EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION
THEATRE
School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design
Department of Theatre
FA / THEA 3060 3.0 SECTION A
PUBLIC SPEAKING: PREP, PRACTICE, PRESENT
FALL 2019 / WINTER 2020

Last Modified Date: 08/30/2019

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Examines how to prepare and practice for presentations in seminars, office, public events. Develops physical, vocal and rhetorical skills needed for public presentations. Prerequisite: third- or fourth- year standing, FA/THEA 2060.3.00 or permission of the department. Open to theatre majors and non-majors.

This upper level course examines how to prepare and practice for presentations for seminars, office, public events, etc. It will aid the student in developing the physical, vocal and rhetorical skills needed for public presentations. The course will address the technical issues of how to handle smaller meetings as well as large public auditoriums. The expected outcome is that the students will be fully prepared to do public speaking in a variety of arenas. Prerequisite: third or fourth year standing, Theatre 2060.3.0. Voice and Speech I or permission of the department. Open to theatre majors and non-majors.

INSTRUCTOR(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
<th>Contact Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mikhail, Peter</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / F</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter@petermikhail.com">peter@petermikhail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SPECIAL FEATURES

Course: THEA 3060 3.0 Public Speaking
Course Webpage: N/A
Term: Fall Term 2019
Prerequisite / Co-requisite:
Course Credit Exclusion: AK/THEA3060 3.0.

Course Director
Peter Mikhail
peter@petermikhail.com
Course Consultation hours: TBA By Appointment

Class Instructors:
PETER MIKHAIL
647-233-3910

MATTHEW ROSSOFF
Course consultation hours: TBA by Appointment
Email: peter@petermikhail.com
Email: matthewrossoff@gmail.com
**Time and Location**

- STDO SECTION A LAB 01  M 2:30 pm – 5:30 pm       ATK 102E
- STDO SECTION A LAB 02  M 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm       ATK 102E
- STDO SECTION A LAB 03 R 8.30 am - 11.30am       ATK 102E
- STDO SECTION A LAB 04 R 11:30 am – 2:30 pm       ATK 102E

This course presents a rare opportunity where the primary focus of a university course is dedicated to the art of communication based on understanding and employment of the human voice, and therefore, on the preparation and presentation of oral and spoken skills. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, we are witnessing a shift from the powerful tradition of the written and the spoken word as the two main forms of language communication, to competition from a five way split. The dominant modes of communication now are: 1) visual: print advertising and commercials, 2) the compression of e-mail and text messaging, 3) the aggressive beat of contemporary music and its reflection in its vocal track, 4) the excessive non-negotiation and politicalization of language (you’re with me or against me), 5) the tight throat locking voice reflecting the stress of modern society.

The human voice is a physical event, therefore the primary focuses of this course are:
1. To aid the students in developing a tangible physical experience and freedom in their vocal sound.
2. To develop an understanding how breathing is the basic working tool of the human voice and human communication.
3. To develop confidence in an active engagement with the breath and the physical body, thereby reducing performance stress, which in turn will help to develop specific skills for handling performance stress situations.
4. To develop interpersonal vocal skills so that we know when we are effectively communicating.
5. To develop skills in exploring an idea on one’s feet and articulating it in a manner to which another person can respond.
6. To examine, through practical exercises, the tension or stress patterns that inhibit our voices and therefore evolve skills in reducing vocal and performance stresses.
7. To develop a personal practice or warm up for improving your voice.
8. To develop a confidence in the preparation and rehearsal for an oral presentation.

Each three-hour studio session is divided into two parts. The first part is focused on a series of physical and vocal exercises designed to free your voice and develop an individual personal vocal warm up. The training will be though a combination of group and individual experiences led by the tutorial leader. The second half of the session will be devoted to the application of the physical and vocal skills to specific performance situations. Students will gain valuable experience in the oral presentation of research material, as well as personal, poetic, political, and rhetorical materials.

There will be some written assignments. In addition, students will be expected to keep a journal of their practice.

The instructor will supply each section with a section specific course outline in session 1.

Please note, there are twelve class sessions in total. Due to thanksgiving and reading week there are no classes in the week of October 12th 2019 to October 18th. The University is not in session and therefore the Monday and Wednesday class will not be in session that week. We will resume on October 21st.

---

**Course Text / Readings**
No texts are required for this course
A bibliography will be assigned.

**Evaluation**

Each student who comes to a studio course is arriving with a unique set of skills and potential. The class work grade reflects the individual’s attitude in exploring new concepts, their respect for own and for their colleagues unique development and the degree of mastery of the various studio investigations. As each studio session builds on the previous session, the familiarity and repeatability through practice is also noted.

The evaluation of the assignments and presentations will vary from instructor to instructor. Your instructor’s priorities will be noted on the individual section course outline. The final assignment is an oral presentation that will evolve out of the studio work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class work (participation, attitude, attendance)</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hat Talks</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Telling</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debating</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Oration</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Point</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product/Service Presentation (groups)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As this is a studio course, attendance at all sessions is a requirement. If you are late three times (10 minutes after the start time is late), it will count as one absence. Three absences is one quarter of the studio work. **As studio work cannot be made up, three absences is a failure.** This is a Department regulation for all studio courses. It is impossible to make up the loss in a studio course.

You will receive at least 15% of your overall grade prior to October 31st.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**DRESS:**

As the work in the first half of the term may be very physical, it is required that the students wear comfortable clothing that they can move around in: sweats, loose trousers. You will be working in socks or bare feet. In the second half of the term, you will need to dress appropriately for more formal presentations.

**CLASS STRUCTURE:**

Each class will be divided into two sections. The first part of each class will focus on the development of the physical and vocal exercises. The rest of each class will be focus on rhetorical skills and presentational skills.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Students are reminded that Department of Theatre rules require attendance at all classes. There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences - an absence is an absence and will affect your chances of success in this course.
Failure to attend classes will result in either academic penalty or a request that the student withdraw from the course.

LAST DATE TO DROP A FALL TERM COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE IS - November 8, 2019

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents)

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm
• York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
• Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
• Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
• Student Conduct Standards
• Religious Observance Accommodation

Academic Honesty and Integrity

York students are required to maintain high standards of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty (http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhone.htm).

There is also an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website (http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students.htm).

Access/Disability

York provides services for students with disabilities (including physical, medical, learning and psychiatric disabilities) needing accommodation related to teaching and evaluation methods/materials.

It is the student's responsibility to register with disability services as early as possible to ensure that appropriate academic accommodation can be provided with advance notice. You are encouraged to schedule a time early in the term to meet with each professor to discuss your accommodation needs. Failure to make these arrangements may jeopardize your opportunity to receive academic accommodations.

Additional information is available at www.yorku.ca/disabilityservices or from disability service providers:
• Learning and Psychiatric Disabilities Programs - Counselling & Development Centre: 130 BSB, 416-736-5297, www.yorku.ca/cdc

Ethics Review Process

York students are subject to the York University Policy for the Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants. In particular, students proposing to undertake research involving human participants
(e.g., interviewing the director of a company or government agency, having students complete a questionnaire, etc.) are required to submit an Application for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants at least one month before you plan to begin the research. If you are in doubt as to whether this requirement applies to you, contact your Course Director immediately.

**Religious Observance Accommodation**

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community, and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for an in-class test or examination pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Similarly, should an assignment to be completed in a lab, practicum placement, workshop, etc., scheduled later in the term pose such a conflict, contact the Course Director immediately. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods (December and April/May), students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from Student Client Services, Student Services Centre or online at http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/exam_accommodation.pdf

**Student Conduct**

Students and instructors are expected to maintain a professional relationship characterized by courtesy and mutual respect and to refrain from actions disruptive to such a relationship. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the instructor to maintain an appropriate academic atmosphere in the classroom, and the responsibility of the student to cooperate in that endeavour. Further, the instructor is the best person to decide, in the first instance, whether such an atmosphere is present in the class. A statement of the policy and procedures involving disruptive and/or harassing behaviour by students in academic situations is available on the York website http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/harass.htm

*Please note that this information is subject to periodic update. For the most current information, please go to the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):*

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm.}

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.

**Moodle @ York University**