



WACO, TEXAS

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**COURSE SYLLABUS  
AND  
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Voice for the Actor**

**DRAM 2336 001**

**Kelly Parker**

**NOTE: This is a 16-week course.**

**NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.**

**Course Description:**

Application of the performer's use of the voice as a creative instrument of effective communication. Encourages an awareness of the need for vocal proficiency and employs techniques designed to improve the performer's speaking abilities. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec)

**Prerequisites and/or Co-requisites:** None

**Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:**

Throughout history, the spoken voice has defined our ability to communicate and engage as individuals and a society. Ancient tribal storytellers, philosophers, Renaissance performers, and modern-day politicians have relied on the vibrant power of human speech to spread ideas and understanding. Speaking with a healthy, holistic, uninhibited vocal mechanism is fundamental to any reputable theatrical training regimen. This course strives to reveal the pliable, unique, and intuitive voice within us all. Discovering vocal freedom can increase your self-confidence, creativity, and interpersonal skills while developing your ability to express yourself in any career or avenue of life.

**Instructor Information:**

Instructors Name: Kelly Parker

MCC E-mail: [kparker@mclennan.edu](mailto:kparker@mclennan.edu)

Office Phone Number: 254.299.8177

Office Location: MTA 105E

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TTH 1 PM – 5 PM or by Appointment

Other Instruction Information:

**Required Text & Materials:**

Resources posted on D2L/Brightspace and distributed in class.

**MCC Bookstore Website:** <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

**Methods of Teaching and Learning:**

Throughout this course, students will engage in class discussions, read provided literature, and participate in classroom exercises focused on developing an uninhibited breath, vocal freedom, anatomy, and physiology. Students are encouraged to join vocal deconstructing and restructuring exercises and improvised activities to the best of their abilities. Active participation and attendance in a voice/speech course are paramount to developing a dynamic and uninhibited communicative vocal instrument. Approaches to breathwork, voice, and speech, such as Fitzmaurice Voicework© and Knight-Thompson Speechwork©, Linklater, Lessac, and

Pranayama, will be introduced throughout the course. Students may be required to write short essays and present brief projects as a part of their exploration of voice and speech.

**Course Objectives and/or Competencies:**

- 1) Cultivate a deep understanding of breathwork and vocal anatomy and physiology.
- 2) Knowledge of voicework principles, exercises, and applications.
- 3) A fundamental grasp of phonetics and the IPA chart.
- 4) Familiarity with the Knight-Thompson Speechwork© approach.
- 5) Awareness of alternative approaches to voice and speech.
- 6) Prepare a personal vocal warm-up routine.
- 7) Master Shakespearean scansion and textual analysis.
- 8) Perform memorized, Shakespearean monologues.
- 9) Explore dialect recreation and analysis.
- 10) Learn the techniques and trade of voiceover artistry.

**Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:**

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Students must physically attend this face-to-face course in person to be counted as present. Once accumulated absences total more than 25% of the scheduled class meetings, students can be withdrawn from the class, receiving no grade or credit for the course.

**Course Outline or Schedule:**

Week 1	Introduction to Course and Body Awareness Practices
Week 2	Breath work; Anatomy and Physiology
Week 3	Destructuring into Restructuring
Week 4	Restructuring and KTS Speechwork
Week 5	Restructuring and KTS Speechwork
Week 6	Alternative Breath, Voice and Speech Techniques
Week 7	Alternative Breath, Voice and Speech Techniques
Week 8	Shakespearean Verse and Text

Week 9	Shakespearean Scansion
Week 10	Shakespearean Text in Performance
Week 11	Shakespearean Monologues
Week 12	Dialects and Accents
Week 13	Dialects and Accents
Week 14	Introduction to Voiceover
Week 15	Audiobooks and Commercials
Week 16	Cartoons and Videogames
Week 17	Final Exam

### **Course Grading Information:**

1. Attendance: Being present both physically and mentally is essential. **10% of total grade.**
2. Experiential Exercises: Students will perform various exercises that complement the specific techniques being taught in class. **20% of total grade.**
3. Class Assignments/Projects: Students will complete a variety of class projects and assignments that will be presented, during class, for a grade. **30 % of total grade.**
4. Monologues: Students will perform memorized Shakespearean monologues during the semester which will be critiqued by the instructor based on principles learned during the course. **20% of total grade.**
5. Shakespearean Scansion Exam: Students are required maintain a written journal covering topics addressed throughout the semester. **10% of total grade.**
6. Vocal Anatomy Quizzes: Short written exams over vocal production and anatomy. **10% of total grade.**
7. Voiceover research and performance projects: **10% of total grade**

\*Extra-credit opportunities with be available throughout the semester\*

All grades: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 and below=F

### **Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:**

Students are expected to be in class every day and on time. Much of what will be discussing each week cannot be learned (or “made up”) by any other means except during each class. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and may result in a failing grade. Written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc. College-level writing is expected. Due dates will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Course work will not be accepted past the due date. If you know you will have a conflict meeting a deadline, please discuss this with the instructor ahead of time.

**Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:**

Students will approach the artistic nature of acting, art, and criticism with respect and professionalism; immaturity and rudeness will not be tolerated. Respect for the material and individual opinions of the others in the course is paramount. Art from many different eras and cultures will be observed and evaluated.

**[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)**

**(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)**

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

10/09/2023



## **ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES**

### **Accommodations/ADA Statement:**

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit [www.mclennan.edu/disability](http://www.mclennan.edu/disability)

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

[disabilities@mclennan.edu](mailto:disabilities@mclennan.edu) (254)299-8122  
Room 319, Student Services Center

### **Title IX:**

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at [titleix@mclennan.edu](mailto:titleix@mclennan.edu) or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at [www.mclennan.edu/titleix/](http://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/). It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

**Student Support/Resources:**

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email ([ast@mclennan.edu](mailto:ast@mclennan.edu)) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing [crew@mclennan.edu](mailto:crew@mclennan.edu) or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing [success@mclennan.edu](mailto:success@mclennan.edu).

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

**MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:**

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an

emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at [https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency\\_Grant\\_Application.pdf](https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf)

**MCC Academic Integrity Statement:**

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

**Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:**

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

**Minimum Technical Skills:**

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

**Backup Plan for Technology:**

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

**Email Policy:**

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to [www.mclennan.edu/studentemail](http://www.mclennan.edu/studentemail).



**Instructional Uses of Email:**

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

**Email on Mobile Devices:**

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email [Helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:Helpdesk@mclennan.edu) for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

**Forwarding Emails:**

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email [helpdesk@mclennan.edu](mailto:helpdesk@mclennan.edu).

**Disclaimer:**

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.