

Common Course Outline
CMNS/THTR 133
Voice and Diction
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

CMNS/THTR 133 – Voice and Diction introduces students to the process of linking voice production and the nature of sound, projection, pronunciation, enunciation, and phonetics to the intellectual and emotional landscape of the speaker and listener. Students analyze and develop their own voice and diction through various practice and performance formats.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. explain how the human voice is an instrument of emotional and intellectual expression;
2. identify anatomical structures of the vocal and breathing mechanisms;
3. demonstrate good diaphragmatic breathing habits;
4. explain the nature of consonant and vowel production to aid in the production of speech sound;
5. demonstrate a personal practice that fosters a freer, stronger voice;
6. demonstrate the proper choice of language and pronunciation as they pertain to various professional, casual, and and/or performance contexts;
7. demonstrate approaches to a range of styles and structures of texts;
8. demonstrate the ability to listen dynamically to the body, voice, and emotional impulses of self and others; and
9. demonstrate the coordination of voice with facial expression and body movement for overall message success.

Major Topics

- I. Anatomy and Physiology of Voice Production
 - A. Diaphragmatic breathing
 - B. Tone and timbre
 - C. Articulation
 - D. Fluency
- II. Language and Development
 - A. Phonetics: Consonant and Vowel Pronunciation

- B. Syntax: Arrangement of Words in Sentences, Clauses, Phrases
- III. Prosody: Rhythm, Stress, Intonation
 - A. Resonance: Interaction of Vocal Cords and Pharynx
 - B. Vocal Variety: Pace, Projection, Pause, Pitch
- IV. Breathing, Relaxation, Vocal Exercises
 - A. Lessac Kinesensic Method
 - B. Linklater Vocal Method
 - C. Alexander Technique
 - D. Other Techniques Deemed Appropriate by Instructor
- V. Vocal Quality
 - A. Breathiness
 - B. Nasal and Denasal
 - C. Throaty
 - D. Glottal Shock
 - E. Harsh Vocal Fry
 - F. Hoarseness
- VI. Text Analysis and Performance Preparation
- VII. Group Performance Techniques
- VIII. Vocal Health

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by individual faculty members but will include the following:

Grading/Exams:

- minimum of 1 written test
- minimum of 3 vocal interpretation performances
- minimum of 2 response papers analyzing an observed oral presentation
- students are required to use appropriate academic resources
- minimum of 3 vocal evaluations (assessments evaluating improvement levels, based upon comparisons of work done by the student at beginning of semester, mid-semester, and end of semester.)

Written Assignments:

Students are required to use academic resources.

Other Course Information:

This course is a requirement for the Theatre Arts Area of Concentration.

This course is an elective for the Communication and Media Studies Area of Concentration.

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