

TPP 2742C- Estill for Musical Theatre-Craft

Section 001-Fall Semester 2018, University of Central Florida

Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-4:20 p.m., 2 credit hours

Room: M263- PAC-Mus., Instructor: Tara Snyder, MFA, EMCI/EMT, AC

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"It takes considerable knowledge just to realize the extent of your own ignorance."

-Thomas Sowell, Economist

"Those who wish to sing always find a song."

-Proverb

Catalog Description

Prerequisite(s): None. Corequisite(s): None. Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): Musical Theatre Major.

Estill Model of anatomy and physiology of the voice, diction at a distance, and compulsory figures. *Fall*

Introduction

Welcome to the beginning of an amazing vocal journey! Whether you've been singing all your life or you've never focused on training your singing voice before, this course will help you to focus your vocal energies. Utilizing Estill Voice Training Systems®, you will learn about the anatomy of the vocal tract, its natural functions and how to utilize it to produce the six primary vocal qualities and the thirteen vocal compulsory figures. Compulsory figures allow us to train vocal structures to produce important speaking/singing related functions in a healthy and repeatable manner. Remember to approach your work with enthusiasm and openness. Since this class will be highly participatory in nature, it will require your complete cooperation in all coursework and exercises. Together we can create an extremely fruitful artistic and educational journey.

Fundamental Concepts:

Everyone has a beautiful voice.

The study of voice is 3 disciplines- craft, artistry & metaphysics.

Vocal health is paramount.

Vocal artistry is informed by stylistic conventions & health considerations.

Muscles need training and consistent practice to gain physical mastery. (Your voice is a muscle.)

Course Purpose

This semester's work will revolve around the study and development of proficiency in the Estill figures. These figures will aid in the creation of consistent warm-up and practice methods and practical musical analysis skills. Further, honing these skills will begin to build students' confidence levels when approaching new literature. Throughout this course you will participate in lectures, discussions, use of spectrographic computer analysis software, and both oral and written evaluation of the work of your peers and yourself. These activities will help you to accomplish several goals:

- To demonstrate mastery of the 13 Estill Voice Training System® figures.
- To identify and eliminate harmful vocal habits.
- To develop a consistent approach to musical, textual and character analysis.
- To create actionable warm-up and practice plans.
- To analyze potential problems in vocal communication (sung/spoken) and propose solutions utilizing Estill figures
- To utilize technical skills to aide in the development of artistry.
- To strengthen individual powers of observation, concentration, and imagination.
- To develop a comprehensive awareness of the performances of peers and self.

Required Materials

1. *The Estill Voice Training System: Level One- Compulsory Figures for Voice Control*, **Authors:** Klimek, Obert & Steinhauer, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
2. *The Estill Voice Training System: Level Two- Figure Combinations for Six Voice Qualities*, **Authors:** Klimek, Obert & Steinhauer, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
3. *Geography of the Voice: Anatomy of an Adam's Apple 2nd Ed.*, **Authors:** Obert & Chicurel, **Publisher:** Estill Voice Training Systems International, LLC
4. *Human Anatomy Coloring Book*, **Author:** Matt, Margaret, **Publisher:** Dover
-Scores and Music as Assigned (If Applicable)

Vocal Health

Just as learning to identify and fix vocal “problems” is essential to a singing performer’s development, a clean bill of health is as an important measure of readiness to progress as a student and, eventually, a professional. To that end, the School of Performing Arts and the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders have joined as partners to provide access to vocal health screenings each semester. Musical theatre students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of this partnership during their 1st, 5th & 8th semesters of vocal study, but additional screenings will be arranged as the need arises for a student at any point in the program.

Course Policies

1. **University-Wide Academic Participation Verification-** As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity, **Verification Quiz**, as soon as possible after adding the course, but no later than **August 24th**. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.
2. **Accessibility Services-** The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with [Student Accessibility Services](#) (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.
3. **Attendance-** Regular attendance is essential to your progress and growth in this class. Your regular attendance and promptness along with sufficient preparation for class is essential to your ultimate success in this course (especially since the information in this course is sequential!). With this in mind you are allotted a maximum of **two absences**. You are encouraged to reserve these for instances of illness, not as an excuse to skip class. If you fail to participate, or are unprepared, it will count as half credit for the day. Two incidences of tardiness (5 min. late & beyond) will be counted as an absence. Missing three classes will result in an **automatic failure** of the course. The professor will make all efforts to notify students prior to an absence that will result in class cancellation. This notification will also include instructions on any material that was to have been due that day. Class cancellation by the professor or university will not count against the students’ allowed absences.

Exceptions to these policies may occur at the discretion of the professor, due to family emergency or serious illness. Written verification of these circumstances may be required. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for all material covered, and the instructor assumes no responsibility to tutor you for classes missed.

Course Policies continued

It is the policy of the University to reasonably accommodate absences due to observed religious holidays and/or University-sanctioned events whereby a student will be representing UCF. However, the student is responsible for any material covered during the absence(s). You must inform the instructor **in writing two weeks prior** to being away.

4. Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

5. Campus Safety- Statement Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise in our class, we will all need to work together. Everyone should be aware of the surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Please make a note of the guide's physical location and consider reviewing the online version at http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html.
- Familiarize yourself with evacuation routes from each of your classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, we may need to access a first aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those items are located in this building, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/AEDlocations-UCF>.
- To stay informed about emergency situations, sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to my.ucf.edu and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the tool bar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on your Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including your e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- If you have a special need related to emergency situations, please speak with me during office hours.
- Consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>) about how to manage an active shooter situation on campus or elsewhere.

6. Electronic Devices- Turn off all electronic devices when entering the room. The professor **may** require all cell phones to be placed in a designated holding area at the beginning of class and picked up the end of class. If you need to record a session during class you will either need to utilize a voice recorder or receive special permission to remove your phone from the holding area or your bag and place it in "airplane mode" before utilizing the phone's recorder function. **Any** interruption caused by your cell phone, or other non-approved electronic device, will result in a 10% reduction in the points for that day's activities. You are allowed to a lecture or your work in class, but be apprised of the following academic integrity statement from the University of Central Florida about the use of recording devices:

"Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor."

Course Policies continued

7. Social Media- Students are not allowed to post images/video/audio of class/lesson activities without permission from those featured in the media (student or instructor). Any discovery of this material without the subjects' permission will result in **automatic failure of this course** and **probation from the Musical Theatre program**.

8. Attitude- We can't grow and change if we don't try. The old saying —If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you always got, rings true. Throughout this course keep a positive attitude, take responsibility for yourself and your work, try new things and remember that phrases like — “I can't do this” and/or — “That's too hard” are self-fulfilling prophecies which **won't be tolerated**. The instructor reserves the right to ask uncooperative students to leave the classroom or studio and forfeit all points for that day's activities.

9. Be Prepared- The show must go on. Failure to participate in Figure Quizzes or other in-class assignments will result in a grade of zero. Written work will be penalized at the rate of 10% for every day it is late and can be turned in no later than a week after its assigned due date. Any alterations to this policy will only be considered in an extreme emergency, on a case-by-case basis, and may require further written documentation.

10. You must attend the Main Stage musical this semester. You can acquire a theatre student rate ticket any time prior to 6 p.m. on the Monday before the show opens. The more theatrical experiences you have, the stronger theatre artist you become. You must *see* theatre to *know* theatre. An in-class review of this show will be required as a follow-up to the performance.

Hot Mikado: Performances: Oct. 11-21, 2018

11. Academic Integrity

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

<http://www.academicintegrity.org/ica/assets/FVProject.pdf>

UCF Creed: Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources comes from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <<http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>> and has been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism: In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Misuse of Sources: A student who attempts (even if clumsily) to identify and credit his or her source, but who misuses a specific citation format or incorrectly uses quotation marks or other forms of identifying material taken

Course Policies continued

from other sources, has not plagiarized. Instead, such a student should be considered to have failed to cite and document sources appropriately.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism or Cheating: UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see <http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials: There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Class Notes Third parties may be selling class notes from this class without my authorization. Please be aware that such class materials may contain errors, which could affect your performance or grade. Use these materials at your own risk.

12. Addendums- Any handouts provided to the student with guidelines for written or performance projects are to be considered part of the syllabus. In addition, verbal or written changes to the syllabus as announced during class, or via electronic means, are the responsibility of the student. **The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus in response to her perception of the needs of the class.**

Course Tasks & Criteria

TASK- Attendance & Participation

Criteria- Students will actively participate and prepare for in class sessions, particularly in regards to the development of recognition and analysis of the 13 Estill Compulsory Figures and the 6 Estill Voice Qualities. Any activities deemed necessary to this development by the professor will count as part of this category, including (but not limited to), lectures, recording analyses, discussion, practice groups, etc.

25% of course grade

TASK- Listening Analysis Papers

Criteria- Students will engage their listening and critical vocal anatomy analysis skills through weekly listening assignments. Each week, students will listen to recordings of two songs from the musical theatre genre. Through exposure to over 150 years of musical theatre history, students will become more aware of the diverse vocal demands of our industry. Students will write a two paragraph response to each song (4 paragraphs total for the paper) where they address tonal quality, anatomical choices of the singer(s) and your critical/emotional reaction to the pieces. These papers should have a 500-word minimum (word count must be included in the paper) along with these required categories (which do not count towards your word count): song title, musical/musical movie from which song originates, composer(s), lyricist(s), date of composition/1st performance/movie premiere. **You will turn in 1 paper each Tuesday by 2:00 p.m. via Webcourses**, for a total of 13 papers covering 26 songs (no paper will be required the first or last week of classes). **You must choose songs from the following eras/sub-categories:** 1 from 1865-1920, 3 from 1920-1940, 5 from 1940-1960, 4 from 1960-1990, 3 from 1990-2010, 3 from 2010-Present, 3 from movie/television show musicals (any era), 1 from animated musical movie/television show, 2 from musicals based on existing pop/rock music (any era), 1 from a musical which originated in new media (Social Media, YouTube, Podcast, etc.) These songs must be new to you and originate from 26 distinctly separate source materials.

30% of course grade

Course Tasks & Criteria Continued

TASK- In Class Roundtable Review of *Hot Mikado*

Criteria- Make notes on the voice/character relationship of the cast of the fall musical to bring to an in-class round table discussion. Issues to consider include (but are not limited to)- technique, voice and character agreement, vocal health, rehearsal versus performance (if you are in the cast you can bring this insight to the discussion).

5% of course grade

TASK- Figure Quizzes

Criteria- Quizzes will cover compulsory figures at designated times throughout the term. Students will have 3 attempts to match the figure's required spectrographic image/sound on Estill VoicePrint software.

10% of course grade

TASK- #EverydayEstill Social Media Project

Criteria- Students will seek out examples of Estill Figures/Voice Qualities in everyday life. These examples can come from music, spoken dialogue, nature, really anywhere. Students should make short video/audio recordings which can be brought to class to discuss how closely they align with the Compulsory Figure or Voice Quality assigned. Select examples (with respect to copyrighted material) will be featured on Social Media platforms which may include SnapChat, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

5% of course grade

TASK- Mid-Term Exam

Criteria- Your mid-term will consist of a mixture of written questions, VoicePrint Protocols, and aural analysis.

10% of course grade

TASK- Final Exam

Criteria- Your final will consist of a mixture of written questions, VoicePrint Protocols and aural analysis.

15% of course grade

***Opportunities for Extra Credit will be at the discretion of the instructor.**

Class Grading Scale

A (94-100)	4.00- excellent work, consistently dynamic
A- (90-93)	3.75
B+ (87-89)	3.25
B (84-86)	3.00- good work, but not consistently dynamic
B- (80-83)	2.75
C+ (77-79)	2.25
C (74-76)	2.00- average work, meeting minimum requirements
*C- (70-73)	1.75- results in departmental probation
*(& Below)	

Notes

***PLEASE READ*:** Since Theatre requires the use of mind, voice, and body, there might be situations that require a certain amount of physical contact between you and the Instructor and other students. If this presents a problem for you, please see the Instructor immediately to assess your chances for success in this course.

On written work: Successful theatre practitioners expend considerable time and effort in making every resume, audition application, grant application, design drawing, portfolio presentation, etc., look absolutely perfect. In an attempt to prepare you for this reality, the instructor reserves the right to deduct a maximum of 10% of the

Notes Continued

possible points from each major written assignment for punctuation, grammar, structure and spelling errors. General guidelines for the major written assignments are that they should be typed, with margins of no more than 1" - 1.25", using a standard font, such as Times New Roman, and a font size no larger than 12 point.

It is recommended that all students retain musical theatre voice syllabi for future reference.

The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of this syllabus in response to her perception of the needs of the class. Students are responsible for all written or oral changes to the syllabus.

Tentative Class Schedule (Subject to Change)

T= Tuesday, H= Thursday, Papers due Every Tuesday by 2:00 p.m. on Webcourse

Week 1 (Ending Aug. 24)- T- Introduction/Syllabus Review, H-Effort, Power & Pitch
Week 2- (Ending Aug. 31)- T- True Vocal Folds Onset/Offset, H- False Vocal Folds
Week 3- (Ending Sept. 7)- T-Practice Groups/#EverydayEstill Review, H-True Vocal Folds Body Cover
Week 4- (Ending Sept. 14)- T- Practice Groups/#EverydayEstill Review, H- Thyroid/Siren
Week 5- (Ending Sept. 21)- T-Larynx, H-Tongue
Week 6- (Ending Sept. 28)- T-**Quiz #1**, H-Practice Groups/#EverydayEstill Review
Week 7- (Ending Oct. 5)- T- Velum, H-Velum & Practice Groups
Week 8- (Ending Oct. 12)- T- Aryepiglottic Sphincter (AES) H-Practice Groups/#Everyday Estill Review, **1st weekend of Hot Mikado**
Week 9- (Ending Oct. 19)- T-**Mid-Term**, H- Jaw & Lips, **2nd weekend of Hot Mikado**
Week 10- (Ending Oct. 26)- T- **Hot Mikado** Roundtable Discussion, H- Head & Neck, Torso
Week 11- (Ending Nov. 2)- T-Practice Groups/#EverydayEstill Review, H- **NO CLASS DUE TO HOME FOOTBALL GAME**
Week 12- (Ending Nov. 9)- T- **Quiz #2**, H- Level 2 Introduction/Speech & Falsetto Qualities
Week 13- (Ending Nov. 17)-T- Twang & Sob Qualities, H-Belt (Cricoid) & Opera Qualities
Week 14- (Ending Nov. 23)- T- Practice Groups/#EverydayEstill Review, H- **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**
Week 15- (Ending Nov. 30)- T- Analyze That & Final Review, H- VoicePrint Portion of Final
Written/Listening Final- Thursday, December 6, 1-3:50