



Michigan Technological University

## Course Syllabus

FA 2830 – Voice and Articulation

College of Science and Arts

Fall 2011

### ***Instructor Information***

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**Instructor:** Patricia Helsel

**Office:** Walker 209A

**Phone:** 487-3283

**Email:** [helsel@mtu.edu](mailto:helsel@mtu.edu)

**Office Hours:**

MWF 11:00 – 12:00, 1:00 – 2:00; TT 11:00 – 12:20

### ***Course Identification***

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Course Number: FA 2830

Course Name: Voice and Articulation

Course Location: Walker 210

Class Times: MWF 10:05pm – 10:55pm

Prerequisites: None

### ***Course Description/Overview***

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An applied study of the use of voice. Students will work to develop a stronger, more articulate and dialect-free speech appropriate for professional careers.

### ***Course Learning Objectives***

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As we are often judged by our appearances both socially and professionally, so are we judged by the way we speak. The professional who sounds more articulate and confident has a definite advantage over the awkward mumbler in most careers and fields of study. Students will work toward developing successful “career speech.” Career speech is a professional style of speaking that combines clear articulation and a non-distinct dialect.

### ***Teaching Methods***

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Students will be introduced to the physiology of voice, how the speech mechanism works. Exercises are conducted to help develop a pleasant, easy-to-listen-to vocal quality. Students will begin working on vocal production focusing on breath control, the foundation of a strong and healthy voice. The *International Phonetic Alphabet* (IPA) is a major focus in the course as it is a useful tool in understanding dialects and pronunciation. A segment is included to introduce students to radio and television voice work.

## ***Requirements/Assignments***

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### EXAMS:

Two tests are scheduled and will cover material from the text and from class lectures.

### INITIAL VOCAL ASSESSMENT:

Students must give a short presentation for the class. A written assessment/analysis of classmate's voices is conducted during class.

### PROFICIENCY TESTS:

Students must demonstrate a minimum level of proficiency in all areas in order to pass. A reading passage for each grade level (A, B, C) will be given for each test. The "C" passage will require minimal proficiency and is often a shorter passage than the "B" or "A" passages. In order to achieve the grade sought the student must complete the reading with NO MISTAKES. This requires *practice*. There are six proficiency tests:

- #1 Breathing – Student will complete the phrases in the reading, breathing only where indicated.
- #2 Volume/Relaxed Tone – Student will read passage maintaining optimum volume and vocal quality, free of tension prohibiting an open sound.
- #3 Diction – Student will read passage pronouncing all consonants.
- #4 Dialect – Student will transpose a passage to the IPA, then read passage using the accepted non-regional dialect. (200 points)
- #5 Subtext (Speaking for meaning) – Student must convey specific meaning for each phrase.

### QUIZZES:

Quizzes will be given, without notice and will cover textbook topics, class lecture topics, exercises, and mastery of the International Phonetic Alphabet.

### FINAL PROJECT:

The semester culminates in a final project that demonstrates the student's ability to incorporate all the skills mastered in each of the proficiency tests. Students will transcribe entire reading using the IPA.

**PARTICIPATION:** Students must participate each class period to master vocal skills. Full commitment to the exercises is essential. Exercises will be used inside and outside of class. Exercises in class are considered "class participation." Studying the vocal technique of peers is a valuable way to learn about voice so participation in discussions during class provides the student with feedback other than the instructor's. Students are assessed approximately every 4 weeks, and are assigned a grade based on attendance, commitment to exercises, contribution to discussion/criticism, punctuality, preparedness, and courtesy toward peers. One cannot participate if one is not present for class. **More than TWO absences will result in 25 points, per absence, deducted from the overall grade.**

## ***Course Resources***

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### **Course Website(s)**

- Blackboard <<http://www.courses.mtu.edu>>

### **Required Course Text –**

#### **Textbook:**

Mayer, Lyle V., Fundamentals of Voice & Articulation, 14<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill, Boston, 2008.

#### **Supplemental Reference:**

Kenyon, John S. and Knott, Thomas A., A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English, Mirriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, MA, 1953.

[www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com)

## ***Grading Policy***

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Grades will be based on the following:

Chapter Tests 2 x 100 points each	200
Quizzes 5 x 10 points each	Up to 50
Proficiency Tests 4 x 100 points each	400
Proficiency Test 1 x 200 points	200
Participation	50
Vocal Assessment	100
Final Project	400
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>1400</b>

### **Late Assignments**

**The instructor does not accept late assignments. Work may only be made up in the event of an excused absence. Arrangements for making up work must occur by the time the student returns to class. It is the responsibility of the student to make these arrangements.**

## Grading Scheme

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### Grading System

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade points/credit</i>	<i>Rating</i>
<b>A</b>	94% & above	4.00	Excellent
<b>AB</b>	88% – 93%	3.50	Very good
<b>B</b>	83% – 87%	3.00	Good
<b>BC</b>	78% – 82%	2.50	Above average
<b>C</b>	73% – 77%	2.00	Average
<b>CD</b>	68% – 72%	1.50	Below average
<b>D</b>	60% - 67%	1.00	Inferior
<b>F</b>	59% and below	0.00	Failure
<b>I</b>	Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student's control. A grade of incomplete may be given only when approved in writing by the department chair or school dean.		
<b>X</b>	Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up within the next semester in residence or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.		

### Course Policies

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#### SUBMITTED MATERIAL:

All material submitted for an assignment must be TYPED. Handwritten work will not be accepted. Plan ahead and start early to avoid delays caused by computer and printer problems. (Computer/printer failure is not an excuse for late or incomplete work.)

#### ATTENDANCE:

The student is responsible to provide the proper documentation for an excused absence. Documentation is to be provided upon the return to class. **More than TWO absences will result in 25 points, per absence, deducted from the overall grade.**

#### COURESY:

Respect for everyone in the classroom is a must. Attentiveness to peers and instructor is expected. An atmosphere conducive to learning relies heavily on shared energy and enthusiasm by both students and instructor. Respect for everyone in the classroom is a must.

#### COURE CALENDAR:

The Course Calendar is subject to change. I strive to meet the needs of each class. Time allowances vary as a result of several factors, the most influential being class size and how many characters are required in any given scene.

## ***Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules***

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### **COLLABORATION:**

Some projects will require collaboration. Your performance will be graded both individually, and as a group. Turn in your own unique written work unless otherwise instructed.

### **PLAGIRISM/CHEATING:**

Copying text directly from a book, magazine article, web site, etc. without crediting the author is plagiarism. Similarly, paraphrasing the same text is a form of plagiarism. Honesty is expected. In addition, cheating on tests or submitting a false excuse are not tolerated and are both grounds for disciplinary action.

## ***University Policies***

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Academic regulations and procedures are governed by University policy. Academic dishonesty cases will be handled in accordance the University's policies.

If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please see me as soon as possible so that we can make appropriate arrangements. The Affirmative Action Office has asked that you be made aware of the following:

*Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head or the Affirmative Action Office, at 487-3310*

### **Academic Integrity:**

[http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic\\_integrity.html](http://www.studentaffairs.mtu.edu/dean/judicial/policies/academic_integrity.html)

### **Affirmative Action:**

<http://www.admin.mtu.edu/aao/>

### **Disability Services:**

[http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student\\_services.html#disability](http://www.admin.mtu.edu/urel/studenthandbook/student_services.html#disability)

**Equal Opportunity Statement:** <http://www.admin.mtu.edu/admin/boc/policy/ch3/ch3p7.htm>

## ***Course Schedule (COMPLETELY SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!)***

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### **Week 1**

Aug	29	Mon	Introduction/Syllabus Assign	Speech Profile Presentation
	31	Wed	<b>Vocal Assessments</b>	
Sept	01	Fri	<b>Vocal Assessments</b>	

### **Week 2**

	05	Mon	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>	
	07	Wed	Physiology	<b>Read Chapter 1</b>
	09	Fri	Breathing (sorry, K-Day starts at noon)	<b>Read Chapter 2</b>

### **Week 3**

	12	Mon	<b>Physiology Quiz</b>	
	14	Wed	Breathing	<b>Browse Chapter 7</b>
	16	Fri	Introduction to IPA	<b>Also – pp. 72-73</b>

### **Week 4**

	19	Mon	IPA	
	21	Wed	IPA	
	23	Fri	<b>Proficiency #1: Breathing</b>	

### **Week 5**

	26	Mon	Vocal Quality	<b>Read Chapter 3</b>
	28	Wed	Vocal Production and Volume	<b>Read Chapter 4</b>
	30	Fri	Vocal Production and Volume	(Homecoming recess, after 3:00 pm)

### **Week 6**

Oct	03	Mon	<b>Chapter Test #1: Chapters 1-4</b>	
	05	Wed	IPA	
	07	Fri	IPA	

### **Week 7**

	10	Mon	<b>Proficiency #2: Volume/Relaxation</b>	
	12	Wed	IPA	
	14	Fri	Articulation	

### **Week 8**

	17	Mon	Articulation	<b>Read Chapter 5</b>
	19	Wed	Articulation	
	21	Fri	Articulation	

*Last day to drop full semester courses with a grade of 'W'*

**Week 9**

24	Mon	Consonants/Diction
26	Wed	Consonants/Diction
28	Fri	Consonants/Diction

**Read Chapter 6****Week 10**

31	Mon	<b>Proficiency #3: Diction</b>
Nov 02	Wed	Vowels/Dialect
04	Fri	Vowels/Dialect

**Read Chapter 7****Week 11**

07	Mon	Vowels/Dialect
09	Wed	Vowels/Dialect
11	Fri	<b>Chapter Test #2: Chapters 5-8</b>

**Read Chapter 8****Week 12**

14	Mon	<b>Proficiency #4: Dialect (TRANSCRIPTS DUE)</b>
16	Wed	Melody/Pitch – Speaking for Meaning
18	Fri	Speaking for Meaning

**Read Chapter 9****THANKSGIVING RECESS: November 19-27****Week 13**

28	Mon	Speaking for Meaning
30	Wed	<b>Proficiency #4: Tryout</b>
Dec 02	Fri	<b>Proficiency #4: Tryout</b>

**Week 14**

05	Mon	<b>Proficiency #4: DUE</b> , Final Project Workshop
07	Wed	<b>Proficiency Test #5: Subtext/Meaning</b>
09	Fri	Fun with Dialects, Final Project Workshop

**Final Project Due December 13, by 4:30 p.m.**