

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE
SPCM/THTR 133
Voice and Diction
3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

Voice and Diction

Explores the fundamentals of voice production; examines including the nature of sound, projection, pronunciation, enunciation, phonetics (consonant and vowel articulation) in relation to standard American speech; emphasizes analysis of the individual student's voice and diction in a self-improving format.

Prerequisites: (RDNG 051 or LVR 1); (ENGL 051 or LVE 1)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Recognize and identify the anatomical structures of the vocal tract and process the physiology of the vocal instrument.
2. Understand the nature of consonant and vowel production, to comprehend the production of speech sounds.
3. Assess the magnificence and power of language.
4. Discern, amortize, and integrate the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), to enhance the ability to discriminate effectively the unique speech sounds of standard American pronunciation.
5. Recognize and develop an understanding of the value, dignity, and respect due non-standard (albeit within their contexts, correct) pronunciation in regionalisms, dialects, multi-cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.
6. Develop an "ear" for standard and non-standard phonemic pronunciation, that is, effective listening skills.
7. Assimilate effective coaching in oral interpretation and voice production to enhance improvement level in these disciplines.
8. Appreciate the ephemeral, symbolic nature of speech and language.

Major Topics in Voice and Diction

- I. Anatomy and physiology of voice production: Diaphragmatic breathing; Tone and timbre of voice; Articulation; Fluency.

- II. Language development: Phonetics (consonant and vowel pronunciation); Morpheme (phonetic combinations to form words); Syntax; Comprehension.
- III. Prosody, resonance, and vocal variety.
- IV. Breathing, relaxation, and vocal exercises.
- V. Analysis of text to realize improvement levels in oral interpretation.
- VI. Collaborative projects: Chants and Choral Odes.
- VII. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation in class.
2. A minimum of 1 written examination identifying anatomy and physiology.
3. Transcription worksheets to describe exercises in IPA to standard and non-standard English, standard and non-standard English to IPA.
4. A minimum of 1 written examination in IPA transcription.
5. Oral assessment in individual improvement in a minimum of 2 vocal interpretive assignments.
6. Class participation in collaborative project(s).
7. Oral assessment in engagement and practicing breathing and oral exercises.

Other Course Information

THTR 133 satisfies partial completion of Suggested Pattern Electives required For Departmental certification in Theatre.

During some semesters, a specific section will be offered that emphasizes the development of voice training for the actor. This section will be noted on the schedule with an asterisk.

NOTE: Credit may be received for SPCM or THTR 133, but not for both.

The Community College of Baltimore County is committed to providing a high-quality learning experience that results in a growth of knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to function successfully as a transfer student, as a career and as a citizen. To accomplish this goal, we maintain high academic standards and expect students to accept responsibility for their individual growth by attending class, completing all homework, projects, and assignments, participating in class activities, and preparing for tests. Since much of this course is predicated upon the self-improvement levels of the student in the learning-centered environment, rigorous self-commitment, discipline, and attention to the transcription and oral exercises and presentations are significant to success attainment.

