

# TPP 2742C- Estill for Musical Theatre-Craft

Section 001-Fall Semester 2020, University of Central Florida

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

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 28th**. 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. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu), phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

### 3. COVID-19 Specific Information

**A. University-Wide Face Covering Policy for Common Spaces and Face-to-Face Classes-**To protect members of our community, everyone is required to wear a facial covering inside all common spaces including classrooms (<https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/PolicyEmergencyCOVIDReturnPolicy.pdf>). Students who choose not to wear facial coverings will be asked to leave the classroom by the instructor. If they refuse to leave the classroom or put on a facial covering, they may be considered disruptive (please see the [Golden Rule](#) for student behavior expectations). Faculty have the right to cancel class if the safety and well-being of class members are in jeopardy. Students will be responsible for the material that would have been covered in class as provided by the instructor.

**B. Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality-** Depending on the course of the pandemic during the semester, the university may make changes to the way classes are offered. If that happens, please look for announcements or messages in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email about changes specific to this course.

## Course Policies continued

**C. COVID-19 and Illness Notification-** Students who believe they may have a COVID-19 diagnosis should contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place.

Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID, or if anyone living in their residence has tested positive or is sick with COVID-19 symptoms. CDC guidance for COVID-19 symptoms is located here: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness reason to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

**D. In Case of Faculty Illness-** If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course. Please look for announcements or mail in [Webcourses@UCF](mailto:Webcourses@UCF) or Knights email for any alterations to this course.

**E. Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement-** Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu) to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

**4. 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.

Any asynchronous assignments that are provided in lieu of an in-person/live course will not fall under the attendance policies but will be due on the date listed in the Webcourses' assignment. If students cannot be on campus due to COVID concerns, they may attend remotely. The standing link for our class on Zoom is: <https://ucf.zoom.us/j/92637850313>. Students should inform the instructor before class regarding their attendance.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the [UCF Zoom Guides](#) at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/>. You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

Things to Know About Zoom:

- You must sign in to my Zoom session using your UCF NID and password.
- The Zoom sessions are recorded.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.
- You can contact [Webcourses@UCF Support](mailto:Webcourses@UCF Support) at <https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/> if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

## 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.

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.

### 4. Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

### 5. Make-up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at <https://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.pdf>

### 6. Campus Safety

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their 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. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at [http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency\\_guide.html](http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html).
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video <https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>.

**7. 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 record a lecture or your

## Course Policies continued

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.”

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

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

### 11. Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF’s Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>.

According to Section 1, “Academic Misconduct,” students are prohibited from engaging in:

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else’s efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor’s PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student’s own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another’s work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student’s own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

## Course Policies continued

### Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* < <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/> UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

**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.

**30% 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) phrased in Estill terminology (as it is acquired over the course of the term) and your critical/emotional reaction to the pieces. These papers should have a 500-word minimum (**word count must be included in the paper or it will not be graded**) along with these required categories (which do not count towards your word count): song title, musical/musical movie/TV/new media from which song originates, composer(s), lyricist(s), date of composition/1<sup>st</sup> performance/movie/TV premiere/date posted, and which category the song falls into based on the list provided below. Additionally if you listen to the song through an online medium, please include the URL with the required information listed in the last sentence. **You will turn in 1 paper each Tuesday by 2:00 p.m. via Webcourses**, for a total of 12 papers covering 24 songs (no paper will be required the first or last two weeks of class).

**You must choose songs from the following eras/sub-categories:**

- 1 from 1865-1920
- 3 from 1921-1940
- 4 from 1941-1960
- 3 from 1961-1990

## Course Tasks & Criteria continued

- 3 from 1991-2010
- 3 from 2011-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 24 distinctly separate source materials. You may complete these in any order you choose but it will be up to you to make sure you complete all of the

**30% of course grade**

### **TASK-** Online Discussion Post Review of *Holiday Inn*

**Criteria-** Sign up for the FREE 7 day trial for BroadwayHD. Watch "Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn". [https://www.broadwayhd.com/movies/AW2GuKCQpx3F9\\_4Aqev4](https://www.broadwayhd.com/movies/AW2GuKCQpx3F9_4Aqev4). Make sure to cancel your trial before the 7 day free period ends (unless you want to become a regular subscriber to this service). Post in the Discussion Thread about the- technique (in Estill terms), voice and character agreement, vocal health of two of the main characters. Respond to at least 1 of your classmates' posts.

**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-** 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 (to be completed F2F prior to Thanksgiving break) and aural analysis.

**15% of course grade**

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\*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 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 Webcourses (except Week 1, 14 & 15)**

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/92637850313>- Zoom link (if needed) for class

Week 1 (Ending Aug. 28)- T- Introduction/Syllabus Review, H-Effort, Power & Pitch

Week 2- (Ending Sept. 4 )- T- True Vocal Folds Onset/Offset, H- Practice Groups

Week 3- (Ending Sept. 11)- T-False Vocal Folds, H-True Vocal Folds Body Cover

Week 4- (Ending Sept. 18)- T- Practice Groups, H- Thyroid/Siren

Week 5- (Ending Sept. 25)- T-Larynx, H-Tongue

Week 6- (Ending Oct. 2)- T-Practice Groups, H- **Quiz #1**

Week 7- (Ending Oct. 9)- T- Velum, H-Velum & AES

Week 8- (Ending Oct. 16)- T- Aryepiglottic Sphincter, H- Practice Groups

Week 9- (Ending Oct. 23)- T-Mid-Term Review, H- **Mid-Term**

Week 10- (Ending Oct. 30)- T- Jaw & Lips, Head & Neck, Torso, H- Practice Groups

Week 11- (Ending Nov. 6)- T- **Quiz #2**, H- Level 2 Introduction/Speech & Falsetto Qualities,

Week 12- (Ending Nov. 13)- T- Practice Groups, H- Twang & Sob Qualities, **Holiday Inn Discussion Post Due by 11/13 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Week 13- (Ending Nov. 20)-T-Belt (Cricoid) & Opera Qualities, H- Practice Groups

Week 14- (Ending Nov. 27)- T- VoicePrint Portion of Final, H- **NO CLASS THANKSGIVING**

Week 15- (Ending Dec. 4)- T (Zoom Mtg at normal class time)- Analyze That & Final Review, H- **No Class**- Review on your own for final

**Written/Listening Final- Online in Webcourses- will not be available before Finals' Week**