

THEA 4123-201 Voice for Theatre/Dialects
SYLLABUS
Midwestern State University, Texas—Spring 2022

MWF 9:00am-9:50am

Instructor: Morgan Mallory

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Office Hours are MWF from 10-11 and TTh from 11-12:30p, office hours can also be scheduled by the student at <https://morganmsutexas.youcanbook.me>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: To study dialects is to take previous principles of diction, voice development, vocal variety and expressiveness and perform them through a filter reflecting different nationalities. This helps aid in more realistic character creation and performance. Through physical exercises and text work, students will develop an awareness of how to apply appropriate substitutions, sound placements, resonance, and intention to perform various dialects in spoken English language. 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 help aid in any 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 (or remember skills using) the International Phonetic Alphabet
- Develop vocal skills necessary to create a character who may speak with a different resonance, style, culture, or dialect than the student
- Explore five dialects in both written dialogue and through performance projects
- Explore exercises to enhance diction and clarity regardless of what dialect is being performed
- Understand these basic principles and how to apply them in future instances that may require dialect

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

Stage Dialects. Jerry Blunt (the book, NOT the CDs)

These will be needed for transcriptions. **YOU CAN NOT DO THIS CLASS WITHOUT BOTH OF THESE TEXTS.** 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) 8 IPA transcriptions throughout the course of the semester. If quarantining, these transcriptions can be turned in via email by the student, but they will need to be scanned and attached. Students will need a scanner/scanning app in order to submit all transcriptions. 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 *Art* and *Big Fish* 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 will be limited for these productions, please ensure you reserve your tickets early.

4. **PERFORMANCES:** Prepare and present five dialect performances, as assigned by the instructor. More information about these performances will be made available as they occur

throughout the course layout.

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 one of the learned dialects. 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 an initial IPA exam, and a final IPA exam with dialect substitutions. More specific information will be distributed close to the times of exams. If quarantining, quizzes may be submitted in real time by the student through the use of their webcam and scanning software.

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		125 points
READING		275 points
-Transcriptions, 25 pts each		
-Initial IPA exam	pass/fail	
-Final IPA and dialect exam	150 pts	
PRODUCTIONS –2 critiques, 50 pts each		100 points
PERFORMANCE		500 points
-Dialects performances 100 pts each		
-Final performance project		

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.

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COURSE SCHEDULE:

- Week One: IPA Review, Course overview, Final Dialect Chosen by Student
- Week Two: IPA Review and exercises, IPA TEST (**must pass to continue course**)
- Week Three: Southern Dialect Lecture, script due for student performance
- Week Four: Southern Dialect Exercises, transcription due for student performance
- Week Five: Southern Dialect performance
- Week Six: British Dialect Lecture, script due for student performance
- Week Seven: British Dialect Exercises, transcription due for student performance
- Week Eight: British Dialect performance, Final OUT
- Week Nine: Cockney Dialect Lecture, script due for student performance
- Week Ten: Cockney Dialect Exercises, transcription due for student performance
- Week Eleven: Cockney Dialect performance
- Week Twelve: Student Chosen Dialect Lecture, script due for student performance
- Week Thirteen: Student Chosen Dialect Exercises, transcription due for student performance
- Week Fourteen: Student Chosen Dialect performance
- Week Fifteen: FINAL PERFORMANCE DUE, Final IPA and Dialect Test administered