Course Syllabus

Department: Visual and Performing Arts

Date: August 2012

I. Course Prefix and Number: COM 111

   Course Name: Voice and Diction

   Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours and 3 contact hours

   Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: A one semester course in the improvement of the speaking voice through vocal techniques and the interpretation of literature.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

   Student Learning Outcomes: The primary objectives of the course are to help the student improve vocal technique for communication; to develop the ability to interpret different kinds of literature for performance in front of an audience; and to provide a foundation and a supplement for other types of speech training, such as public speaking, acting, radio, and television, etc. This will be achieved through practical exercises in alignment, relaxation, breathing, resonance, projection, and articulation.

   The student will:
   1. Identify and describe the anatomy and physiology of the human vocal apparatus.

   2. Demonstrate improved vocal communication skills and describe their importance.

   3. Practice techniques to help control nervousness.

   4. Participate in physical exercises to achieve proper alignment and increase breath control.

   5. Describe the differences in breathing to speak and breathing to live; as well as the difference between clavicular breathing and deep-central breathing.

   6. Be able to describe how sound is produced by the human vocal apparatus and practice techniques for producing better quality sound.

   7. Describe, identify, and demonstrate the different categories of voice types/qualities.

   8. Practice to produce 4 distinct levels of volume and perform with the appropriate degree of loudness/projection.

   9. Demonstrate improved articulation as a result of practicing drills to increase accurate pronunciation and the clear articulation of words.
10. Demonstrate expressive speech through the proper use of pitch, emphasis, rate, duration and pausing.

11. Discover resources and demonstrate knowledge of the correct pronunciation of standard American English.

12. Transcribe words using the International Phonetic Alphabet and read aloud sentence written using the IPA.

13. Interpret different types of literature through performing a variety of texts.

14. Develop and lead a vocal warm-up for use in rehearsal, class, and performance.

**Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:**

This course is strongly recommended for students in the Theatre Arts advisement area and can also serve as a humanities elective for Liberal Arts and Science programs.

This course is also an optional elective within the AS Communications program and is often taken by students pursuing degrees in education, nursing, and other public service career paths.

**College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:**

- [ ] writing
- [x] oral communications
- [x] reading
- [ ] mathematics
- [x] critical thinking
- [ ] computer literacy
- [ ] ethics/values
- [ ] citizenship
- [ ] global concerns
- [ ] information resources

### III. Instructional Materials and Methods

**Types of Course Materials:**

- Text book
- Various texts for performance and practice.

**Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar ...):**

- Lectures, discussions, exercises/warm-ups, readings (in-class and prepared), voice analysis, tests, multimedia presentations, and critique sessions.
IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):
Assessments include prepared readings for analysis and performance, in-class assignments and activities, tests and a final cumulative presentation.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

A. The Importance of a clear speaking voice
B. The Breathing Process
C. How the body produces and resonates sound
D. Vocal Quality and Voice Types
E. Loudness and Projection
F. Articulation
G. Sounds and Symbols
H. Consonant Groups
   a. Plosives
   b. Glides
   c. Nasals
   d. Fricatives
   e. Affricates
I. Vowels
   a. Front
   b. Middle
   c. Back
   d. Diphthongs
J. Expressiveness
   a. Pitch
   b. Variation
   c. Rate
   d. Duration
K. Putting it all together