

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PT6106 – Women’s Teaching Lab I – Gospel Communication

Dr. Karen Ellis kellis@rts.edu

Dates: **Every Tuesday from 6pm-9pm, March 3 – May 5**

- No class on April 7 due to Spring Break.

Office Hours: By appointment; feel free to contact Dr. K through your Canvas account.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly... in whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col 3:16-17).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This twelve-week masterclass equips women to proclaim the gospel with clarity, credibility, and creative flair across multiple public platforms. Integrating rigorous vocal training (Linklater-style work on breath and resonance, the Gister, Stanislavsky, and Meisner acting techniques, and clinical vocal hygiene) with Reformed theological reflection, the course nurtures a Christ-centered voice that serves rather than performs, invites rather than dominates, and points hearers to the crucified and risen Lord.

COURSE GOALS

1. **Spiritual Formation** – Ground all communication in prayer, Scripture, and reflecting the character of God.
2. **Vocal Stewardship** – Maintain and develop the instrument through evidence-based hygiene and Linklater awareness.
3. **Embodied Presence** – Apply Gister’s principles of truthful action to cultivate authenticity and holy confidence.
4. **Platform Versatility** – Adapt gospel messaging to video, interview, lecture, inspirational talk, public speech, and short video presentation.
5. **Constructive Critique** – Practice charitable yet exacting feedback in community so that each participant’s voice is sharpened for kingdom service.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate healthy vocal production under moderate load.
- Craft and deliver six distinct formats of gospel-centered content.
- Evaluate peers’ work using theological, rhetorical, and artistic criteria.
- Produce a polished five-minute capstone presentation suitable for public release.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RESOURCES

- **Kristin Linklater** – *Freeing the Natural Voice* (any edition).
- **Earl Gister & David Hammond** – *Acting and the Craft of Being* (excerpts provided).
- **D. A. Carson**, *The Gospel as Public Truth* (excerpts provided).
- Water bottle, cork (semi-occluded exercise), yoga mat or blanket, recording device.
Come to every class dressed to move in non-restrictive attire.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Hour 1 – Devotional Lecture / Demo / Vocal Warmup

Hours 2 & 3 – Student Presentations & Feedback (10-min comfort break midway)

Week	Lecture Focus	Student Exercise
1	Theology of Voice & Image-bearing; Fundamentals of Vocal Hygiene; Honoring God and Others; Gister Method and Biblical Basics	2-min personal introduction.
2	Linklater: Breath & Body Release; Articulation & Diction; Text & Body Work Gister: Moment-to-Moment Truth	Psalm reading for resonance; 3-min cold readings.
3	Resonance, Range & Projection; Hydration routines Stagecraft; Understanding and Using Kinetic Space	3-min gospel narrative storytelling
4	Interview Skills: Generosity, Listening, Clarity, Brevity, Focus.	Mock interviews (pairs/trios)
5	Lecture Construction: Argument & Authority	5-10 min micro-lecture on doctrine
6	SPRING BREAK	RTS CLOSED
7	Inspirational Talks: Story, Pathos, Eschatological Hope	5-10 min TED-style talk
8	Public Speech: Rhetoric, Audience Engagement, Controversy & Ethics	5-10 min public address
9	Cross-Platform Adaptation; Digital Presence/Ethics	Re-cast one piece for a new medium
10	FINAL Capstone; Raising and Sustaining the Voice for Ministry	Final fifteen-minute presentation & reflection on stewardship of people, platform, and body.

Peer feedback journals and Self Reflection Essays DUE Friday May 15

ASSIGNMENTS

- Weekly Prepared Presentations (40 %) – Attendance is to the glory of God; you will be graded weekly on punctuality, preparedness, and progress.
- Peer Feedback Journals (Online in Canvas) (20 %) – Theological, technical, and spiritual reflections/comments.
- Capstone Presentation (30 %) – Graded on theological faithfulness, presentation growth, vocal health, and platform suitability.
- Self-Reflection Essay (10 %) – 1,000 words on personal growth and future stewardship.

GRADING

PT6106 – Women’s Teaching Lab I	
Weekly Prepared Pieces (9)	49.5%
Peer Feedback Journals	10%
Capstone Project	30%
Self-Reflection Essay	10.5%
TOTAL	100%

GRADE SCALE

97-100 A	86-87 B-	75-77 D+
94-96 A-	83-85 C+	72-74 D
91-93 B+	80-82 C	70-71 D-
88-90 B	78-79 C	00-70 F

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: ST6516 Worldview and Christian Perseverance

Professor: K.A. Ellis

Campus: Atlanta/Sync

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong 	The course challenges students to 9 weeks of concentrated oral communication, with biblical understanding and application, in numerous venues.
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderate 	Students are encouraged to incorporate Scripture and a biblical worldview in all presentations.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong 	All presentations presume a biblical worldview.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Moderate 	Patience in engaging other members of the class in discussion groups; yielding, disagreeing, agreeing.

Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	➤ Strong	Gospel communication and biblical ethics are central.
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	➤ Moderate	Patience in engaging other members of the class in discussion groups; yielding, disagreeing, agreeing.
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	➤ Strong	Prepares the student for Gospel communication to the church and unchurched.

Date 7 August 2024

Zoom Policy

Your professor may allow you to Zoom into class or watch Zoom recordings for excused absences based on the professor's discretion and subject to the availability of equipment. Students should contact their professor well in advance of the class meeting. For a third absence the Registrar should be consulted. Your professor may require additional interactive assignments to offset the absence of classroom interaction. Sync or Remote Live courses have priority for the limited Zoom equipment.

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Registrar's Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 46 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 18)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 49)