

# **THR 300 Voice and Speech Fundamentals**

George Mason University      College of the Visual and Performing Arts

*Prereq: THR 210*

Fall 2009

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Class meets T/TR 3:00-4:15pm PAB A101 (Black Box Theatre)

Office Hours T 2:30-2:55pm and by appt. PAB A410 (4<sup>th</sup> floor Adjunct Room)

## **Class Description and Objective**

This course is an introduction to voice work for performance using the Linklater Voice Approach. The Linklater Approach aims to develop a voice that is resonant, clear, and responsive to impulses and emotion, connecting the actor to his/her inner self and allowing the outward expression of that self. The student will learn to create a vocal warm-up to use prior to rehearsals, performances, and presentations. This course is for speaking voice, but will also enhance the singing voice.

The Linklater voice progression of exercises is designed to help develop a voice with greater freedom, flexibility, and confidence. Text will be incorporated in order to allow students to explore their development of these vocal qualities. This class will include work on relaxation, physical awareness, alignment of the spine, breathing, resonance, articulation, vocal health, and exploring how the voice works and why it does not work.

## **Required Texts and Materials**

- *Freeing the Natural Voice* by Kristin Linklater – Revised & Expanded Edition
- *The Right to Speak - working with the voice* by Patsy Rodenberg
- Handouts regarding aspects of the body, voice, and vocal health
- Box of crayons
- Small flashlight
- Small hand held mirror
- Composition notebook for journal entries
- Spiral notebook – 100 pages

## **Clothing**

In order for you to participate fully in class, it is necessary to wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing that will allow you complete freedom of movement. Keep in mind that there will be work done on the floor. Pants should have an elastic or tie-string waist. Jeans are NOT appropriate. A shirt should move with you and keep you covered. If need be, bring appropriate clothing with you and change before class. **Classes will begin promptly at 3pm.** We will work barefoot. You may bring socks if you wish.

## Conferences

Office hours are T/TR from 2:30 – 2:45pm. Earlier appointments on T/TR are possible if discussed with the instructor. After mid-term everyone must sign up for a conference to discuss your progress in class. Sign up sheets will be available after the fourth week.

## Grading

You will be graded based on the following:

- Class Participation – participating both physically and verbally is essential for your growth and understanding as well as for the group as a whole.
- Class Attendance – Attendance is mandatory. Lateness is not allowed. Each class is worth 5 points. Participation, presence, input, and commitment will be noted (5pts.=max. involvement, 0=absence). Lateness will result in points deducted. If absent, please call/email before or shortly after class.
- Journal Assignments / Voice Assignments – Assignments are due on the date indicated. Points will be deducted for assignments handed in one class late for *any reason*. Assignments will *not* be accepted two classes past the due date.
- Progress and Improvement – In order to obtain the greatest degree of benefit from this work, participation in class and practicing exercises outside of class is essential. Students should be willing to take risks and be creative.
- Attendance of one performance during the semester (performance program and a critique required). Guidelines will be given by the instructor.
- Mid-term
- Final

### 500 point scale

Class Participation/Attendance/Growth	150
Voice Assignments	120
Performance Observation Paper & Program	30
Mid-term/Journal	80
Final/Journal	120

### Scale (%)

92 – 100	A	460pts. and above
90 – 92	A-	450 - 459pts.
87 – 89	B+	435 - 449pts.
83 – 86	B	415 - 434pts.
80 – 82	B-	400 - 414pts.
77 – 79	C+	385 - 399pts.
70 – 76	C	350 - 384pts.
67 – 69	C-	335 - 349pts.
60 – 66	D	300 - 334pts.
59 – Below	F	299 – below

Note: This is a “hands-on” class, which means that, when necessary, the teacher’s trained hands are used in specific exercises to help relax and encourage the release of physical tension, which may be blocking a student’s voice. If you have any problems with touch, please communicate this to me outside of class.

Also: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

## **Schedule of Classes**

### Week One

Tues. Sept. 1 Physical Awareness/How & Why the voice works/does not work

For next class: *Freeing the Natural Voice (FNV) pg. 1-25*

*Begin looking for a 2 minute monologue*

*Bring in your crayons*

Thurs. Sept. 3 Voice Discovery

For next class: *The Right to Speak pg. 1-109*

### Week Two

Tues. Sept. 8 Voice Discovery

*Begin voice journal*

Thurs. Sept. 10 Voice Discovery

For next class: *Bring in 2 copies of your monologue*

### Week Three

Tues. Sept. 15 The Spine, Relaxation, Alignment (Physical Awareness)

**Due:** 2 copies of monologue with author and title

For next class: *Begin assigned voice exercise – Day in the Life...*

*\*Last day to drop class with no tuition penalty*

Thurs. Sept. 17 The Spine, Relaxation, The Diaphragm

### Week Four

Tues. Sept. 22 The Spine, Relaxation, The Diaphragm

For next class: *FNV pg. 31-41 and pg. 375-380*

Thurs. Sept. 24 Breath Awareness

**Due:** voice assignment

For next class: *FNV pg. 43-86*

*The Right to Speak pg. 113-171*

*Begin to memorize monologues*

Week Five

Tues. Sept. 29 Breath Awareness  
For next class: *FNV pg. 87-126*

Thurs. Oct. 1 Gathering and Releasing Vibrations  
*\*Oct. 2 – Last day to drop class with no academic liability*

Week Six

Tues. Oct. 6 Gathering and Releasing Vibrations  
For next class: *bring in mirrors and flashlights*

Thurs. Oct. 8 Channel Resonators Continued – Jaw  
For next class: *FNV pg. 127-137*  
For next class (Oct 15) – *bring in Voice warm-up assignment*  
For next class: *bring in mirrors and flashlights*

Week Seven

Tues. Oct. 13 **NO CLASS**

Thurs. Oct. 15 Channel Resonators – Tongue (*need mirrors & flashlights*)  
**Due:** Voice warm-up assignment  
For next class: *FNV pg. 139-160*

Week Eight

Tues. Oct. 20 Channel Resonators - Soft Palate (*need mirrors & flashlights*)  
For next class: *FNV pg. 161-172*  
*Bring in journals to hand in*

Thurs. Oct. 22 **Midterm Exam**  
**Due:** Journal

Week Nine

Tues. Oct. 27 Channel Con't. – Chest/Mouth/Teeth and Voice & Text work  
For next class: *Have monologue completely memorized*

Thurs. Oct. 29 Chest/Mouth/Teeth - Text  
For next class: *FNV pg. 173-197*

### Week Ten

Tues. Nov. 3 (VOTE !!!) Voice and Text

Thurs. Nov. 5 Extra Breath

For next class: *FNV pg. 213-244*

### Week Eleven

Tues. Nov. 10 Extra Breath

Thurs. Nov. 12 Sinus Resonator

For next class: *245-261*

### Week Twelve

Tues. Nov. 17 Nasal Resonator

For next class: *FNV pg. 263-274*

Thurs. Nov. 19 Skull and Range (receive info on Voice warm-up outline)

For next class: *FNV pg. 275-293*

### Week Thirteen

Tues. Nov. 24 Articulation

For next class: *FNV pg. 295-323* **\*\*Assignments due next class**

Thurs. Nov. 26 **NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Day**

### Week Fourteen

Tues. Dec. 1 Voice / Text work

**Due:** Performance Observation Paper and show program

**Due:** Voice Warm-up outline

Thurs. Dec. 3 Voice / Text work

For next class: *FNV pg. 343-359*

### Week Fifteen

Tues. Dec. 8 Voice / Text work

For next class: *hand in voice journals*

Thurs. Dec. 10 Voice / Text work

**Due:** Voice journals

**FINAL : TUES., DEC. 15, 2008 1:30 – 4:15pm**

**Note:** If you have any **religious holidays/celebrations** that fall on the date of an **exam**, you must notify me *in writing by the second week of class* or you will be expected to attend on the assigned date. You must make arrangements with the instructor to make-up the exam within the next week outside of class. **Assignment** due dates are listed in advance on the syllabus. If you will not be in class on the due date, you must put the assignment *in my mailbox on the fourth floor either before the due date or before the next class date*. *If an assignment can be emailed, you may email it to me pasted to the body of the email (no attachments will be accepted) within 24 hours of the due date time.*

**Academic Honesty:** For complete information about the University's policies on academic honesty, please see:

[www.gmu.edu/cte/Teaching/Getting\\_Started/Designing\\_Syllabus/academic\\_honesty.html](http://www.gmu.edu/cte/Teaching/Getting_Started/Designing_Syllabus/academic_honesty.html)

**GMU Honor Code:**

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:

*Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.*

**\*\*Being open and honest with yourself, as well as with your classmates, in this class, will help you to make greater progress in a shorter amount of time.**

**Mason Alert System:**

Please sign up for the Mason alert system by visiting the website <https://alert.gmu.edu>

**An incomplete grade (IN):**

Is used only if the student requests it in writing. An IN counts as a failing grade until completed, and it automatically turns into an F if a grade is not turned in by the deadline in the Schedule of Classes.

Please direct any questions about the above information to:

- Linda Miller, Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs ([lmille6@gmu.edu](mailto:lmille6@gmu.edu))
- Victoria Salmon, Assistant Dean, Graduate Programs ([vsalmon@gmu.edu](mailto:vsalmon@gmu.edu))
- Alice Watts, Academic Coordinator ([awatts@gmu.edu](mailto:awatts@gmu.edu))