

WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Valhalla, NY 10595

SYLLABUS

COURSE Voice & Diction

INSTRUCTOR Professor Kalfayan

OFFICE LOCATION SC309

OFFICE TELEPHONE 785-7873 (please leave a message on the voice mail service if I am unavailable).

TEXT *Voice and Articulation* by Kenneth Crannell

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Mature and effective use of the voice and speech mechanism; breathing, phonation, resonance, articulation; individual instruction and practice in voice and speech improvement. Several varieties of American English are introduced as well as discussion of the many languages, cultures, and dialects that have influenced American English. Class hours 3. Offered every semester.

OBJECTIVES

This course provides students with:

1. An illustration of the principles of voice production.
2. A recognition and practice of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
3. Exploration of paralinguistics.
4. An explanation of articulation and articulation faults.
5. An evaluation and self assessment of their own voice.
6. An analysis of the relationship of language to speech.
7. A determination that their level of improvement is achieved through practice not only in the class sessions but with additional time (outside of class) practicing with the prescribed audio tape or tapes.

METHOD EMPHASIS

Through constant practices in breath support, vocal variety, articulation and using effective pausing techniques, the student will become more at ease in voice and speech performance. The student will also become more skilled in critical listening and analysis of other's voices.

SPECIFIC AIMS

Students will study the vocal mechanism including respiration, resonance and phonation. Further, they will examine the use of duration, volume, pitch and quality. All students will participate in an initial individual speech analysis and throughout the duration of the course emphasis will be placed on identifying and improving problem areas.

PROCEDURE

Students will be involved in a variety of in-class learning experiences through required textbook readings, discussion and lecture notes, workshop activities, lab settings, small group task related exercises, individual presentations, written assignments, examinations and a paper.

GRADING POLICY

Voice Assignment – This assignment is 10% of your final grade. This is a written and oral assignment. Using the lecture and text notes given within the first weeks of class the students will have to incorporate this theory into practice.

Presentation – Prepare a 8-10 minute presentation using a specific theme within the central headings of comedy or tragedy. Each presentation must begin with a narrator introducing the performance, transitions connecting the three contemporary poems or prose selections and a conclusion. This presentation is accompanied by a written analysis of your selected literature and a written manuscript using the proper script markings (to be taught in class). This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

Mid-term Examination – This exam is worth 15% of your final grade.

Speech Assignment – This assignment is worth 10% of your final grade. Using the speech production techniques learned in theory the student will now present the knowledge of these skills verbally. A journal article or news article usually selected for this assignment.

Documentary – Prepare a 10-12 minute verbal and written documentary. Each student will prepare an original manuscript, telling of a people, a person, a time or an event. Research must be documented with the use of a bibliography. Each manuscript must be typed and triple space allowing room for voice and speech script markings. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

Final Examination – This exam presents your knowledge of the course, specifically the International Phonetic Alphabet. This exam is given during exam week and is worth 15% of your final grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A grade will be given for your attendance accordingly:

- A grade of “A” will be given as your attendance grade if you have three (3) or less absences.
- A grade of “B” will be given as your attendance grade if you have four (4) to six (6) absences.
- A grade of “C” will be given as your attendance grade if you have seven (7) to eight (8) absences.

ATTENDANCE POLICY (continued)

- A grade of “D” will be given as your attendance grade if you have nine (9) absences.
- A grade of “F” will be given as your attendance grade if you have ten (10) absences.
- Classes that meet once a week – for each hour of class it is considered a meeting time. For example, a student that walks into class one hour late will have one absence.
- If you do walk into class five or ten minutes late, due to an unusual situation, remember to tell me at the **end** of class.

NOTE: Being absent does not excuse you from your responsibility for completed assignments, test, speech deadlines or group work. If a student is absent, *they* are responsible for obtaining assignments from a classmate. It is suggested that you form study groups and trade phone numbers with a classmate for this purpose.

IN-CLASS VOICE AND SPEECH EXERCISES

1. The Voice Mechanism
 - a. Properties borrowed from our life support system
 - b. Respiration exercises and faults due to incorrect breathing
 - c. Phonation and an understanding of faults
 - d. Resonation and faults due to incorrect understanding of our chambers
 - e. Articulation and the proper demonstration of the 43 American English sounds
2. Properties of Voice
 - a. Pitch Variety Exercises
 - b. Volume Emphasis
 - c. Duration Techniques
 - d. Quality – An understanding of the 12 voice qualities
3. Vowels
 - a. In-class lab sessions to reduce nasality
 - b. Individual assignments geared to reduce nasality
4. Diphthongs
 - a. In-class lab sessions to reduce nasality
 - b. Individual assignments geared to reduce nasality
5. Consonants
 - a. In-class workshops implementing positive placement and breath stream
 - b. Individual exercises highlighting typical substitutions, omissions, distortions and additions
6. Language/Accent/Linguistics/Regionalism/Dialect/Speech
 - a. Identifying the above with use of examples in both American English and foreign languages
 - b. Monitoring exercises in hearing

COURSE OUTLINE

Weeks 1 through 15

Introduction
Individual Speech Evaluations
Properties of Voice Chapter 1
Proper Breathing Techniques for Voice and Speech (Chapter 2)
The Voice (Chapter 3)
Theory and Relaxation Exercises (Chapters 4 & 5)
Vocal Dynamics (Chapter 9)
Manuscript Preparation Lecture
Vocal Variety Assignment (Assignment 2 under *Grading*)
Mid-term Exam

Production on Consonants (Chapter 7)
Production of Vowels (Chapter 6)
Accents/Regionalisms/Dialects (Chapters 12 & 13)
Pronunciation (Chapter 8)
Applications (Chapters 10 & 11)
Speech Assignment (see *Grading*)
Appendixes to be used throughout the duration of the lecture/discussions in class
Final Examination

Special Note: In meeting the goals of this course, please feel free to seek my assistance.

TESTING

Measurement of knowledge through vocal skills in presentations:

Adaption ➤ Reading Selection/Manuscript Preparation
 ➤ Audience
 ➤ Situation

Delivery ➤ Volume/Use of Range/Appropriateness
 ➤ Duration/Use of Range/Appropriateness
 ➤ Quality
 ➤ Articulation
 ➤ Pronunciation
 ➤ Choppiness/Hesitations/Repeats
 ➤ Crutch Phrases/Asides/Sounds

Application ➤ Appropriateness
 ➤ Timing
 ➤ Use of Phrasing/Pausing
 ➤ Elongation of Vowels/Forward Focus

TESTING (continued)

Articulation/Vocal Variety/Speech

- Plosives
- Fricatives/Affricates
- Glides/Lateral/Nasals
- Vowels
- Diphthongs

Written measurement of knowledge in areas of:

- Voice
- Resonation
- Respiration
- Pitch
- Quality (12)
- Faults of Speech
- Vowel
- Cognate
- Allophone
- Larynx
- Plosives
- Nasals
- Lateral
- Affricates
- Dentalization
- Unstressed
- Voiceless
- Glottal Attack
- Speech
- Phonation
- Volume
- Duration
- Faults of Voice
- Script Markings
- Diphthong
- Articulators (7)
- International Phonetic Alphabet (43 characters and their proper articulators)
- Glides
- Fricatives
- Glottis
- Stressed
- Voiced
- Glottal Stop