Theatre Speech II
Course Syllabus
Spring 2008

Sam Houston State University
Department of Theatre and Dance
THR 232.01
MWF 1-1:50 p.m.
UTC Mainstage

Instructor – Dr. Laura Avery
Office – Smith-Kirkley, Room G21
Office hours – by appt.
Phone – 936.294.3404
E-mail – lka005@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a continuing examination of how to improve the ability to communicate through more effective use of the voice. This will be achieved through continuing to explore the basic processes of voice, speech, movement and acting and how they can be further integrated and unified for the performer.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. To continue to open the actor’s range of speech and vocal choices beyond the habitual.
2. To further identify each individual’s specific speech patterns and begin to explore a variety of dialects beyond the habitual.
3. To prepare the actor for the speech challenges presented by heightened/classical text, specifically Shakespeare.
4. To solidify a working knowledge of IPA as it applies to dialects.
5. To continue working articulation, diction and placement for each individual student as it applies to dialects.
6. To further explore the challenges presented by stage speech.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class participation is an important part of class, so it is imperative that you attend all classes. If you are absent from more than three (3) classes, your final grade will be reduced by two (2) points for each absence. Tardiness is unacceptable. If you are tardy three (3) times, that equals one absence. Excessive tardiness will result in a reduction of your final grade.

PREPARATION

Please wear clothing that is comfortable and loose fitting. Come to class focused and ready to work. All piercings of tongue, lips and nose must be removed before class time. All students are expected to participate in all activities and exercises. That means ‘coming to the party!’ Evaluations will be made on all exercises, etc.

RULES OF CONDUCT:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class,
using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, talking among each other at inappropriate
times, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall
result, minimally, in a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for
disciplinary action in accordance with university policy. Please talk to me prior to class if you
would like to bring a visitor to class.

REQUIREMENTS:

**Evaluation Papers:** For each of the department’s productions this semester, you will write a 2-3
page typed paper summarizing the voice and speech work in the production. The paper should
focus on the vocal production of the actors and how it impacted the effectiveness of their
performance and the overall quality of the production. Papers are due at the beginning of class
the Monday following the show’s closing. Late papers will not be accepted. Your paper must be
double-spaced. Times New Roman or Arial font size 12, with one-inch margins and MLA
formatting.

**Journal:** Each student will keep a journal throughout the semester. You are to bring this journal
with you to class. Entries will be made regularly during and following class work. Journals will
be checked toward the end of the semester for content and participation.

**Monologue:** Each student will be required to choose a Shakespeare monologue, preferably one
that you can add to your audition tool bag.

**Shakespeare Scenework:** Each of you will be required to work on a two-person scene, no longer
than 5 minutes in length.

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy** University policy states that if any student
must be absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day, they must notify their
instructor by the 12th calendar day after the first day of the semester.

**Americans with Disabilities Act** SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws,
regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students
with disabilities. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I
encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk to me about how I can
best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no
accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center by calling (936) 294-
1720.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

- Shakespeare Monologue - 1.5 minutes - worth 20 pts. 20
- Journal - worth 30 30
- Shakespeare Scene - 4 minutes – worth 45 45
- Reaction Papers – worth 10/each 30
- Class Participation 15

Total 140
SPRING 2008
Course Calendar
Theatre Speech II

January
16 W. Syllabus/ Introductions
18 F. NO CLASS
21 M. Martin Luther King Day NO CLASS
23 W. History of Theatre Speech
25 F. Introduction to Fitzmaurice Voice Work
28 M. Destructuring
30 W. Destructuring
1 F. Destructuring
4 M. Destructuring
6 W. Destructuring

February
8 F. Destructuring/Restructuring
11 M. Destructuring/Restructuring
13 W. Restructuring with Movement
15 F. Restructuring with Movement
18 M. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
20 W. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
22 F. Restructuring with Shakespeare Text
25 M. Shakespeare Text
DUE: Skin of Our Teeth paper
27 W. Shakespeare Text
29 F. Shakespeare Text
3 M. Shakespeare Text
5 W. Shakespeare Text

March
7 F. NO CLASS
10 M. Spring Break
12 W. Spring Break
14 F. Spring Break
17 M. Monologues
19 W. Monologues
21 F. Good Friday NO CLASS
24 M. Character Voices
26 W. Character Voices
28 F. Laughing/Crying
31 M. Phonetic Pillows
2 W. Phonetic Pillows
4 F. Phonetic Pillows

April
7 M. Phonetic Pillows
DUE: Marisol paper
9 W. Phonetic Pillows
11 F. Dialects
14 M. Dialects
16 W. Dialects
18 F. Dialects
21 M. Dialects
23 W. Dialects
25 F. Dialects
28 M. Dialects
**DUE: Full Monty paper**

30 W. Final Scene
2 F. Final Scene
5 M. Final Scene

**May**
7 W. Final Scene

Final TBA