



**Voice for the Actor**  
**DRAM 2336**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**

REVISED: 10-11

## Voice for the Actor

### DRAM 2336

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#### **Course Description:**

Offers instruction and practice designed to aid the actor in achieving optimum vocal performance through exploration of vocal mechanics and proper breathing, projection, resonance, articulation, and characterization. Basic dialects and Shakespearean textual performance techniques are introduced. Required of theatre majors. Prerequisite: DRAM 1351 (or concurrent enrollment) or permission of the instructor.

#### **Required Text & Material:**

To access updated information on textbooks, please visit <http://www.bkstr.com>.

#### **Course Objectives:**

This is a **studio course** that includes **diagnostic work, instruction, vocal exercise and interpretive work based on the Arthur Lessac system**. Only by mastering the appropriate vocal structures and applying what you have learned on a daily basis will you improve your vocal performance. **Accent reduction is emphasized for those requiring it**. Although the general emphasis is on **freeing the body and voice from habitual tensions and patterns** for optimal vocal awareness, **standard dialects** are also introduced. With consistent attention to your personal goals as developed from your **diagnostic profile**, you should improve the **quality, flexibility, strength and interpretive range of your voice**. You must pay particular attention to your vocal health. Performance techniques are geared toward stage performance. We will utilize various performance venues around campus.

Class **calendars, assignments and announcements** will be posted frequently on **Blackboard**, which can be accessed via the campus website. Please check 1-2 days before each class and as announced in class. You will be expected to print your course support materials from this website.

During the course of this semester, you should develop an understanding of:

- 1) **the breathing mechanism as your power source and its sensitivity to both physiological and psychological stimuli**
- 2) **the phenomenon of sound production; significant environmental and performance factors that affect it; the physiology and psychology of human speech**
- 3) **the body's natural resonators and resonated sounds (vowels)**
- 4) **creation of articulation through the vocal musculature (consonants)**
- 5) **vocal placement for front, middle, and back vowels as well as diphthongs; the relation between vocal placement and dialects**
- 6) **body support and movement as they affect vocal performance**

- 7) **vocal projection and vocal confidence, complex skills for oral communication**
- 8) **mastery of the Lessac system for achieving optimal vocal performance over the course of a career; application Lessac system for dialect training**
- 9) **a basic understanding of Shakespearean (blank) verse and scansion**
- 10) **accent reduction techniques necessary to achieve standard American speech**

### **Course Outline:**

Insert course outline here

### **MCC Attendance Policy:**

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. In the case of online and hybrid courses, attendance will be determined in terms of participation, as described in the course syllabus.

Absence from 25 percent of scheduled lecture and/or laboratory meetings will be taken as evidence that a student does not intend to complete the course, and the student will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. The instructor may reinstate the student if satisfied that the student will resume regular attendance and will complete the course. If the student's 25 percent absences are reached after the official drop date, the instructor may assign a W, if the student is passing and requests to be withdrawn. However, if a student who is not passing reaches the 25 percent point after the official drop date, the student will receive an F. In extenuating circumstances, the instructor may assign a W to a student who is not passing.

Each absence will count toward attendance requirements in each course.

Students will be permitted to make up class work and assignments missed due to absences caused by (1) authorized participation in official College functions, (2) personal illness, (3) an illness or a death in the immediate family, or (4) the observance of a religious holy day. Also, the instructor has the prerogative of determining whether a student may make up work missed due to absences for other reasons. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor of the reason for an absence and to do so in a timely fashion.

### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days**

McLennan Community College shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities including examinations for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Students are required to file a written request with each instructor for an excused absence. A student whose absence is excused for this observance may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under the Texas Tax Code. McLennan Community College may not excuse absences for religious holy days which may interfere with patient care.

Note: Students interested in seeing the class attendance policy in its entirety should check the Highlander Guide or the MCC policy manual.

**ADA Statement:**

In accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the regulations published by the United States Department of Justice 28 C.F.R. 35.107(a), MCC's designated ADA co-coordinators, Mr. Gene Gooch - Vice President, Finance and Administration and Dr. Santos Martinez – Vice President, Student Services shall be responsible for coordinating the College's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under ADA. Students with disabilities requiring physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact Mr. Marcus Sweatt, Disabilities Specialist, at 299-8122 or [msweatt@mclennan.edu](mailto:msweatt@mclennan.edu).