

COURSE OUTLINE

SPCH-260 Voice and Diction 3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course allows students to experience and understand the basic tools of communication, voice, and diction. Class exercises include relaxation, alignment, breathing, phonation, resonance, articulation, vocal range, and inflection. Students will develop a knowledge and sense of their own voice and speech expressing who they are and what they feel. Students will demonstrate mastery of the International Phonetic Alphabet through testing and a final memorized performance. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly) NOTE: Also listed as THET-260.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Analyze his/her own voice, dialect, and range.
2. Use this knowledge to aid in improving their vocal quality.
3. Observe how exercises and reading from the text aid improvement and knowledge of the voice.
4. Present thoughts and observations in the form of a journal.
5. Analyze the vocal performances of professional actors.
6. Perform a thorough vocal warm-up.
7. Demonstrate mastery of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
8. Utilize these skills to perform Shakespeare sonnets, poetry, and speeches with vocal clarity, articulation, and projection.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to voice work
 - A. Relaxation
 - B. Alignment
 - C. Breathing
- II. Development of the warm-up
- III. Discussions/critiques of vocal production
 - A. Student vocal work
 - B. Professional actor assessments
- IV. Exploration of the International Phonetic Alphabet
 - A. Mastery of writing all sounds phonetically
 - B. Utilize knowledge to work phonetically with a text
 - C. Demonstrate phonetic and vocal improvements in final performance

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include:

- Grading: Criteria for evaluation is as follows:
 - Daily active participation
 - Phonetics worksheets
 - Memorized performance
 - Written assignment(s)/examination(s)
- Completion of assignment(s) and practicum/final examination(s)
- Attendance at an area performance

Writing: Includes a paper or papers assigned by the individual faculty member

Reading: Assignments from required text with journal entries

Students must wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring a bottle of water to hydrate.

Other Course Information

This course serves as a requirement for the Theatre Performance program and the Speech and Written Communication Option of the Communications Studies program. It also serves as an elective in the Journalism and Media Communications Option of that same program. The course also serves as a Fine Arts, Humanities and Arts and Sciences elective.