

Syllabus for JOMC 425.001**Broadcast Voice and Diction Spring, 2008****Class Meetings**

Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 to 12:15AM, Carroll Hall 253

- *JOMC-425.1 cannot be taken concurrently with any course in which the lab or group meeting conflicts with JOMC-425.1 time periods.*

Instructor

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Assistant Professor

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Office Hours: 2:00 to 3:00 PM Tuesdays and Thursdays,

By Appointment,

And By Chance.

Teaching Assistant

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Course Description

JOMC 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 unique challenges 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.

Attendance

As in the broadcast industry, punctuality is essential and deadlines must be met. Classroom experiences are a vital part of the educational process. Therefore, regular class attendance is essential. The following policy governs absences and their effect upon your grade:

- I expect you to arrive on time, and to stay for the entire class period. For clock-setting purposes, visit <http://www.time.gov>. Arriving late, coming in and out during class and/or leaving early will have an impact on the class participation aspect of your grade. Do not schedule activities related to other classes that will conflict with your ability to attend these class sessions.
- One (1) absence – no penalty.
- Each additional absence will result in the deduction of three (3) points from your Class Attendance and Participation grade.
- Medical absences are not considered separately. Hardship medical cases and other personal emergencies will be considered when the situation arises. If you find yourself dealing with a contagious illness or an emergency situation notify me in **advance** of class by phone or e-mail.

Participation

One of the primary forms of participation in this class will be discussion. We will converse as a class and in small groups, thinking through issues together and critiquing our own work and the work of others. In order to create a good climate for everyone to participate, please follow these discussion guidelines:

- Be ready to share and explain your opinions. Feel free to disagree with others, but be specific in your own assertions and back them up with evidence.
- Listen carefully and respond to other members of the group. Be willing to change your mind when someone demonstrates an error in your logic or use of facts.
- Do not hesitate to ask for clarification of any point or term you do not understand.
- Make your point succinctly, avoid repetition, and stick to the subject.
- Be honest but sensitive in critiquing the work of others, whether you know the people involved or not. Keep the focus on the work, not the individuals, and

critique their work as carefully as you would hope to see someone else critique yours.

- When critiquing your own work, to the extent you can try to divorce yourself from your emotional connection to it so you can be as objective as possible.

To get the most out of our discussions, we must be prepared. That means you are responsible for having read that session's material and for having thought through any questions given out ahead of time.

Attire:

We will be doing vocal exercises during many of our class meetings. In order to get the full benefit from them I encourage you to **wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing to this class – clothing you will be willing to wear while lying on the floor.**

Undivided Attention

If you become a broadcast journalist you will utilize electronic devices daily, but all reporters must learn to listen well and take good notes without the aid of a computer. Before class begins please turn off all your electronic devices – laptop, PDA, cell phone, pager, etc. During class, all computers are to remain off at all times unless the instructor asks you to turn them on.

Course Materials

Required Text

[Utterback](#), A.S., *Broadcast Voice Handbook*, 4th ed., Bonus Books, ©2005

ISBN 1-56625-272-5

Note that this text is currently out of print. A .pdf version of the book on compact disk, though, is available at the Student Store or may be [purchased directly](#) from Dr. Utterback.

Recommended Materials

Stern, David Alan, *The Speaker's Voice*, Three CDs with companion text/drill manual available at <http://dialectaccentspecialists.com> A copy is on reserve at the Park Library. This is an excellent resource for anyone doing self-guided voice work. We will do some exercises from these recordings during this class.

David Stern has also produced a series of recordings to help speakers who wish to reduce their accents, whether domestic American or foreign. I strongly encourage anyone who is dealing with an accent issue to order the appropriate recording.

Grades and Assignments:

Unless otherwise specified by the instructor, all assignments are due at the start of class. If an extension is necessary for reasons such as illness or an unexpected event, arrangements must be made with the instructor **prior** to the day that the assignment is due. If such an extension is not granted, the student 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	71 – 73.9	C-
91 – 93.9	A-	64 – 67.9	D
88 – 90.9	B+	61 – 63.9	D-
84 – 87.9	B	60.9 and below	F
81 – 83.9	B-		
78 – 80.9	C+		
74 – 77.9	C		

Class attendance / participation in discussions	10%
Vocal Improvement	10%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	10%
Outside Advice Assignment	10%
Voice Analysis Project	10%
In-Class Recordings	10%

Class Attendance / Participation In Discussions (10%)

Active engagement in class discussions is integral to the success of the course. Therefore, attendance and participation are required. I expect you to come to class on time and prepared to participate in all course activities.

Vocal Improvement (10%)

The goal of this class is to help you to improve your speaking voice and your on-air presentation skills. Rates of improvement will vary from person to person. No students are expected to reach their full potential within the span of one semester, but all students are expected to make measurable progress in the basic areas of articulation, rate, volume, stress and intonation.

Mid-Term Exam	(20%)
Final Exam	(20%)
Quizzes	(10%)

The textbook in this course is 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 textbook and class lecture materials in a Mid-Term Exam, a Final Exam, and in one to three unannounced quizzes over assigned readings.

Outside Advice Project (10%)

Beyond the information you will study in class, you will be expected to contact a working broadcast professional to solicit advice and information about newsroom vocal problems and solutions. Your choices could include a news director, an anchor, a producer, or an on-air correspondent. Whoever you choose must either work on air, or work in a collaborative or supervisory capacity with on-air talent – and must **not** be a UNC graduate who has taken this course. In addition to asking for information you will be expected to solicit a tape or obtain a link to video from that individual to help illustrate the advice they are offering. You will write a one-page report on your findings, and will make a classroom presentation on them.

Voice Analysis Project (10%)

In addition to helping you develop a professional voice, a goal of this course is to help you develop a critical ear. To demonstrate your ability to accurately identify vocal problems you will be expected to analyze a broadcaster's voice, create a written evaluation, and make a classroom presentation explaining your findings.

In-Class Taping (10%)

As a demonstration of your presentation skills, you will be expected to make one or more recordings in the studio and/or in the field under as-live conditions utilizing material to be assigned by the instructor.

Class Topics, Readings, and Assignments by Date

Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignment DUE
Week 1	Preparation		
Wednesday January 11	Get acquainted Course overview Discuss syllabus Discuss text	Meet Dr. Utterback	
Week 2	Breathing		
Monday January 14	Breathing – The Key to Good Vocal Production	Utterback Foreword Introduction to the Fourth Edition Appendix A (From the CD or the Blackboard site – not from the printed textbook). Utterback Chapter 1	Sample various TV newscasts. Concentrate on anchor and reporter delivery. Note what you like – and what you don't.
Wednesday January 18	Breathing – The Key to Good Vocal Production		
Week 3	Recordings		
Monday January 21	Holiday No Class	Holiday No Class	Holiday No Class
Wednesday January 23	Record Arthur the Rat and The County Fair		Arthur The Rat and The County Fair Recording 1
Week 4	Phonation		
Monday January 28	Phonation – Using the Vocal Folds Effectively	Chapter 2	Make appointment with Prof. Cupp for individual Voice analysis
Wednesday January 30	Phonation – Using the Vocal Folds Effectively		
Week 5	Resonance		
Monday February 4	Resonance – Enriching Speech Sounds	Chapter 3	Bring a hand mirror to class.
Wednesday February 6	Resonance – Enriching Speech Sounds		

Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignment DUE
Week 6	Articulation/ Advice		
Monday February 11	Articulation – Forming and Shaping the Sound	Chapter 4	
Wednesday February 13	Articulation – Forming and Shaping the Sound		Outside Advice Written Reports Due
Week 7	Expression		
Monday February 18	Enhancing Meaning through Stress and Intonation	Chapter 5	
Wednesday February 20	Enhancing Meaning through Stress and Intonation		
Week 8			
Monday February 25	Review for Midterm		
Wednesday February 27	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam
Week 9	Natural Delivery		
Monday March 3	Sounding Conversational	Chapter 6	
Wednesday March 5	Sounding Conversational		
Week 10	Spring Break		
Monday March 10	Spring Break No Class	Spring Break No Class	Spring Break No Class
Wednesday March 12	Spring Break No Class	Spring Break No Class	Spring Break No Class
Week 11	Live		
Monday March 17	Going Live	Chapter 7	
Wednesday March 19	Phone Consultation with Ann Utterback		

Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignment DUE
Week 12	Live and Anchoring		
Monday March 24	Going Live	Record Live in Field	
Wednesday March 26	At the Anchor Desk	Chapter 8	Voice Analysis Project Due.
Week 13	Anchoring		
Monday March 31	At the Anchor Desk	Anchor Recordings	Chapter 8 Quiz
Wednesday April 2	Review Anchor Recordings		
Week 14	Stress		
Monday April 7		Record Arthur the Rat and The County Fair	
Wednesday April 9	Coping with Stress Reality 101	Chapter 9	
Week 15	Project Reviews		
Monday April 14	Review Projects		
Wednesday April 16	Review Projects		
Week 16	Exam Prep		
Monday April 21	Review Projects		
Wednesday April 23	Review for Final Exam		
Week 17			
Monday April 28	FINAL EXAM 12 Noon	FINAL EXAM 12 Noon	FINAL EXAM 12 Noon