

COURSE OUTLINE

THET-261 Dialects for the Actor 3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

This course will explore how to improve the voice through warm-ups and phonetic articulation. The students will use this knowledge to aid them in learning four different dialects: standard British, Cockney, variations of American Southern, and French. Students will demonstrate how to research a dialect, mark a text, and speak the dialect using the sounds that are character relevant. Students will perform a monologue for each dialect learned. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Analyze his/her own dialect phonetically.
2. Use this knowledge when tackling a new dialect.
3. Observe how exercises and reading from the text aid in improving ability to hear and speak the new dialect.
4. Present dialect observations in the form of a journal.
5. Analyze the dialect work of professional actors.
6. Perform a more thorough vocal warm-up.
7. Demonstrate mastery of correctly speaking and writing phonetically each dialect.
8. Utilize these skills to perform a monologue with each dialect (four monologues total) and write the text phonetically in respect to the dialect.

Major Topics

- I. Review of voice work and phonetics
- II. Exploration of dialects and their sounds
 - A. Standard British
 - B. Cockney
 - C. Variations of American Southern
 - D. French
- III. Discussions/critiques of dialect performances
 - A. Student work
 - B. Professional actor assessments
- IV. Performance of monologues using the dialects

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 performances
 - 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. The course also serves as a Fine Arts, Humanities and Arts and Sciences elective.