

Date: Spring 2006

- I. Course Name: Vocal Communication
Prefix and Number: COM 111
Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours
Course Description:
A one semester course in the improvement of the speaking voice through vocal techniques and the interpretation of literature.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

A. Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course students will have:

1. Developed an understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the vocal mechanism through study and practice.
2. An understanding of the need for improved vocal communication skills.
3. An understanding of stage fright and how to control nervousness.
4. Developed proper alignment and breath control.
5. An understanding of how sound is produced and learned techniques for producing better quality sound.
6. Learned the different categories of voice types/qualities.
7. Developed the appropriate degree of loudness/projection.
8. Proper techniques of articulation.
9. The skills to maintain an expressive voice through the proper use of pitch, emphasis, rate, duration and pausing.
10. Improved and discovered correct pronunciation.
11. Gained an understanding of and a general introduction to the IPA.
12. The use of physical techniques before an audience.
13. Skills to interpret different types of literature and an increased understanding by working with various texts.
14. Developed a vocal warm-up the performer can use for rehearsal, class, and performance.

B. Relationship to Academic programs and curriculum:

This is a required course for Theatre Arts majors and can be a Humanities course for Liberal Arts and Science majors. This course is also a communications elective for the Communications program.

C. College competencies addressed by the course:

Oral Communication
Reading
Problem-Solving
Ethics/Values
Information Resources
Professional Competency

III. Methods of Instruction

A. Types of Course Materials

- a. Textbook
- b. Various texts for performance

B. Methods of Instruction

- a. Lectures
- b. Discussions
- c. Exercises/warm-ups,
- d. Readings (in-class and prepared)
- e. Voice analysis
- f. Videos
- g. Critique sessions

C. Assessment Measures

- a. Activities involve students demonstrating skill through oral performances.
- b. Students are also asked to explain various concepts on exams and illustrate their knowledge of the IPA by translating sentences.

D. Methods of Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on **participation, effort, attitude, and improvement**. Assignments include prepared readings, in-class assignments, tests, a final exam and a Final Presentation.

IV. General Outline of Topics covered

- A. The Importance of a clear speaking voice
- B. The Breathing Process
- C. How the body produces and resonates sound
- D. Vocal Quality and Voice Types
- E. Loudness and Projection
- F. Articulation
- G. Sounds and Symbols
- H. Consonant Groups
 - a. Plosives
 - b. Glides
 - c. Nasals
 - d. Fricatives
 - e. Affricates
- I. Vowels
 - a. Front
 - b. Middle
 - c. Back

- d. Diphthongs
- J. Expressiveness
 - a. Pitch
 - b. Variation
 - c. Rate
 - d. Duration
- K. Putting it all together