**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

**Graduate Programs—NEW COURSE PROPOSAL**

**Department:** Theatre and Dance  
**College:** D. S. College of Arts and Letters

**Recommended Course Identification:**
Prefix **TPP**  
Course Number **6817**  
Lab Code (L or C) 
(to obtain a course number, contact mjennings@fau.edu)

**Complete Course Title:** Speech for the Graduate Actor One

**Effective Date:**  
First term course will be offered: Fall 2014

**Credits:**  
2

**Textbook Information:**

**Grading:** (Select only one grading option): Regular **X**  
Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

**Course Description:** No more than three lines—Advanced speech course for the graduate actor focusing on articulation for intelligibility, familiarity with the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application in accent work.

**Prerequisites:**

**Corequisites:**

**Registration Controls (major, college, level):**
Admission to the MFA in Theatre program

*Prerequisites, corequisites and registration controls will be enforced for all course sections.*

**Minimum qualifications needed to teach this course:** MFA degree in theatre and training in one or more recognized speech training systems (Knight-Thompson, Skinner, etc.)

**Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:**  
Kathryn L. Johnston  
Kjohns74@fau.edu  
561-297-3095

**Please consult and list departments that might be affected by the new course and attach comments:**  
None known

**Approved by:**  
Department Chair  
College Curriculum Chair  
College Dean  
UGPC Chair  
Graduate College Dean  
UFS President  
Provost  

**Date:**  
Feb 19, 2014  
3/2/14  
3/8/14

**Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu one week before** the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.

*FAUnewcoGrad—Revised September 2013*
MEMORANDUM

February 19, 2014

To Whom It May Concern

Dr. Richard Gamble, Chair
Dept. Theatre and Dance

The Department of Theatre and Dance wishes to waive the typical class/credit paradigm for TPP 6817 - Speech for the Graduate Actor 1. The required meeting hours exceed the typical class/credit paradigm due to the studio/interactive tutorial learning nature of this class.
SPEECH FOR THE GRADUATE ACTOR ONE

Instructor: Kathryn L. Johnston
Course #: TPP 6817
2 Credits
Required course for MFA Candidates
Class Times: Tue., Thur: 11-12:20
Location: AH 112 (Theatre Conference Room)
Office: AL 178
Office Hours (Subject to change due to Departmental obligations):
Tues, Wed, Fri: 2-4
Thur: 1-3
Other times by appointment. An appointment is a good idea for my regular office hours as well.
Phone: 561-297-3695
E-mail: kjohns74@fau.edu / kathryn.johnston@fau.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Advanced speech course for the graduate actor focusing on articulation for intelligibility, familiarity with the International Phonetic Alphabet and its application in accent work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, you should have attained the following:

- Knowledge of and ability to correctly articulate the American Theatre Standard accent.
- Ability to differentiate between ATS and General American speech.
- Knowledge of the different parts of the oral cavity used in articulation.
- An understanding of how different sounds are created in the oral cavity.
- Self-knowledge of poor articulation habits and the ability to correct them
- Ability to thoroughly warm up the articulators prior to performance.
- Application of the course work to written material.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Required Texts:

  ISBN# 1-55783-047-9

CLASS RULES:

1. No food is allowed in the classroom. Water is the only beverage allowed – and encouraged.

2. Cell Phones - They are to be silenced or turned off. (“Vibrate” is not acceptable.) IF YOU ARE CAUGHT “TEXTING” DURING CLASS YOU WILL BE MARKED “ABSENT” FOR THE DAY.

3. Late work / Missed exams - All assignments are due on the dates announced – if you miss class on the day a written assignment is due you may e-mail it to me by 5:00 on the due date without penalty. Late written assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each day late. You may make up a missed performance presentation, but will be penalized one letter grade.
ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS:

1. You are allowed ONE absence* before there is a penalty.
2. TWO absences* will lower your final grade by one letter.
3. THREE absences* will result in automatic failure.
4. Three tardies equals one absence.
5. If you miss a class you are responsible for checking in to see what you have missed.
6. If you arrive to class after roll is taken, it is your responsibility to check in at the end of class to make sure your attendance is recorded. See University policies in the FAU Student Handbook
http://www.fau.edu/handbook/

*except as provided for in university policy, as stated in relevant Provost’s memoranda:

GRADED WORK:

- 100 pts. Readings – You will deliver two readings of assigned material in American Theatre Standard.
- 300 pts. Final Performance – We will be integrating your monologue and scene work that you will present to the department at the end of the semester into the exercises we perform in class. Your final grade will be based on your work in class and at that final performance.
- 100 pts. Midterm Exam
- 150 pts. Final Exam
- 50 pts. Quizzes 25 pts./each.
- 100 pts. Miscellaneous Considerations - Attitude, participation, openness to the work, elements in “My Expectations of You” (see below.)

MY EXPECTATIONS OF YOU. (These items will figure into your final class grade.)

1. Respect for the process: What may not seem to be “working” for you in the moment, may well work for you at a later time. Further, what may be not be working for you may be working for your colleagues. Stick with it.

2. Ask questions: This work can be confusing. If you don’t understand something, ask questions! If you have a question chances are one or more of your colleagues have the same one. I truly believe (and so should you) that when it comes to this course THERE ARE NO STUPID QUESTIONS!!

3. You are responsible for your own safety! If something feels unsafe to you either physically or emotionally, it is up to you to stop. Be kind to yourself. Beating yourself up because you don’t seem to be progressing as quickly as some of your colleagues serves no purpose and can slow your growth. Be patient with yourself and trust that you will grow. Celebrate your successes and those of your colleagues.

4. Respect for your colleagues – Everyone experiences this work in their own way. “Breakthroughs” occur in many ways and in each performer’s time. You are free to discuss what happens to you in class, but in order to maintain a safe environment, I ask you to keep your colleagues’ experiences confidential. Further, I encourage you to support your colleagues in their work and to check your judgments at the door.
A side note about respect: One of the most uncomfortable things I encounter each year is having to address personal hygiene. Actors work closely with each other and I will definitely be working close to you. PLEASE think twice before skipping that morning shower and/or deodorant. Just because no one says anything does not mean that no one’s noticing. Believe me, they ARE and they’re discussing it with me. I HATE having that conversation. Please see to it that I don’t have to have it with you.

5. **Touch** – Some of the exercises in this class involve touch. I may touch you to assist you through an exercise (I will usually ask your permission before I touch you.) We will also be utilizing exercises that involve you touching your colleagues and their touching you. **If you are asked to touch a colleague, you are to treat that colleague with the utmost respect.** Any breach of this may result in your being dismissed from class and marked “Absent” for the day and/or permanent dismissal from the class. If at anytime you do not want to be touched, you are free to refuse it. If this is a chronic issue for you, please discuss it with me as it is the rare actor who never touches or is touched on stage.

**Students with Disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute course work must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie, MOD 1 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 117 (561-799-8585); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 128 (772-873-3305) – and follow all OSD procedures.

**“University Policy on Absences and Incompletes:** Students will not be penalized for absences due to participation in University-approved activities, but proof of involvement must be provided. Reasonable accommodation will be made for student absences due to religious observance(s). Also, note that grades of Incomplete (“I”) are reserved only for students who are passing the course but have not completed all the required work because of exceptional circumstances. Incompletes should be pre-arranged with the instructor before the end of the term.

**The FAU Code of Academic Integrity:** Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. For more information, see the Code of Academic Integrity in the University Regulations:

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>73-77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPEECH FOR THE GRADUATE ACTOR ONE
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One
Diagnostic readings
The Articulators

Week Two
Anatomy of Speech
American Theatre Standard Accent - The Front Vowels

Week Three
ATS - Mid Vowels, Back Vowels
Front Vowels Transcription Due

Week Four
ATS - Diphthongs
Pure Vowel sounds quiz

Week Five
ATS - Diphthongs (cont.)
Vowel/Diphthong transcription due

Week Six
ATS - The Consonants

Week Seven
ATS - The Consonants
ATS Performance #1
Midterm Exam

Week Eight
ATS-The Consonants

Week Nine
ATS-The Consonants
Consonants transcription due

Week 10
ATS-The Consonants, Diacritics
Consonants quiz

Week 11
ATS- Application to monologues

Week 12
ATS – Application to monologues
Week 13
ATS
Performance: Final Reading
Transcription – Full transcription due

Week 14
Rehearsal for presentations and review for written final exam.

Week 15 (Nov 27)
Final Review

FINAL
Will cover anatomy, IPA and American Theatre Standard (transcription, translation)
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Fitzmaurice, Catherine, ed. *Fitzmaurice Certification, Cert. 8, Handbook 1*, New York, 2009

Fitzmaurice, Catherine, ed. *Fitzmaurice Certification, Cert. 8, Handbook 2*, New York, 2010


Kotzubei, Saul: "To Breathe or Not to Breathe", 2006, on website www.voicecoachLA.com.


____________. "Why We Focus on Breathing", 2004, on website www.voicecoachLA.com.


