Objectives
This course is an introduction to the voice both technically and imaginatively. Students will learn a variety of self-awareness exercises, relaxation techniques, physical/vocal stretches, and will receive information on vocal anatomy and voice care. Students will then apply this new potential to performance demands and text. This class gives students an opportunity to develop and appreciate the uniqueness of their own voice and what the voice can express.

Upon successful completion of the course students should be able to:

- Identify basic vocal anatomy and physiology
- Increase physical and vocal awareness
- Discover supported, sustained breathing
- Acquire techniques for physical relaxation and stretching
- Develop a physical and vocal warm-up
- Apply relaxation techniques to reduce negative effects of performance anxiety
- Manipulate voice for a more relaxed, open, supported tone
- Integrate body, voice, mind, and imagination in performance contexts

Requirements
You are required to participate in all exercises and assignments, plus show a willingness to explore new ideas. These will be key factors in your improvement and also your grade. A class attempting any work leading to vocal improvement requires a tremendous commitment from each student serious about exploring his or her vocal potential.

- This class involves a number of physical exercises. As with any exercise regimen you should proceed cautiously and responsibly. Be nice to yourself. You accept the responsibility for any risks these exercises might impose. If you have any concerns about your physical abilities or condition you should consult your physician.

- Absences will lower your overall grade by one letter grade for each additional absence over three (i.e., A drops to a B, or B+ drops to C+, etc.). You get three days off. Use them wisely. You cannot miss more than six classes and still have any hope of passing. It is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences and tardies.

- Showing up on time is a basic part of life. (Yes, I would love to sleep in a little longer too!) If class has started, you are late. Any time you are late you seriously jeopardize your class participation grade. Getting to class on time is a minimal requirement (i.e., a ’C’). If you are more than five minutes late for class you will receive 1/2 an absence (now you can only miss two classes without hurting your final grade). If you are more than ten minutes late, it counts as an absence.

- Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Jeans are only allowed on designated days that are announced in class. If you're not sure, assume you can't wear jeans.

- No gum!

- There will be five scheduled performances for this class. No late performances will be accepted without a written excuse and prior notification.
Any work not completed receives a 0 rather than an F grade.

There will be a midterm and final exam covering handouts, and class content. There will be no make-up exams without a written excuse and prior notification. Extenuating circumstances must also be present. Do not assume your circumstances automatically warrant such consideration.

Throughout the semester you will receive short homework assignments. They are due in class on the assigned day. No late assignments will be accepted. Each assignment will have specified points. Your final grade on these assignments will be based on the percentage of points. Your score is calculated in the following way: If there were 450 possible points and your received 385. \( \frac{385}{450} = 86\% \) so you would receive 8.6 points out of the 10 possible for this portion of your grade.

### Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>05 Before/After Recording 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance #1</td>
<td>15 Midterm Exam 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance #2</td>
<td>15 Final Exam 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance #3</td>
<td>15 Homework Assignments 10</td>
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<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
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**Final Grade**

- **A+** = 99-100  
- **A** = 94-98  
- **A-** = 90-93  
- **B+** = 88-89  
- **B** = 84-87  
- **B-** = 80-83  
- **C+** = 78-79  
- **C** = 74-77  
- **C-** = 70-73  
- **D+** = 68-69  
- **D** = 64-67  
- **D-** = 60-63  
- **F** = 599 and below

You must receive a **C** grade or higher to take THEA 234

### Some Dates to Remember (dates subject to change)

- **August 29**  
The ‘Before’ Recording! Prepare a 25-30 line non-rhyming poem to perform.  
Make two copies of this poem. You keep one and you give one to me.
- **August 31**  
Turn in Assignment #1
- **September 3**  
No Class—Labor Day
- **October 15**  
Performance #1
- **October 24**  
Midterm Exam
- **November 16**  
Performance #2
- **November 19-23**  
No Class—Thanksgiving Break
- **December 10**  
Performance #3
- **December 12**  
The ‘After’ Recording (the same poem you did at the beginning of the semester)
- **December 14**  
Listen to Recordings/Review for Final
- **December 17**  
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Final Exam