

THEA 1233-101 Voice for Theatre
SYLLABUS
Midwestern State University, Texas—Fall 2021

MWF 9:00-9:50am

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

Email: morgan.mallory@msutexas.edu

Office Hours can be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To study voice and diction is to take the principles of diction, voice development, vocal variety and expressiveness and have them reflect through various characters on stage. Through physical exercises and text work, students will develop an awareness of breath, sound placement, resonance, focus, intention, and the function of vowel and consonants in spoken English. This class will also focus on various aspects of using the voice effectively, including volume and projection, rate and phrasing, and inflection. We will extensively study the International Phonetic Alphabet to aide in future dialect work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To provide the student, through participation and experience, with an understanding of proper vocal control and IPA. Students will:

- Learn the International Phonetic Alphabet
- Develop vocal skills necessary to create a character who may speak with a different resonance, style, culture, or lifestyle than the student
- Explore techniques to release tension and free the voice while developing an understanding of the vocal instrument and how it works
- Explore exercises to enhance diction and clarity
- Understand these basic principles and how to apply them to the student's choice of career or lifestyle

REQUIRED TEXTS: *A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English.* John S. Kenyon and Thomas A. Knott

This can be found on Amazon and will be needed for transcriptions. You will also be expected to find your own performance material, as assigned by the instructor. You will receive guidance to finding material and may need to purchase/find plays if their content interests you.

Other materials:

Handouts provided by instructor

ATTENDANCE AND LATENESS: This is a performance-based class. Attendance and punctuality are mandatory. The work of this course primarily happens during class time and cannot be made up privately. Tardiness is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to the creative process in an acting class. If you are absent or late, the following penalties apply.

Attendance Penalty Scale

0 absences + 20 points
1 absence 0 points
2 absences – 10 points
3 absences – 20 points
4 absences – 40 points
5 absences – 80 points etc

Lateness

Late – 5 points
Really late (over 25 minutes) – 10 points
More than ½ of class – whole class

If students are sick/quarantining, they can still receive class credit/attendance points by attending the synchronous class via Zoom. They will be required to be present, dressed, have their camera on during the whole class period, and to do all exercises. Students MUST arrange for online classes 24 hours in advance with their instructor. Classes will NOT be recorded for students to view at any time; the student must be present for the class period as scheduled by the university. The Zoom link for class attendance will be given when requested by the student.

I DO NOT accept late work. If you have an excused absence, the homework must be turned in via email the date and time it is due, NO exceptions. If you are set to perform on a day you are missing due to an excused absence, you must exchange with a peer and it must be preapproved BEFORE the day of performance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **PARTICIPATION:** Daily participation in class activities and discussions. Have fun, be engaged and prepare fully in order to begin to develop your imagination and gain insight about yourself. Dependable out of class rehearsal as needed.

2. **READING:** Completely read any assigned bookwork or worksheets as assigned by professor. Learn the International Phonetic Alphabet and work to finesse written skills. You will have (at minimum) 12 IPA quizzes throughout the course of the semester. Only your top 10 quiz scores will count toward your final grade. If quarantining, these quizzes may be submitted in real time by the student through the use of their webcam. Students will need a scanner/scanning app in order to submit these quizzes. The instructor recommends Faster Scan by ifunplay. All scanned quizzes/tests will need to be in a pdf format.

3. **PRODUCTIONS:** View 2 Midwestern plays *Cloud 9* and *Men on Boats* and write a critique. These will be based on acting critique guidelines provided by the instructor. These must be TYPED, EDITED and 2 pages in length in Standard English with an introduction and conclusion. Failure to see a required play will result in a 100 point penalty. Your ticket is free to both of these shows with your validated Midwestern Student ID. Seating may be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early.

4. **PERFORMANCES:** Prepare and present an Introduction performance project, as assigned by the instructor.

Rehearse and perform, and then, based on critique, revise and perform again a one vocal controlled technique spoken word sonnet. Also, rehearse and perform one vocal qualities spoken word performance.

A list of suggested material will be provided by the instructor, you may choose a role and monologue or one will be assigned. The instructor will provide any script analysis questions if needed.

Prepare and present a Final production performance that showcases vocal qualities. More details will be given halfway through the semester and will give the student ample time to prepare for the performance.

5. EXAMS: There will be a midterm and a final IPA exam. There will be both written and oral components. More specific information will be distributed close to the times of exams.

GRADING: Grading will be out of a total of 1000 points, based on the course requirements outlined above. You could at any time calculate your grade if you are organized and keep all of your assignments (which is a GREAT idea!)

Breakdown is as follows:

PARTICIPATION		150 points
READING		350 points
-Weekly quizzes, 10 pts each		
-Midterm IPA exam	100 pts	
-Final IPA exam	150 pts	
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 50 pts each		100 points
PERFORMANCE		400 points
-Sonnet and Vocal Qualities performances	100 pts each	
-Introduction performance project	50 pts	
-Final performance project	150 pts	

Grading Scale

1000-934	A	833-800	B-	699-667	D+
933-900	A-	799-767	C+	666-634	D
899-867	B+	766-734	C	633-600	D-
866-834	B	733-700	C-	Below 600	F

GENERAL NOTES:

Scientific data shows that being fully vaccinated is the most effective way to prevent and slow the spread of COVID-19 and has the greatest probability of avoiding serious illness if infected in all age groups. Although MSU Texas is not mandating vaccinations in compliance with Governor Abbott’s executive orders, we highly encourage eligible members of our community to get a vaccination. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, please contact your primary care physician or health care professional. Given the recent rise in cases, individuals are also strongly encouraged to wear facial coverings when indoors among groups of people, regardless of vaccination status. Although MSU Texas is not currently requiring facial coverings, they have been an effective strategy in slowing the spread.

Some other general class rules include:

- When you enter for class you must be prepared with all materials and a smile, ready to work
- NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING. . .phones will be confiscated
- NO gum, food or drink
- NO sassy attitudes—this is a safe space
- Wear comfortable clothing and shoes suitable for movement and floor work. If you are dressed inappropriately, you will not be able to take part in class and it will affect your participation grade.
- I would LOVE to help you with any confusion regarding homework before 8am on

the day it is due. . .after that. . .

When attending theatre performances and class arrive on time, be attentive, quiet and respectful during performances.

Please note that there may be adult themes discussed, addressed, and explored through both script reading and acting scenes in this class. The instructor will be sensitive to all viewpoints, and also allow for free speech and expression. Student safety is the instructor's first priority.

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices

The use of cell phones and other recording or electronic devices is strictly prohibited during class. The instructor may record performances, from time to time, on a cell phone for legitimate class reasons. Student recording of the class is prohibited, unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under ADA, unless it is done by the professor for grading purposes, or can be done by obtaining written consent by the instructor. If you are uncomfortable having your performances recorded, please let the instructor know.

Student Handbook

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Participation in laboratory classes (acting, voice, movement) often requires students to wear yoga, movement, or period style clothes/costumes. These types of garments may be thin or form fitting which may make concealed carry of a firearm difficult if not impossible. In addition, students are often required to make physical contact with other students while learning exercises, choreography and/or physical positioning within special technique work. This required physical contact may also make concealment of a firearm difficult. While

concealed carry is not prohibited in laboratory style class, students are reminded that intentional display of a firearm may result in criminal and/or civil penalties and unintentional display of a firearm is a violation of university policies and may result in disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the program and university. Students should factor the above in their decision as to whether or not to conceal carry in any theatre laboratory class.

Safe Zone Statement

The professor considers this classroom (or whatever space this class is meeting) to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being –regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor's expectation that ALL students consider the classroom/meeting location a safe environment. Office.