any student who is disrespectful to the
instructor, fellow students, or guests will be given a warning. Repeated instances will result in dismissal from the class.

“Disruptive Behavior” generally means conduct that materially and substantially interferes with or obstructs the teaching or learning process in the context of the classroom. Besides the above, disruptive behavior also includes conduct that distracts others in a manner that interferes with instructional activities or fails to adhere to an instructor’s classroom rules, such as: excessive tardies, cell phones ringing in class, talking during lectures, sleeping, and reading materials other than those covered in class that day.

Evaluation

SONNET:
You are expected to choose one Shakespearean sonnet, which you will memorize and perform at the beginning and end of the semester.

SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE:
You are expected to choose one Shakespearean monologue, approved by the professor. You are expected to memorize and stage it appropriately. There will be two showings. THE MONOLOGUE NEEDS TO BE IN VERSE.

SHAKESPEARE SCENE:
You are expected to perform a scene from the Shakespeare play chosen by the class with one or more partners, chosen by the professor. The scene will be approximately five minutes in length. You are expected to memorize and stage the scene appropriately, and there will be at least two showings of the scene.

DIALECT MONOLOGUE
You are expected to memorize and perform a short dialect monologue chosen by you and the professor, working primarily with the accent help materials for working with dialects.

COMMERCIAL COPY
You are expected to prepare a short piece of commercial copy, chosen by you and the professor, to be performed and recorded.

Institutional Policies

Academic Honesty Policy
Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include failure of the assignment and/or course up to suspension or expulsion from the university. The penalty may vary by instructor.

Additional information is available on the Academic Policy website (https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html).
Course Drop Policy

Students may drop a course and receive a grade of "Q" during the penalty-free period of the semester or session. For drops after this penalty-free period, grades are recorded as "Q" or "F," indicating the student was passing or failing at the time of the drop. A grade of "Q" may not be assigned unless an official drop has been processed through the Records Office. Students may drop a course online up to the census day by logging into Self-Service Banner. After the census day, courses must be dropped through the Records Office. For additional help, contact the academic advisor or the Records Office at registration@lamar.edu. Students may not drop a course during the last 20 percent of the term. Students should check the academic calendar at https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar for specific dates.

Students with Disability Policy

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communication building, room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 409-880-8347 or drcregistration@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with the DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Additional information is available at the DRC website (http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/).

Academic Support

Academic Support can be located at http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/index.html.

There are many areas (i.e. Advising, Writing Center, etc.) of academic support. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Student Services

Information on Student Services can be located at http://students.lamar.edu/index.html. There are many resources (i.e. Course schedules, important phone numbers, etc.) available. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

Academic Continuity Policy

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to check Lamar University's website and login to LU Connect for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Emergency Procedures

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at the Office of Environmental Health/Safety and Risk Management (https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html) webpage.

Severe Weather

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.

Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

If you are in a multi-story building and you cannot get to the ground floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.

Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

Violence/Active Shooter


CALL - 7777 from a campus phone (Text 409-241-8002 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 911 from either a campus or cell phone will contact the City of Beaumont dispatch rather than the LU police.

AVOID - If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY - Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.

DEFEND - Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Copyright Policy Statement

Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.

LU Connect Portal

Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the LU CONNECT website. Students may get information on how to get into the LU CONNECT website from the University’s homepage (http://www.lamar.edu) by clicking on the LU CONNECT link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your LU CONNECT username and password.

LU Learn/Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS)

Students will utilize the Lamar University’s Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses.

For Blackboard technical support go to https://blackboardsupport.lamar.edu.

Phone: 866-585-1738

Phone and chat are available 24/7/365

Network Use

ACCEPTABLE USE

Students must respect the integrity and security of Lamar University computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with Lamar University Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law licensing agreements, and campus policies, such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on Lamar University websites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit others to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else’s account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user’s files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access (“hacking”) to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by Lamar University, and criminal prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university’s Sexual Harassment Policy.

Netiquette (Online Ettiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face
communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks. More comprehensive student code of conduct can be found at https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html.

GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)

- Always sign your names to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectably.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times.

Technical Support

Technical Support can be located at http://students.lamar.edu/it-services-and-support/index.html.

Phone: 409-880-2222
Email: servicedesk@lamar.edu

Hours of Operation (CST):
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m.-12:00 a.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Course Subject Outline

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change with notice)

JANUARY

Tue 22- Syllabus/ Vocal Exercises/ Principles of voice work.

Thu 24- Warmup & Vocal Exercises/ Lessac introduction/ Sonnets. BRING HARD COPY OF ONE SONNET YOU HAVE FAMILIARIZED YOURSELF WITH TO CLASS. READING: Barton, CH 6.

Tue 29- Warmup and Vocal exercises/ Sonnets.

Thu 31- Warmup and Vocal exercises/ Neutral vowel sounds/ Sonnets
FEBRUARY

Tue 5- Warmup and Vocal Exercises/ Sonnet work throughs- SONNETS NEED TO BE PREPARED.

Thu 7-Warmup and Vocal Exercises/ Neutral vowel sounds continued/ Sonnet work throughs continued.

***After this point, you will be expected to come into the classroom each day and begin your vocal, physical warmup on your own for 5-10 minutes, getting focused and not talking to your classmates.***

Tue 12- 1st recording, sonnets.

Thu 14- Warmup & Vocal Exercises/ Neutral Vowel sounds/Sample verse monologues. READING: Barton, Ch 2.

Tue 19- Shakespearean monologues. BRING AT LEAST TWO SHAKESPEAREAN MONOLOGUES (2 HARD COPIES OF EACH) TO CLASS.

Thu 21- Vocal Exercises/ Monologue Work READING: Barton Ch. 3,5

Tue 26- Vocal Exercises/ Monologue Work

Thu 28- The Vocal Workout- DO NOT EAT BEFORE CLASS!

MARCH

Tue 5- Monologues showing 1

Thu 7- Monologues showing 1 cont.

***March 11-15, SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS***

Tue 19- Vocal Exercises/ consonants, tappables, and links. SHAKESPEARE SCENES ASSIGNED. READING: Barton CH 7

Thu 21- Vocal Exercises/ consonants, tappables, and links/ Possible beginning scene work.
Tue 26- Vocal exercises/ Shakespeare scene work/ READING, Barton CH 8

Thu 28- TBA

APRIL

Tue 2- Shakespearean scene work. READING, Barton CH 9

Thu 4- Monologue final showings

Tue 9- Shakespearean scene work.

Thu 11- Shakespeare scene showings 1 & 2

Tue 16- Shakespeare Scene Showings 3 & 4

Thu 18- Shakespeare Scene Showings 5 & 6

Tue 23- Shakespeare Scene Showings 7 etc...

Thu 25- vocal workout/ experience 14

Tue 30- Voiceover Work

MAY

Thu 2- Voiceover Work

Tue 7- Voiceover Work

The Final Showings of the Shakespeare Scenes will be during the Exam Period, Tuesday, May 14th, at 8:00AM.