

Theatre Voice

THEA 2051.001/301 Theatre Voice (MWs, 1:30pm - 3:20pm)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:20am - 11:20am (by appointment only)

Class location DATH 129

Instructor: Nathan Autrey

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******The instructor reserves the right to change any information contained in this document, when necessary, with adequate notice given to the student.******

Prerequisites: None

Students majoring or minoring in Theatre who have received a grade of “C” in this course, even if they are transferring it in, will be required to audition for consideration for enrollment in THEA 3050.

Hours: 3;1

Course Description: Freeing the voice is the primary focus of this class, which includes developing breathing techniques for the actor, cultivating relaxation, exploring all aspects of tone and sound production and building flexibility and dexterity in both voice and speech.

Course Objectives: STUDENTS WILL:

- Apply the fundamentals of relaxation/breathing to the natural voice.
- Apply the beginning processes of resonance, pitch and projection.
- Enhance their observation and self-reflection/analysis of their vocal instrument.

Attendance/Participation: There are 450 attendance points possible for this course. 15 points per class attended. Each unexcused absence will result in 15 being removed from the attendance points allotted.

Disability Accommodations: The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Attendance Policy - Theatre is a collaborative art. Since so much of the process of learning about acting involves interacting with your peers, attendance is MANDATORY. As such, absences will greatly affect your ability to pass this course. Per the UNT Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy, an absence may be excused for the following reasons:

- a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose;
- active military service, including travel for that purpose;
- participation in an official university function;
- illness or other extenuating circumstances;
- pregnancy and parenting under Title IX; and
- when the University is officially closed by the President.

Please let me know as quickly as possible if you would like to request one of the exceptions above. Exercises, discussions and performances cannot be made up, as most of them are nearly impossible to recreate for a single student. However, I can keep it from counting against your completion percentage. Please know that any absence, whether excused or not, will mean missing important information and having to catch up. It is your responsibility to communicate with your classmates about assignments or instructions you may have missed. **WRITTEN PROOF IS REQUIRED FOR ALL EXCUSED ABSENCES/TARDIES.**

You will be allowed 2 Unexcused Absences. You will be dropped from the course after 3 Unexcused Absences. **IF THE DROP PERIOD HAS PASSED, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN “F” GRADE FOR THE COURSE.** Inability to participate due to not following clothing guidelines will also be counted as an Unexcused Absence. Arriving Late and Leaving Early are unacceptable interruptions. 2 Tardies (defined as arriving after the scheduled class time) or Leaving Early (before dismissed by the instructor) will equal 1 Unexcused Absence. Any work missed during such Tardies or Unexcused Absences cannot be made up.

Attendance Syllabus Statement: Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Office of Disability Access Accommodations: UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

UNT Course Safety Procedures: Students enrolled in Acting Fundamentals are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy [06.038](#) Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider Standard Syllabus Statements Related Policy [06.049](#) Course Syllabi Requirements obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Safety in this Course: Movement is equally physical, vocal, and mental. You will be learning to have greater control through the use of the body, voice, and mind. Therefore, you must be aware of and protect each of those things in and out of class. You will learn physical and vocal warm-ups. After learning them, you are expected to be warmed up before class begins. A little pushing will assist in growth. However, if something hurts or is uncomfortable, let me know during the exercise, so I can make an adjustment.

If you are struggling emotionally, understand that this can also be part of the acting and growth process, and please know that you can visit this website for information on services offered by the university:

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/resources-andself-help/making-an-initial-appointment>

Physical Contact: Movement will require physical contact at some point. Any physical contact that occurs must be at the consent of the acting partner(s), discussed with me, and overseen by me. This includes handshakes, pats on the back, shoving, kissing, etc. Any sort of contact not approved by me is inappropriate and should be reported. If you feel uncomfortable with anything in class, please let me know, and we can adjust accordingly. There is always a way to make things work in ways that keeps everyone comfortable. This is for everyone's safety and comfort.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648.

Sensitive Subject Matter: In this course sensitive subject matters may be discussed in this class. Everyone is expected to treat these moments with the sensitivity and respect they deserve. Racist, misogynistic, homophobic, or any other form of hateful language/action is disruptive and will not be tolerated. Anyone who finds it difficult to act respectfully toward their classmates and the subject matter will be asked to leave the class and will forfeit the participation points for the day.

Emergency Notification & Procedures: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Student Academic Integrity: The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence. Please visit https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf to view the university's full Student Integrity policy 06.003.

Grading:

Attendance/Participation - **450pts**

Voice Poem - **25pts**

Creation and Implementation of Warm-Up - **25pts**

Voice Anatomy Test - **100pts**

Midterm (Shakespearean Sonnet performed) - **100pts**

Terminology Quiz - **25pts**

Shakespearean Sonnet Work - **25pts**

Celebrity Speech - **50pts**

Monologue Activity - **50pts**

Voice Final (Contrasting Monologues) - **150pts**

TOTAL Points: (1000pts Scale)

A: 1000-901

B: 900-801

C: 800-701

D: 700-606

F: 605 or fewer points

Weekly Schedule (subject to change):

- **Aug 29 - Sept 1** (Wk1 M/W) - Syllabus & Warm-up Sign-up/The Actors Vow and Voice Poem Presentation Assignment.
- **Sept 7** (Wk2 W) - Voice Poem Presentations & Warm-up exercises
- **Sept 12 - 14** (Wk3 M/W) - Breath work/Terminology Overview & “Moments of Nothing” Article
- **Sept 19 - 21** (Wk4 M/W) - Anatomy of Voice Reading & Discussion/Resonance Work
- **Sept 26 - 28** (Wk5 M/W) - Pitch & Projection Work/Terminology Quiz
- **Oct 3 - 5** (Wk6 M/W) - Shakespearean Sonnet Week
- **Oct 10 - 12** (Wk7 M/W) - Celebrity Speeches/Tongue Twisters (Monologue Selection Due)
- **Oct 17 - 19** (Wk8 M/W) - Vocal Exercises and Games/ Midterm (Shakespearean Sonnet performed)
- **Oct 24 - 26** (Wk9 M/W) - Celebrity Speech rehearsals/Celebrity Speeches Performance
- **Oct 31 - Nov 2** (Wk10 M/W) - Monologue Activity Discussion/Anatomy Test Study Day
- **Nov 7 - 9** (Wk11 M/W) - Chakras and Sound Quality/Vocal Anatomy Test
- **Nov 14 - 16** (Wk12 M/W) - Monologue Environment Coaching/Monologue Environment Presentations
- **Nov 21 - 23** - Thanksgiving Break!
- **Nov 28 - 30** (Wk13 M/W) - Monologue Activity Coaching/Monologue Activity Presentations

- **Dec 5 - 7** (Wk14 M/W) - Approval and rehearsal of Contrasting Monologues/Contrasting Monologues Work day

- **Dec 12** (Wk15 M) - Contrasting Monologues Performances

THE ACTOR'S VOW:

**"I will take my rightful place on stage
and I will be myself.**

**I am not a cosmic orphan. I have no reason to be timid.
I will respond as I feel; awkwardly, vulgarly, but respond.**

**I will have my throat open,
I will have my heart open,
I will be vulnerable.**

**I may have anything or everything
the world has to offer, but the thing
I need most, and want most,
is to be myself.**

**I will admit rejection, admit pain,
admit frustration, admit even pettiness,
admit shame, admit outrage,
admit anything and everything
that happens to me.**

**The best and most human parts of
me are those I have inhabited
and hidden from the world.**

**I will work on it.
I will raise my voice.
I will be heard."**