

TRE 2050-1 VOICE & DICTION
Department of Communication Studies
Point Loma Nazarene University
Spring 2020

Instructor: Jamie Criss

Email: jcriss@pointloma.edu

Class meeting time: T / Th 10:00-10:50

Office location: Behind Salomon Theatre

Office hours: By appointment

PLNU MISSION
To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the healthy and effective use of voice and diction, designed for those who face increased vocal demands. We will study and employ practical exercises in order to explore and expand vocal range and control, as well as improving intelligibility to a broad audience, for the development of a professional speaking voice. This material is especially pertinent for those working towards a career in stage, film, and broadcast.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Through successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the International Phonetic Alphabet.
2. Demonstrate an increase in vocal ease, flexibility, and control (including volume, tonality, and specificity).
3. Apply the use of healthy vocal habits to a variety of acoustical demands.
4. Execute a series of vocal exercises for continued vocal development.
5. Perform a series of vocal tasks, including cold readings, scenes, and memorized passages of heightened language, whether recorded or in live presentation, with a high level of intelligibility and meaningful expression.

COURSE TEXT

Optional

Gillet, John and Gutenkunst, Christina. *Voice Into Acting: Integrating Voice and the Stanislavski Approach*. London: Bloomsbury Methuen Drama.

There is no required text for the course. You're welcome. However, I will be drawing most of my instruction and exercises from *Voice Into Acting*. If you intend to pursue a career in performance, I recommend adding it to your library of resources. For the purposes of this course, it is not necessary to spend your precious and limited student income on it. I will, on occasion, require you to read excerpts from this and other texts that I will make available on Canvas.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

1. **PUNCTUALITY:** Please arrive on time. Early is on time and on time is late. We will frequently be doing physical warm ups at the beginning of class. 10:00am on the dot is when we begin, not when you enter the classroom. Turn off your cell phones before class starts and place them where they will not be a distraction to you or others. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you are found texting or doing other homework, playing games or are on social networking sites on laptops during class time. Food must be consumed outside of the classroom, but drinks are fine.
2. **ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is required. You need to be present to learn and this is a participation course. Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. This class is small and participation is required so attendance is of the utmost importance. Excused absences (University-sponsored sports, forensics or other activities) need to be brought to my attention in email before the day(s) you will be absent. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences for the semester. Otherwise, I will need a doctor or university note. See “Academic Policies” in the undergraduate academic catalog.
3. **ATTIRE:** Please wear comfortable clothing that you can move in. Athletic wear or sweats is ideal. No jeans or button up shirts, nothing that will have you pulling and tugging. You need to be able to move and breathe freely without being self-conscious.
4. **SYLLABUS:** You are responsible for the due dates stated in the schedule. If changes are given verbally in class, any student absent on that day is responsible for getting the changes.
5. **COMMUNICATION:** Please check your Point Loma email regularly. This is the primary way that I will be contacting you. You are responsible for any changes to assignments that are sent through the pointloma.edu address. Allow up to 24 hours for a response from me. If you have not received a response within 24 hours, please follow up.
6. **FINAL EXAMINATIONS:** No accommodations for early examinations or alternative days are allowed per university policy. The final examination is posted on the “Class Schedules” site.
7. **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS:** All work is due by 11:59pm on the day indicated on the assignment requirement sheet and on the schedule. If you turn in an assignment after the due date indicated on the syllabus there will be a 5 point deduction for each day the assignment is late.
8. **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** At PLNU, we want you to exhibit integrity in your work. If you reference another person, give them credit. If credit isn’t given, it demonstrates academic irresponsibility and reflects disrespect for your community and yourself. As stated in the university catalogue: “Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a

situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course.”

9. **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:** Students requiring special accommodations on the basis of physical, learning or psychological disability for this class are required to file documentation with the Disability Resource Center (in the Bond Academic Center). The DRC will write me with recommendations as to how to meet the individual needs of the student. Please contact Pat Curley within the first two weeks of the term so as to give accommodations as early as possible.
10. **FERPA POLICY:** In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without written permission from the student. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See ‘Policy Statements’ in the undergrad student catalog.

ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION (400 points)

This is the biggest part of your grade. I need you here, everyday, on time, ready to work. Our bodies are our instruments in this class. You cannot simply get notes from a classmate if you missed something as in a lecture. I understand that absences happen, but try your hardest to be here. Many of our exercises are cumulative and will build on each other. If you are ill, but able to get here, observing is still more useful than not coming at all. Excessive absences will result in failure of the course.

TEST: IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet (100 points) March 3, 2020

You will be required to learn and memorize the International Phonetic Alphabet. This will give us a universal language with which to conduct this class and communicate effectively. We will begin working on it quickly at the start of the semester so you should have plenty of time to learn it. This will be the only traditional exam for this course.

MONOLOGUE / SPEECH (200 points) perform on March 31, 2020

Tailored to your individual needs and goals, you will be required to give a monologue performance mid-semester. We will select your individual material based on English language proficiency and career trajectory (i.e. Shakespeare or other heightened language for performance concentration, a speech for public address, accent work, etc)

PLAY CRITIQUE (100 points) due April 23, 2020

You will be required to attend one outside play. A play outside the realm of PLNU. Your requirements are to attend the play, bring me proof of attendance (ticket, program), and write a 1-2 page paper of your critique of the use of voice in the play as you gain knowledge and experience from this course. You will also be required to attend the PLNU Spring play,

Urinetown. I will need proof of your attendance, however a paper will not be required. Since tickets to an outside play will have to come out of your own pocket, I will make every effort to acquire student discounts or find free performances. I do suggest you do your own research, but I will endeavor to bring you as much of that information as I can.

FINAL PERFORMANCE (200 points) Perform April 28 and 30, 2020

Your final for this course will be a 2-3 person scene from a play. I will assign your scene partner(s) and the play. You will be required to read the whole play, do an analysis of your character and perform in two locations. We will be testing your new skills in voice to be applied to different spaces and how your voice and performance adapts.

COURSE SCHEDULE

***subject to change at the discretion of the instructor**

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| January 16 | First Day of Class Go over syllabus Discuss individual goals |
| January 21 | Record Comma Gets A Cure |
| January 23 | Presence |
| January 28 | Begin learning IPA |
| January 30 | IPA Alignment & articulation exercises |
| February 4 | IPA Alignment, Breath & articulation exercises |
| February 6 | IPA Alignment, Breath & articulation exercises |
| February 11 | Centered Onset of Sound |
| February 13 | Pitch Range |
| February 18 | Resonance |
| February 20 | Articulation |
| February 25 | Awareness, Ease, and Focus |
| February 27 | IPA Review |

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| March 3 | IPA TEST |
| March 5 | The Given Circumstances |
| March 10 | Spring Break No Class |
| March 12 | Spring Break No Class |
| March 17 | Have your monologue memorized by this date |
| March 19 | Seeing, Sensing, and Feeling |
| March 24 | The Actor and the Space |
| March 26 | Spheres |
| March 31 | MONOLOGUE or SPEECH due Assign Scenes |
| April 2 | The Actor and the Space |
| April 7 | Proof of attendance for <i>Urinetown</i> due / Extra Credit Paper Due |
| April 9 | Easter Recess - No Class |
| April 14 | Have your scene memorized by this date |
| April 16 | The Actor and the Space |
| April 21 | The Actor and the Space |
| April 23 | Outside Play Critique due (can turn in any time during the semester) |
| April 28 | FINAL PERFORMANCE GROUP 1 |
| April 30 | FINAL PERFORMANCE GROUP 2 |
| May 5 | Final Time 10:30 - 1:00. Location TBD. Re-record Comma Gets A Cure - Get feedback / Self evaluation |