

Accents Across America
#Hashtag Comedy Columbus
Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Colton Weiss

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PHONE: 740-222-3539 (cell)

DATE/TIME: April 9-30 (Thursdays @ 7-9pm)

LOCATION: Zoom Video

WEBSITE: <https://app.slack.com/client/TJK177C8M/G0117RSP5N1>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Participants will explore iconic dialects spoken throughout the country. By the end of this class, students' will learn the foundations to multiple dialects - ranging from Boston, NYC, Applachaian, Texas, Minisotta and more. Students will learn skills for efficiently analysing and acquiring a new dialect quickly, as well as get ample chances to improv and act using these new speech skills.

GOALS: By the end of this class, participants will...

- ★ Understand the components of an accent and how to approach learning new accents.
- ★ Expand their range of speech and voice skills for acting and performing with accents.
- ★ Have an understanding of 3-4 different accents they can continue practicing on their own.

SCHEDULE OUTLINE **Changes are VERY possible**

April 9 - New England (Boston / NYC)

- Exploring the 4 P's of accent work
- Break down NYC sample
- Compare NYC & Boston

HW: Record and upload a short sample of yourself practicing NYC or Boston

April 16 - The South (Kentucky to Texas)

- What is Southern?
- Differences across the region
- Analyzing samples

HW: Find, analyze, and share a southern sample you like. Upload a practice sample of you.

April 23 - The North and West (Minnesota to California.)

- Comparing regions
- The humor of accents
- Accents vs. impersonation

HW: Prep a monologue/scene idea to explore for final class.

April 30 - Application & Performance

- Recap, clarify any accent?
- Practice monologues, scenes for feedback
- Final feedback

EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

Since this course will only meet ‘in person’ 4 times for a total of roughly 8 hours during the entire month, attendance and participation is vital to maximize your benefit! If you are running late or will be absent for an unforeseen reason, text or email me (see above). I will check my email/phone before starting class.

Between Classes

Given the limited number of meetings we will have, it is highly recommended students explore concepts outside of class on a regular basis. Ideally, students should devote at least 15-30 minutes a day reviewing concepts, exercises and documenting any new discoveries they encounter. Along with personal exploration, I will assign **homework** each week for participants to investigate and share with the group.

Professionalism

Expectations are based on each individual’s commitment to the following:

- ***Personal & Vocal growth*** - Your voice is a vital tool for how you tell stories, and you have decided to invest time/energy into expanding your creative range. Get curious and make the most of your time.
- ***Willingness to take risks and explore new skills*** - We all make funny sounds, and we are in this class together! Support and encourage each other as we navigate this new environment together.
- ***Online learning*** - This may be a new way of learning for many people. While we work, please be mindful of others. Mute yourself if you are not actively working to minimize background noise. We may still stand and move on screen at times, so (PLEASE) wear shirts and shorts/pants.

Readings (Recommended)

Content for the course is based on the listed texts. If students want to know more about this work, please review this material outside of class, and ask the instructor for more details.

- *Speaking with Skill*, Dudley Knight (2012)
- *Standard Speech: The Ongoing Debate*, Dudley Knight (1997)
- *Standards*, Dudley Knight (2000)