



AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

CONTINUING EDUCATION

COURSE SYLLABUS/OUTLINE DEVELOPMENT FORM

1. **Name of Course:** Accent Reduction

2. **Number of Clock Hours:** 18

3. **Course Description:**

Is your accent limiting your effective communication in your professional and personal relationships? And for the actor, is your regional dialect keeping you from working? In our Accent Reduction Class, led by Certified Lessac Voice & Speech Trainer Mj Vandivier, you will learn a simple, proven methodology to modify accent usage, reduce unwanted regionalisms, and strengthen overall speech. Limited to 8 students.

4. **Course Objectives:**

To soften native accents and emphasize the American dialect.

5. **Rationale: State the reason for offering the course:**

As an acting school, our goal is to train those interested in this field—but as communicators, we also have the tools to train those outside our industry to better communicate, and specifically, with language skills. Many people are moving to Austin from other places to work in our high tech and other industries, and they are finding that their particular dialect is keeping them from effective communication in the workplace as well as in personal relationships. Our goal is to offer this course, not only for the actor to have control over his/her individual regionalism, but anybody interested in having clarity of language.

6. **Required Materials:**

A recording device, (other than the phone *if possible*)

Water for easy access (drinking fountains are available on the campus)

Dress comfortably for movement

7. **Course Outline: What topics and sub-topics will be covered in this course?**

- 1) Foundation of the Voice, posture, breath and the start of American Vowels
- 2) Warm-ups, continued work on American Vowels into Neutral Vowels
- 3) Consonants
- 4) American Dialect
- 5) Selected text for exploration