

Common Course Outline
THTR/CMNS 133
Voice and Diction
3 Semester Hours

Community College of Baltimore County

Description

THTR/CMNS 133 – 3 credits – Voice and Diction explores the fundamentals of voice production; examines 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: ACLT 052

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course the student 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 with their context, 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; and
8. Appreciate the ephemeral, symbolic nature of speech and language.

Major Topics

- 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 descry 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 projects(s)
7. Oral assessment in engagement and practicing breathing and oral exercises.

Other Course Information

THTR 133 satisfies partial completion os 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/CMNS or THTR, but not for both.