IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
THE ACTOR’S VOICE Course Syllabus – Fall 2023

Course Title: THE ACTOR’S VOICE  
Course: THEA 151  
Credits: 3  
Meeting Times: T/TH: 11AM-12:15PM  
Classroom: CARVER 0308  
Instructor: Tiffany Antone (She/Her/Hers)  
Email: TLAntone@iastate.edu  
Office: CARVER 0328  
Office Hours: Office Hours - Mondays 10am-1pm, Tuesdays 9am-11am, and other days/times by apt.

CONTACTING ME:
• I make every effort to respond to email within 48 hours, Mon-Fri, however, I tend not to check my work email after 7pm. If you have a concern about something due the next day, don’t wait till the last second to email me about it.
• When emailing me, please address me by name. (Never begin professional/academic emails with “Hey” or “Yo”)  
• If you have problems with Canvas, please contact the IT department for assistance.

REQUIRED TEXT:
There is no required textbook for this class. Selected reading materials will instead be shared via Canvas.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Study and practice in fundamental use of actor’s instrument and vocal production: breathing, quality, articulation, projection, and expressiveness.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
Expand and develop physical awareness related to the body’s expressive potential.  
Increase flexibility and coordination.  
Communicate purpose, feeling, and intent by verbal and nonverbal means.  
Identify and apply theatre movement and voice theory to practical performance situations.

CONTENT:
Body Awareness:
○ Structure, Function, and Care  
○ Breathing and Relaxation  
○ Building Strength and Flexibility  
○ Alignment
Body/Voice in Time and Space
Physical/Vocal Choices Based on Imagery, Metaphor, and Abstraction
Interrelationship of Choices and Text
American Standard Dialect

Imagery: “I don’t know what I’m doing. It’s only a matter of time until everyone finds out.”
Growth mindset: “I don’t know what I’m doing yet. It’s only a matter of time until I figure it out.”
The highest form of self-confidence is believing in your ability to learn.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:
This class involves intellectual and experiential exploration of theatre movement theories and techniques. The plan of study for this course includes solo movement exercises, partnered movement exercises, and group exercises. The class will also include readings, videos, demonstrations, discussions, projects, performance critiques and analytical work. Fun Fact: We will be working as an ensemble for much of this class, so get ready for a lot of learning out loud!
"WE WILL UTILIZE MODULES IN CANVAS" - make sure you get used to checking Canvas for class updates/assignments!

CLASSROOM CONSIDERATIONS:
We will spend most class periods learning and practicing various movement, voice, and breathing techniques. You should therefore dress in clothes that will allow for full movement (this means clothes and shoes that allow you to comfortably run, jump, kick, roll, etc). Additionally, we will do daily breathing exercises, which means we will be sharing a lot of air with each other. It is therefore imperative that you pay attention to your health and make effort to maintain the health of our shared space.

IF YOU ARE ILL AND FEEL UNABLE TO COME TO CLASS:
Stay home! Send me an email. Don’t freak out - this is why you have three unexcused absences before your participation grade dips below an A.

IF YOU ARE ILL BUT FEEL OK TO COME TO CLASS:
Wear a mask. Nobody in here wants anyone else’s germs and masks are an effective way to contain virus spread. Masks are helpful not only for reducing the spread of COVID-19, but also reducing transmission of colds and flu, and thereby ensuring students can attend class and complete coursework as scheduled. Further information on the proper use of face masks is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html.

FEEDBACK:
Each student will be expected to not only receive, but also give constructive feedback. Emotionally and socially prepare yourself to enter into a space in which all constructive feedback has a place and is encouraged. Listening to/working with feedback is a fundamental part of our personal evolution, both as artists and as human beings. Don’t be afraid to ask questions when feedback is confusing & remember that feedback in this class is always designed to help you progress through the material.

COLLEGIALITY:
It is VITAL that students display respect towards one another in this class. Creative work does not flourish in harsh, negative, or overly critical environments. In this class we will practice outstanding audience skills and hone the art of giving/receiving creative feedback. Students who do not give their attention to/respect their peers’ work will lose points.

Students are responsible for living the tenets established in ISU's Principles of Community: Respect, Purpose, Cooperation, Richness of Diversity, Freedom from discrimination, and the Honest and respectful expression of ideas. Visit ISU’s Principles of Community website (http://www.diversity.iastate.edu/principles-of-community)

GRADING
Acting is a creative skill, but also a technical one. This is a participation-based and individualized growth-oriented class. While performing is the goal of an actor, a class in acting can benefit other aspects of your life, both professionally and personally. Students will be graded on completing each assignment’s required creative and technical elements as well as each student’s growth and progress as a performer.
**It is very important to remember that this a performance based course. In a performance class, it can be tempting to compare yourself to your peers. In other classes, you don’t watch your peers perform their homework, so you don’t have this temptation. The work we do in theatre is done out loud, in-person, and in front of an audience. Remember then, that each person’s prior experience (or lack thereof) will effect the work they bring to class, and that we enter this class at different places on our theatrical journey as a result. It is important to keep this in mind and resist the urge to evaluate your own progress based on that of your peers’. Additionally, do not seek perfection in regards to your performances—perfection is just a myth. Your progress/process is more important than a final, “perfect” product.** (See “Do Over Day” below)

Remember: In Theatre, creative risk taking will always yield bigger rewards than “playing it safe”. In this class, we will practice vulnerability and engage in A LOT of wacky/weird group work in order to create dynamic theatrical experiences! It will also be FUN! Bring your sense of adventure and get ready to step outside your comfort zones! Fun Fact: If you’re not being challenged, you’re not learning!

**COURSE GRADING SCALE**

**A-to A= 90-100% Exceptional work:** Always prepared; extensive outside-of-class preparation; self-motivated. Active, positive contributor to class. Punctual; always present. Demonstrated mastery of course materials.

**B-to B+ = 80-89% Good work:** Always prepared; significant outside-of-class preparation, self-motivated. Punctual; always present. Positive contributor to class. Demonstrated proficiency with course materials.

**C-to C+ = 70-79% Average work:** Generally prepared; adequate outside-of-class preparation; often self-motivated. Often contributes to class. Punctual; almost always present. Working towards proficiency with course materials.

**D-to D+ = 60-69% Below average work:** Often not prepared; shows little outside preparation; rarely self-motivated. Seldom contributes to class, and/or may have negative attitude. Sometimes late; some absences. Demonstrated difficulty engaging with/applying course materials.

**F = 59% and below. Unacceptable work:** Rarely prepared and lacks adequate outside-of-class preparation; not motivated. Does not contribute to class and/or may have negative attitude. Not punctual; accrued absences. Student has not gained sufficient proficiency with course materials to pass the class.

**ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION POINTS**

This is a performance-based class and attendance is mandatory*. Theatre is a collaborative art. To learn to perform, you must be here and participate. The participation and enthusiasm of each member in this class contributes to the success of the whole. Show up (on time), engage with class discussions, invite one another into the conversation, and be present for one another! **Attendance and Participation is 20% of the grade for this course!**
IF YOU ARE CONTAGIOUS WITH SOMETHING:
Stay home! Get a doctor’s note to excuse the absence. Remember you have 3 unexcused absences before your participation grade dips below an “A”. *Don’t burn your unexcused absences on oversleeping/unnecessary travel/etc.*

If you THINK you MIGHT be contagious with ANYTHING - Wear a mask!
We will be doing breathing exercises EVERY DAY. That's a lot of shared air. Masks are an effective way to contain virus spread! (Remember, nobody wants your germs)

PARTICIPATION POINTS WILL BE AWARDED USING THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

Exceptional (300pts) - Student has zero absences and is an active, positive contributor to class.

Above Average (270pts) - Student has accumulated no more than three unexcused absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Good (240pts) - Student has accumulated no more than four unexcused absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Average (210pts) - Student has accumulated no more than five unexcused absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Below Average (180pts) - Student has accumulated no more than six unexcused absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

Below Below Average (150pts) - Student has accumulated no more than seven unexcused absences, is always prepared and a positive contributor to class.

**Students who accrue eight or more Unexcused Absences will receive a 0 in regards to the attendance/participation grade and are at risk of being dropped from the class.**

*Excused Absences do NOT count against your Participation grade - these include school sanctioned absences, absences due to medically documented illness, or legitimate family emergencies. Remember that you have up to three unexcused absences before this grade dips below an “A”. Use those unexcused absences wisely! (So don’t burn them on sleep-ins/brunch with your crush/meetings with your advisor/etc!)

**Extenuating Circumstances: Students experiencing family crisis or prolonged medical absences may be offered an additional assignment to help make up a deficit of participation points on a case by case basis and at the discretion of the professor.

ASSIGNMENTS
Assignments are due in class on the day assigned. Work due on the date of campus-sanctioned activity absences must be turned in prior to the absence date. Students are responsible for making up all work missed because of absences.

Each assignment will be covered in class with detailed guidelines given for each. It is the student’s responsibility to make sure they are completing each assignment as outlined in order to earn full points. Assignments will be discussed in class AND posted in Canvas. Please make sure you have this course bookmarked in Canvas, with course notifications turned ON.

PERFORMANCE ASSIGNMENTS are graded using the following scale:

Above Average work - Student meets all assignment objectives with aplomb, or only a few minor missteps.
**Average Work** - Student is mostly meeting assignment objectives. There is clear effort and intentionality in their work, even if the performance is “unpolished.”

**Not Yet There** - Student has shown up for their performance, but is missing key objectives and/or under-prepared. Student has room for improvement and is encouraged to continue working on the assignment in order to take advantage of “Do-Over” days for the opportunity to earn a higher grade.

**“Do-Over” Day** - I will offer a “Do-Over” day for students wishing to pursue improved marks on their performance assignments. *This pertains ONLY to performance assignments and is not applicable to written work.*

**LATE WORK POLICY**

I understand that even in the best of times, students get overwhelmed and can fall behind. This semester will undoubtedly include challenges for many of us. If you encounter challenges (health related or otherwise) please message me so that I can do my best to help you stay on track. In general:

- Late work turned in up to 7 days past due date is eligible for 50% credit
- **This policy **ONLY applies to written assignments.
- This policy **DOES NOT** apply to in-class performances. If you are not in attendance on your scheduled performance day, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. Exceptions will only be made under extenuating circumstances (If you are sick/contagious or in case of medical/family emergency)

*If you start to fall behind in this class, the best thing you can do is talk to me! I want everyone in this class to be successful - but I can only help if you let me know when you’re having trouble.*

**KEEP IN MIND:** Late work is only eligible for **up to 50% credit.** That means that if you do an outstanding job on the assignment, but it is late*, you can still only earn 50%. If you do a poor job on the assignment and turn it in late, you will most likely earn less than 50%. If you take advantage of this policy on too many assignments, it WILL negatively impact your grade and you may not pass the course.

*Don’t Panic - Assignments coming in an hour or two past the due date/time will NOT be penalized. IF you have an EXCUSED absence for a performance day, it is your responsibility to communicate with the professor & your scene partner(s) a time to make up the performance before we move to the next assignment.*

**FLEXIBILITY:** As theatre artists, learning to be flexible—both physically and in life—is an asset. During this time of global uncertainty, it is important that we remember this and lean into it when necessary. Although the course syllabus has been carefully laid out, it is entirely plausible that we will need to be adaptive/responsive to circumstances outside our control. Changes will be clearly communicated. Let us foster a culture of grace and understanding in this class, so that we may overcome any challenges together.

**PROJECT LIST**

- Breath Walk/Vocal Inventory - 100
  - Guided Walk/Observational Assessment activity.
- Ugly Dance - 25
• Animal and the Body Group Improv-75
  • Physical animal recreation exercise
• IPA Worksheets/Practice -150
  • Introduction to International Phonetic Alphabet, its uses/applications
• Enunciation/pronunciation project - 100
  • Vocal and Physical Assignment practicing supported breathing techniques, with emphasis on pronunciation and enunciation
• Jabberwocky Performance - 100
  • Group or Solo performance applying Laban technique
• Streetcar Named Desire Rasa Box Assignment- 125
  • Solo Performance applying cumulative physical/vocal work
• POMO Performance -150
  • Group or Solo Post Modern Performance demonstrating cumulative learning over the semester
• Performance Responses - 150
  • Two live performance responses
• Additional Written Assignments & quizzes- 300
• Attendance/Participation - 300

Total Points - 1575

Things to Remember About Coursework
• This class will ask many of you to work outside your comfort zones. Acting demands vulnerability - which is a brave act! There will be times when we are engaging in physical exercises you will consider silly, definitely strange, and maybe sometimes you will think “This is the WEIRDEST CLASS EVER! What am I doing here?” This is all part of the fun of performance, and in this class in particular, which aims to free your body and voice from contemporary habits/behaviors which block you from manifesting responsive and organic behaviors onstage. Bring a sense of adventure to every class and remember we are all doing this strange, delightfully weird, and dynamic work together!

• You will engage in partner/group projects in this class - be prepared to schedule outside rehearsal time*. In fact, most of your homework in this class will be composition/rehearsal work. I know this can feel overwhelming for those of you not in performance majors, but please keep in mind that our homework is performance based and thus you’re rehearsing in lieu of the extensive written work you might do in lecture courses.

• Please turn everything in via Canvas. I will not accept emailed assignments unless there is a technical error and you absolutely cannot upload your assignment to Canvas. If this happens, it is your responsibility to email the assignment to me before the posted deadline along with an explanation of why you are emailing the assignment to me in the body of the email.
  *This policy exists to best serve you, as emails can/do get lost and overlooked. Canvas is the most secure way to ensure assignments are documented/receive full credit.*

• Written assignments can be composed directly in Canvas, or uploaded as Word docs and PDFs. PLEASE DO NOT submit Google docs or other file types I must ask permission to view!
• Performance days are scheduled ahead of time and are non-negotiable. If you are called to perform and are not prepared or present, it will result in a 0 or an “F” for the assignment.

• If you are an El Ed major, there is a bonus page in the Orientation Module just for you! Please read it, as it will be very helpful in setting expectations.

• You must attend and respond to at least two productions this semester (Guidelines will be provided) All ISU Theatre productions are eligible, but so are outside digital productions if you are uncomfortable attending in-person performance. More details will be provided as production dates/times are announced. Dance productions ARE eligible for this assignment as well!

★ THE VELVETEEN RABBIT
★ HEAD OVER HEELS
★ 10-MINUTE PLAY FEST

"If you are involved in a production, you will write about your experience from within the project for this assignment!

Fun Fact: You can attend and write a response to three productions for 50 pts extra credit!

(TENTATIVE) COURSE OUTLINE
If we've learned anything the past few years, it’s that flexibility is a vital and necessary skill in these uncertain times. It is important that we collectively acknowledge that our best intentions may be disrupted due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. If it should become necessary to make changes to our course schedule, those changes will be clearly communicated via Canvas and email.

Week 1 - Syllabus/Introduction
Week 2 - Ensemble & Breath
Week 3 - Ensemble & Breath cont.
Week 4 - Intro to IPA
Week 5 - IPA continues
Week 6 - Animals and the Body
Week 7 - Laban & Jabberwocky
Week 8 - Poetry and Masks
Week 9 - Mask Work & beginning poetry
Week 10 - Poetry and the Body and Masks
Week 11 - Poetry Presentations
Week 12 - Begin working on Final Presentations & Intro to Characters
Week 13 - Characters & Body
Week 14 - Characters & Performance
Week 15 - Rehearsal
Week 16 - Final Performances

GENERAL ETIQUETTE REQUIREMENTS:
• ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES or TEXTING during class.
• A creative environment is one in which all artists feel safe to fail – recordings of any kind (audio, visual, live-stream, etc.) are strictly prohibited and any student found to be in violation of this rule will be dropped one letter grade for the first offense, and dismissed from the class for the second. **The only exception to this is on performance days IF (AND ONLY IF) an actor asks to have their performance recorded.**
• Theatre is a collaborative art, and this class is no exception. We will be working collaboratively every day and you should think of your peers as fellow members of this artistic community. We will engage in class discussions, exercises, improvisation, and other theatre games/activities – which will help you build self-confidence as you find new ways to express yourself.
• No eating during class
• Plays written for theatre often contain strong language and mature content: profanities, violence, sexual terms, religious references and other mature themes/elements may be presented in this class. Theater provides us an opportunity to explore the human condition, and the human condition is not always pretty. Expect to examine material that challenges you as both an actor and as an audience member **It is a violation of copyright law to alter/change/omit dialogue from a play. Keep this in mind when you select material, as you will NOT be permitted to change the text in any way.**
• When attending theatre performances (both for those taking place in-person and online) make sure to arrive on time, and be attentive & respectful.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: As a land-grant institution, we are committed to the caretaking of this land and would like to begin this event by acknowledging those who have previously taken care of the land on which we gather. Before this site became Iowa State University, it was the ancestral lands and territory of the Baxoje (bah-kho-dzhe), or Ioway Nation. The United States obtained the land from the Meskwaki and Sauk nations in the Treaty of 1842. We wish to recognize our obligations to this land and to the people who took care of it, as well as to the 17,000 Native people who live in Iowa today.

ACCESSIBILITY: Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu. Contact SAS by email at accessibility@iastate.edu or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.
PUBLIC HEALTH: If you are not feeling well, you should stay home and focus on your health. Should you miss class due to illness, it is your responsibility to work with your instructor to arrange for accommodations and to make up coursework, as consistent with the instructor’s attendance policy.

You may choose to wear a face mask and/or receive the COVID-19 vaccine and boosters, as well as other vaccines such as influenza, but those options are not required. Thielen Student Health Center will continue to provide COVID-19 vaccinations free-of-charge to students. The university will continue to offer free masks and COVID-19 test kits during the fall 2022 semester. Other wellbeing resources for students are available at: https://www.cyclonehealth.iastate.edu/wellbeing-resources/

Public health information for the campus community continues to be available on Iowa State's public health website. All public health questions should be directed to publichealthteam@iastate.edu.

Fun Fact: Students who read the whole syllabus are awesome!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Please know that the following on-campus services are available for assistance regarding your physical, intellectual, occupational, spiritual, environmental, financial, social, and/or emotional needs:

* Student Wellness call (515) 294-1099 or via website (http://studentwellness.iastate.edu)
* Thielen Student Health Center call (515) 294-5801 (24/7 Medical Advice) or via website (http://www.cyclonehealth.org)
* Student Counseling Services call (515) 294-5056 or via website (https://counseling.iastate.edu)
* Recreation Services call (515) 294-4980 or via website (http://recservices.iastate.edu).
* Students dealing with heightened feelings of sadness or hopelessness, thoughts of harm or suicide, or increased anxiety may contact the ISU Crisis Text Line (Text ISU to 741-741) or contact the ISU Police Department (515) 294-4428.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARIZING: Plagiarism is defined as copying or paraphrasing the ideas of others and passing them off as your own. Cheating and plagiarism are very serious issues. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing in this class will automatically receive a “0” on the assignment and be turned into the Academic Dishonesty Committee. Please see the student handbook for more information. If you have any question about whether you are plagiarizing an assignment, please ask me about it before you turn it in. The class will follow Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office: http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html

WRITING AND MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANCE: The Writing and Media Center (WMC) helps students become effective, confident communicators by supporting students during all stages of the writing process, from brainstorming to revising, as well as with oral, visual, and electronic communication. The WMC offers one-on-one and group consultations online—to register and schedule an appointment, see https://iastate.mywconline.com/. For more information, visit our website at https://www.wmc.dso.iastate.edu or emailwritectr@iastate.edu.
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION: Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION: If an academic or work requirement conflicts with your religious practices and/or observances, you may request reasonable accommodations. Your request must be in writing, and your instructor or supervisor will review the request. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance.

PREP WEEK: This class follows the Iowa State University Pead Week guidelines as outlined in http://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#examinationstext

CLASSROOM DISRUPTION: At the discretion of the instructor, disruptive conduct includes a single serious incident or persistent conduct that unreasonably interrupts, impedes, obstructs, and/or interferes with the educational process. Disruptive conduct may be physical and/or expressive in nature and may occur in person or in a virtual setting. Examples of disruptive conduct may include, but are not limited to, the following: speaking without being recognized, interrupting, or talking over others; arrival to class late or leaving early without instructor permission; the use of technology, such as cell phones, computers, or other devices, without instructor permission, particularly in uses unrelated to course content; creation of loud or distracting noises either carelessly or with intent to disrupt; eating, sleeping, or carrying out other personal activities in class that are unrelated to course content without instructor permission; non-protected malicious or harassing or bullying speech or actions directed at instructors or students, such as personal insults, ad hominem attacks, name-calling, other abusive or ridiculing comments, or threats; gratuitous use of cursing/expletives or other speech that is not relevant to class discussion; inappropriate physical contact or threats of inappropriate physical contact directed at instructors or students; refusal to comply with instructor’s request for appropriate conduct.

HARASSMENT AND DISCRIMINATION: Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, Student Assistance at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance at 515-294-7612.

CONTACT INFORMATION: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu