**DIALECTS IN PERFORMANCE**

**SPRING 2016 – THEA 3311-001**

**Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 – 9:20 a.m.**

**Room: 143 Fine Arts Bldg. North**

**Instructor:** Julienne Greer, PhD

**Office Number:** 197A FA

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**Faculty Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/julienne-greer>

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**Course Content:**

The study and application of selected U.S. and International dialects. Emphasis will be on the analysis and execution of dialects; however, a high level of acting performance is expected. Prerequisite: THEA 1303 and permission of instructor.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

* Demonstrate an accurate, objective analysis of his or her personal speech patterns.
* Demonstrate proficiency in a variety of accents utilizing them in a range of performances.
* Perform physical exercises in preparation of the actor’s body and voice.
* Interpret and analyze in written form use of dialect and regionalisms in a scholarly manner.
* Improve vocal quality, vocal variety, and expressive flexibility of meaning during class exercises and performances.
* Understanding and apply IPA as a tool for phonetic notation.
* Enable students to become more powerful communicators/storytellers through the art of voice and speech.
* Continue exploration of Stanislavski’s system of acting for preparation and character development.

**Required Text**

*Accents: A Manual for Actors* by Robert Blumenfeld. Revised and Expanded Edition, with CDs. 2002 and/or *Accents and Dialects for Stage and Screen* by Paul Meier.

**Required Materials**

* ***Highly*** Recommended: Laptop/Ipad – mobile device for access to dialect websites during class time. Earphones.

**Major Assignments and Examinations:** All homework assignments must be turned in at the start of the class. Failure to do so will constitute a grade of zero for the homework assignment in question. The final exam will be given according to the university’s published final exams schedule. Note that failure to appear for an exam at the scheduled time will constitute a grade of zero in that exam.

Your grade will be based on the:

* Quality of work in the assignments listed below.
* Discipline and commitment shown in your promptness.
* Attendance.
* Preparation for class and exercises.
* Collaborative efforts with peers.
* Alert participation in class critiques and discussions of artistic merit.

**Written:**

Critiques (3) 25 Points Each 75 Points

IPA Quiz 25 Points 25

**Performance:**

Eight (8) in-class performances Pass/Fail

**All students must pass at least five (5) monologues or their grade will fall by one full letter grade.**

Three (3) Graded Scenes 50 Points Each 150 Points

Final Exam Performance 50 Points 50 Points

*Performance rubric is on Blackboard*

**TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS 300 POINTS**

[Scale: 300-270 pts.= A, 269-240 pts. = B, 239-210 pts. = C, 209-180 pts. = D, 179 or below= F]

**Attendance Policy:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy: the student will be expected to sign-in each day for class. It is expected that you will be on time for class. In addition, it is expected that you remain for the entire session. Late arrivals and early departures will affect not only your ability to receive the information but also that of your colleagues. If you are tardy three times, you will be assigned an absence. If you miss class because of illness *and* present a doctor’s statement attesting to your illness, then you may make up missed work. HOWEVER, it only means that you have used up one of your ALLOWED absences. It does NOT mean that you are allowed an “extra” absence besides the THREE (3) allowed before it begins to deduct final course grade points.

Attendance: **Three excused or unexcused absences allowed. Sickness is an unexcused absence. Each subsequent absence your grade is lowered ONE FULL LETTER GRADE per absence. You must keep track of your absences.**

**Grading Policy**: See above rubric.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study**: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 3 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Make-up Exam Policy**: No make-up exams are given except for medical or other similar hardships where advanced arrangements are made with the instructor; or in case of non-selective medical emergencies with physician’s note or documentation. Otherwise, failure to take the exam at the scheduled time will result in a zero grade in the exam.

**Grade Grievance Policy**: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate / graduate catalog.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services Available:** UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the end of the hallway to the left of the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Classroom Atmosphere:** It is expected that you will be supportive to each of your colleagues in this class. Keep any negative personal feelings about your colleagues outside of the classroom. The relationships you build with your colleagues will be vital to your success in the department and beyond. It will also be important to keep non-productive discussions and comments to a minimum.

**Feedback:** Keep in mind that each of you enters this class with different strengths and weaknesses. You will be evaluated on the progress you make and the skills you master. Your work will not be viewed in comparison to the abilities of your classmates. Should you have any concerns, I am available during my office hours or by appointment - please don’t hesitate to talk with me. Remember, I am commenting *on your work* NOT on you personally - you must learn to identify the difference between the two.

**Course Attendance and Production Assignments**: Students cast in acting roles or who have lead technical or design assignments in UTA productions are required to attend class on a regular basis. Failure to do so shall result in the student being reported to the student's Area Head for their degree plan and the Production Manager and may result in the student being replaced in their production assignment.

**Conference Attendance Policy:** Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and graduate school auditions. However, Theatre Arts majors are required to submit an excused absence request to the instructor no less than two full weeks prior to the conference/audition in order for the instructor to consider granting an excused absence. Such notification must be in writing and support documentation will be required to verify the Theatre Arts major’s attendance, completion and/or successful (or professionally worthwhile) participation in said conference or audition. All students are expected to complete all coursework (as stipulated in the syllabus) and all course requirements (as stipulated by the syllabus) in a timely manner (the term “timely manner” will be defined/specified by the instructor at the time the Theatre Arts majors submit their excused absence request to the instructor for initial consideration). At the discretion of the instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, Theatre Arts majors are advised to fully consult with the instructor prior to engaging in such activities.

**Health:** Good physical and vocal health is necessary for successful performing. It is your responsibility to take good care of yourself so you will not miss your obligations.

**CALENDAR – Dialects in Performance– Spring 2016**

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| **DATE** | **IN CLASS** | **Films for Dialects/Projects Due** |
| January 19 | Introductions-Syllabus | *Downton Abbey/BBC America* |
| January 21 | Practice Exercises/Mouth Placement | *Gosford Park* |
| January 26 | **IPA**  Standard Upper-Class British/RP English | *Brideshead Revisited* |
| January 28 | Standard Upper-Class British/RP English | *Pride and Prejudice* |
| February 2 | **RP mono IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | *Secrets and Lies* |
| February 4 | General London and Cockney | *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels*  *Flushed Away* |
| February 9 | General London and Cockney | *Intermission* |
| February 11 | **Cockney mono IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | *Waking Ned Devine* |
| February 16 | Irish | *In the Name of the Father*(Belfast)  **(SIGN-UP SC. #1)** |
| February 18 | Irish | *The Commitments* |
| February 23 | **Irish mono IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | **Critique #1 Due** |
| February 25 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #1 Graded Exercise** |
| March 1 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #1 Graded Exercise** |
| March 3 | Southern (rural/twang) | *Fried Green Tomatoes* |
| March 8 | Southern (lilt) | *I Love You Philip Morris* |
| March 10 | **Southern mono IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | *Steel Magnolias* |
| March 22 | New York City | *Saturday Night Fever* |
| March 24 | New York City | *My Cousin Vinny/Donnie Brasco* |
| March 29 | **New York mono IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** |  |
| March 31 | Black/African/Jamaican/Cajun/The Middle West | *Fargo****/****The Stick* (1987)  *Cool Runnings* **(SIGN-UP SC. #2)** |
| April 5 | Black/African/Jamaican/Cajun/The Middle West | *We are Cajun – documentary*  *Hotel Rwanda/The Last King of Scotland* |
| April 7 | Black/African/Jamaican/Cajun/The Middle West  **IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | **Critique #2 Due** |
| April 12 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #2 Graded Exercise** |
| April 14 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #2 Graded Exercise** |
| April 19 | Polish/Eastern European | *Sophie’s Choice* |
| April 21 | **Polish IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | *Green Card* **(SIGN-UP SC. #3)** |
| April 26 | Russian | *Eastern Promises* |
| April 28 | **Russian IN-CLASS PERFORMANCE** | **Critique #3 Due** |
| May 3 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #3 Graded Exercise** |
| May 5 | **Scene with Accent Performance** | **SCENE #3 Graded Exercise** |
| **Tuesday, May 10** | **FINAL EXAM – 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.** | **Performance of Dialect Monologue** |

**\*** *As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Dr. Julienne A Greer.*

**CRITIQUES**

Over the course of the semester you will write three (3) two-plus (2+) page critiques of a film from the preceding column of examples focusing on the accents in the film. Students may pick another film or live stage production as approved by the instructor. A separate sheet will be passed out or placed on Blackboard with the paper’s requirements. The purpose of these written exercises is to assist you in formulating an analysis of dialect, vocal performance, and regionalisms as a structure to understand exemplary character work and performance on stage and in the cinema. You will be expected to apply terminology and analysis techniques learned in class and from the required text.

**Format: +2 pages, typed, double-spaced, stapled, separate cover sheet with name. Excellent writing, punctuation, and grammatical skills. Times New Roman 10-12 font.**

**IN-CLASS PERFORMANCES**

As each dialect is mastered there will be eight (8) in-class performances of the selected dialect. The performance will consist of a short monologue that ***each member*** of the class will perform. The monologues will be on Blackboard. The monologue must be **MEMORIZED**. The monologue will be graded Pass/Fail. A rubric will be on blackboard to determine the grade. All students must pass at least five (5) monologues or their grade will fall by one full letter grade.

**GRADED SCENES**

There are three (3) graded scenes. Scenes are selected by the student. Scene partners are selected by the student. Students are highly encouraged to change scene partners each scene. Scenes may be from stage or screenplays. Scenes are between 3 – 5 minutes long. Scenes are completely **MEMORIZED**. A grade rubric for scenes is on Blackboard. Students are graded on both dialect and acting work.

**Final Exam – Tuesday, May 10th, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

The final exam is a performance-based exam of a 1-2 minute monologue of the student’s choice. The work must be new. An effort to provide costuming, staging, set, performance notes, and props should be made. All actors must stay for the entire exam period.