

**THR 2023: Voice and Diction**  
**Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:15 PM**  
**Location: WC Black Box**

Professor Rebecca Bailey  
Office: Walton 168  
Phone: 479-979-1336

Email: rbailey@ozarks.edu  
Office Hours: M/ W 1-3pm  
TH 10-11am

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**Theatre Mission Statement**

University Theatre is centered on the core belief that if we work as professionals during our rehearsals, labs, projects, classes, and internships, we can achieve success both here in our program and onward, through the graduates of our program. We seek to educate students in all aspects of the theatrical arts. Analytical skills, problem solving, and cooperative endeavors are promoted through the creative process of theatre productions. This collaborative process is the basis for all of the theoretical and practical work we do in creating theatre. We prepare students for graduate study and for professional employment in the theatre and related fields and we provide students with a wide range of skills and experience which can be used in a variety of careers.

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**Catalog Course Description**

This course explores the processes of vocal production and supplies ample exercises for the improvement of pronunciation and articulation.

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**Course Objectives**

- Demonstrate, through written and performed warm-ups, the ability to create and perform an effective physical and vocal warm-up for actors.
- Demonstrate, through performances, critiques, and oral analytical defense and prepared texts, a basic understanding of vocal production, voice placement and articulation.
- Demonstrate, through performance and an oral analytical defense of choices made, the ability to create a detailed final performance incorporating and integrating the concepts of voice and movement presented in this course.
- Demonstrate an increased written and tactile knowledge of the physical vocal instrument and its use.

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**Required Texts and Materials**

*Actor Training The Laban Way* by Barbara Adrian  
*Freeing the Natural Voice* by Kristin Linklater  
Handouts as given

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**Required Apps for iPad**

Insight Timer

## **Clothing**

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This class is partially movement based. You will need to make sure that you are in movement clothing and shoes that allows you to move freely. Please note that we will also be doing movements that will take place on the floor or potentially up higher than others in the room, this means that you should not wear skirts or dresses to class. If you are not properly clothed for the class, you will be asked to leave and counted absent for the day.

## **Attendance**

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This class is an experiential style class and you must be present to learn. Because this is a studio course, the classes you miss cannot be made up. The first three absences will cause your grade to drop one letter. Each absence after three will drop your grade another letter.

Tardiness is unprofessional and unacceptable in this class. Three late arrivals will be counted as an absence. Arrive early and be in your seat ready to begin before 1:00 p.m. Please come prepared to work and move. The class is conducted based on observation and analysis of the teacher and other students' work, therefore each day we may be exploring an entirely different artistic expression or theoretical concept.

I am aware that sickness and other emergencies do occur. Please email me before class to give notice of your emergency. The email prior to class and a signed, dated excuse from a doctor or clinic is necessary in order to keep the absence from penalizing your grade. You must actually visit the nurse or doctor for a valid excused absence. After 9 absences, regardless of reason, the student will fail the course.

## **Cell Phones/ Mobile Devices Electronics**

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If you bring a cellphone/ electronic device into class, make sure it is turned completely off and put away inside a backpack or purse where it cannot be seen. I strongly advise you to NOT use a cellphone/ electronic device in our rehearsal or classroom space. This includes personal iPods, electronic games, and mp3 players, etc.... They are distractions from the short amount of time we have to do our work. The exception to this are the university iPads which we will use to look at scripts and mark. However, class time should be focused on our classroom collaboration.

## **Why are policies in this class so strict?**

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The nature of theatre is highly collaborative. Whether you are in a production or class, an entire ensemble is depending on your work. There is always someone, or many, who are looking for you to be completely present and prepared for each day's work. As a part of this class, you are effectively part of a company and should behave in a respectful, professional, responsible, and committed manner. We should treat those in our class as we would a fellow colleague, remember theatre is a small world and the behavior and attitude you set now are the beginnings of how you will enter your career. Performances, and even exercises with just your classmates as audience, should be approached the way you would a professional production.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” — Aristotle

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## **Americans with Disabilities Act**

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If any member of the class has a documented disability and needs special accommodations, the instructor will work with the student and the Student Success Center or the Jones Learning Center to provide reasonable accommodation to ensure the student a fair opportunity to perform in this class. In order to plan for optimum success, please advise the instructor of the disability and the desired accommodations as soon as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to notify the instructor during the first week of classes. Without ample planning / preparation time, we cannot assure the availability of needed accommodations in a timely manner.

## **Academic Integrity**

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All student work must be done in accordance with the University's Academic Integrity policy as stated in the Student Handbook. There will be severe grade penalties for acts of plagiarism, cheating, copying of another student's work, counterfeit work, theft of tests and unauthorized reuse of work. At the very least, a first offense may entail a reprimand, report of the incident to the academic Dean, the Provost, and the University Registrar, and a failing grade for the assignment/test; a second offense will result in a failing grade for the course. However, if the incident is sufficiently serious—e.g., an entire assignment borrowed almost word-for-word from an online site and turned in as one's own work— the instructor reserves the right to issue a failing grade for the course, even if it is a first offense.

## **Grading Scale**

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Participation and Growth - 50	Scale
Personal Warm-up x 2 -10	200-180 A
Group Warm-up - 10	179-160 B
12 Reflection Papers 60	159-140 C
Theatre Response – 5	139-120 D
Viewpoints Performance - 5	119 and below F
Research Presentation -30	
Final Project – 30	

## **Schedule**

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Our progression through these exercises are on the syllabus but may be flexible as we progress through them. I reserve the right to alter these plans. Readings will be assigned as we progress through each section from both texts and various handouts.

**Week 1** 8/21- 8/23– Introduction and Personal Warm-up

**Weeks 2 -5** 8/28-9/20 – Assign Topics and research dates; Physical Awareness, Relaxation, and Breath

**Beginning Week 8** In-class presentations 1 per day

**Week 6-8** 9/25- 10/11– Articulation, Resonators, continuing Relaxation and Physical Awareness

**Week 9- 12** 10/16-11/1 Vocal Viewpoints and Performance Choices; Assign Final Project (wk 9)

**Week 12 – 15** 11/1-11/29 Group led warm-ups and work on Final Project

**Week 15** 12/4 Final Individual Actor Warm-up and reflection

**Final Tues Dec 11 1:00-3:00 pm**