### Voice and Diction 425.1

### Fall 2020

**Dr. Lynn Owens Office Hours: “On Demand”**

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**for a virtual appointment**

**Course Description**

MEJO 425.1 is designed to help you to build vocal skills that will serve you well in all your oral communication. More specifically, the techniques you will learn during this course will help you to communicate more effectively as an on-air broadcast journalist. We will start with the basics and end by working on specific professional vocal challenges. Along the way we will focus on these areas:

1. **Breathing** correctly to support your voice is the key to all good vocal production.
2. **Phonation** is the creation of vocal sound. During this course you will learn how your vocal folds work, how to keep them healthy, and how to use them more effectively.
3. **Articulation** refers to the formation and shaping of the sounds you create into crisp, clean syllables.
4. **Stress and intonation** variations will help you to turn those syllables into compelling words, and to convey their meaning more clearly.
5. **Resonance** refers to the use of resonating cavities to enrich and augment the tone of your voice. Use of the techniques you will learn in this course will literally help you to make your voice sound richer.
6. **Sounding conversational** in an artificial, electronic environment poses a unique challenge for all broadcast journalists. The techniques you learn in this course will help you to cut through the technological clutter and communicate more effectively with the real people in your audience.
7. **Going live** poses a variety of challenges for broadcast journalists. During this course you will learn tips to help you with live interviewing, reporting and anchoring; working both with and without a teleprompter.
8. **Tension** is a daily reality for broadcast journalists, and so are the vocal problems tension causes. This course will help you to develop effective strategies to cope with the stress you will face as a working professional.

**Academic Integrity**

During this course we will strive to be ethical journalists, adhering not only to the guidelines of the University of North Carolina Honor System but also to the codes of ethics developed by various professional journalism organizations. I encourage you to discuss issues and concerns about broadcast journalism inside and outside this class, but the work you submit is to be exclusively your own. You must be careful to give attribution wherever appropriate. Please refer to this website: <http://instrument.unc.edu/> if you have questions about upholding academic integrity in your work. Your participation in this course comes with my expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code.

**This course contains content that addresses the following AEJMC Competencies:**

* Understand and apply the principles and laws of freedom of speech and press for the country in which the institution that invites ACEJMC is located, as well as receive instruction in and understand the range of systems of freedom of expression around the world, including the right to dissent, to monitor and criticize power, and to assemble and petition for redress of grievances;
* Demonstrate an understanding of the history and role of professionals and institutions in shaping communications;
* Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of peoples and cultures and of the significance and impact of mass communications in a global society;
* Understand concepts and apply theories in the use and presentation of images and information;
* Demonstrate an understanding of professional ethical principles and work ethically in pursuit of truth, accuracy, fairness and diversity;
* Think critically, creatively and independently;
* Conduct research and evaluate information by methods appropriate to the communications professions in which they work;
* Write correctly and clearly in forms and styles appropriate for the communications professions, audiences and purposes they serve;
* Critically evaluate their own work and that of others for accuracy and fairness, clarity, appropriate style and grammatical correctness;
* Apply tools and technologies appropriate for the communications professions in which they work.

**Honor Code:** You areexpected to conduct yourself within the guidelines of the University honor system (<http://studentconduct.unc.edu/>). All academic work should be done with the high levels of honesty and integrity that this University demands. You are expected to produce your own work in this class.

**Diversity:** The University’s policy statements on Equal Employment Opportunity and Nondiscrimination are outlined at <http://policy.sites.unc.edu/files/2013/04/nondiscrim.pdf>. In summary, UNC does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of age, gender, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression or disabilities.

**Harassment:** UNC does not tolerate harassment based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, culture, disability, or for any other reason. It is also a violation of the Honor Code and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act (1964) and Title IX of the Educational Amendments. If you need assistance with a harassment issue or problem, bring it to my attention or The Office of the Dean of Students, [dos@unc.edu](mailto:dos@unc.edu) or 919.966.4042.

**Special Accommodations**: If you require special accommodations to attend or participate in this course, please let me know as soon as possible. If you need information about disabilities visit the Learning Center website at <http://learningcenter.unc.edu/ldadhd-services/> or call 919-962-3782.

**Course Materials**

There is no required text for the course. Links to reading material will be posted on Sakai.

**Grades and Assignments:**

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, all assignments are due at the start of class. Students will be penalized a letter grade (ex. B- to C+) for each day that the assignment is late. You cannot receive a passing grade in the course unless all assignments in the course are completed.

A numerical grade scale will be used on all papers and tests. Here are the letter equivalents:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 94 – 100 | A |  | 70 – 73.9 | C- |
| 91 – 93.9 | A- |  | 60-69.9 | D |
| 88 – 90.9 | B+ |  | 59.9 and below | F |
| 84 – 87.9 | B |  |  |  |
| 81 – 83.9 | B- |  |  |  |
| 78 – 80.9 | C+ |  |  |  |
| 74 – 77.9 | C |  |  |  |

# Final Grade Breakdown

Outside Advice Assignment 15%

Mock Live Shot 15%

Assignments 30%

Final Project 20%

Test 1 10%

Test 2 10%

Test1 (10%) and Test 2 (10%)

Readings and class notes in this course are intended to give you a scientific understanding of your vocal mechanism, and what you can do to keep it healthy and make it work better. You will be tested on information from handouts and class lecture materials in two tests.

Outside Advice Project (15%)

Beyond the information you will study in class, you will be expected to contact a working broadcast/communications professional to solicit advice and information about newsroom vocal problems and solutions. Your choices could include a news director, an anchor, a producer, or reporter. The person you choose must either work on air, or work in a collaborative or supervisory capacity with on-air talent. In addition to asking for information you will need a link to the person’s work (if he/she is on-air talent) or an example of work that your interview subject says he/she believes is an example of good voicing. You will write a 2-3-page report on your findings, and will make a presentation on them using VoiceThread.

Mock Live Shot (15%)

You will need to shoot a 60 second “straight live” shot as per the live shot guidelines taught in the course. The live shot should be uploaded to YouTube or Vimeo and a link sent to Dr. Owens

“In-class Assignments”/Homework (30%)

There will be a number of “in-class assignments” where you will be asked to add comments or record video within our VoiceThread class for the week. These assignments are always due the week of the class, and CANNOT be made up for credit.

Final Project (20%)

You will write/voice/record your own news, sports, or feature program (approximately 5 minutes), using the vocal techniques learned in the course.

**SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

*DUE DATES ARE ALWAYS ON SATURDAY AT 11:59 p.m.*

*Details about each assignment will always be included in the video classes - so please WATCH THE VIDEOS before asking questions about the assignments*

**WEEK 1 (Week of August 10)**

Required ZOOM Meeting @ 11:30 a.m. Tuesday 8/11 (Link will be emailed to you the week before)

Submit “Week 1 Assignment – Like/Dislike Assignment” under “Assignments” on Sakai by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 2 (Week of August 17)**

Watch “Week 2 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 3 (Week of August 24)**

Watch “Week 3 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 4 (Week of August 31)**

Watch “Week 4 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 5 (Week of September 7)**

Watch “Week 5 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 6 (Week of September 14)**

Watch “Week 6 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 7 (Week of September 21)**

“Test 1” under Assignments. Submit by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 8 (Week of September 28)**

Written “Outside Voice Assignment” due under Assignments by Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

Create your own VoiceThread presentation, and submit by Saturday at 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 9 (Week of October 5)**

Watch “Week 9 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 10 (Week of October 12)**

Watch “Week 10 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 11 (Week of October 19)**

Watch “Week 11 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 12 (Week of October 26)**

Mock Live Shots links must be posted under “Assignments” by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 13 (Week of November 2)**

Watch “Week 13 Class” under “VoiceThread” on Sakai

Add your video to the VoiceThread by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 14 (Week of November 9)**

“Test 2” under Assignments. Submit by Saturday 11:59 p.m.

**WEEK 15 (Week of November 16)**

Final Project link due under “Assignments” by Saturday 11:59 p.m.