

DRAMA247

Introduction to Oral Communication

3 Credits

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DRAMA247 Version: 1



Introduction to Oral Communication

Calendar Description

Drama 247 is a practical course designed to explore basic techniques of oral presentation skills through expressive interpretation of written and self-generated material. Through an emphasis on personal creative process, self-confidence, and physical and vocal ease, this course encourages the student to find and develop dynamic and varied delivery.

Rationale

Oral communication is important for presenters in all industries including education, business, law, and political science.

Prerequisites

English 30-1

Co-Requisites

None

Course Learning Outcomes

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

- deliver confident and creative presentations through vocal and physical ease and expressivity.
- use the skills required for establishing rapport with any audience.

In Class Course Objectives:

1. describe how the voice works.
2. develop a regimen for vocal health.
3. introduce the student to techniques for improving vocal production and expressivity.
4. assist the student in finding physical and vocal ease in “pressure based” situations.
5. explore vocal identity through awareness of body and physical habits that affect vocal and physical power and expressiveness.

6. introduce the student to an approach for the creation, analysis, interpretation and expression of written material.

Resource Materials

Required Textbook(s):

There are no required texts.

Reference Textbook(s):

Students have to find passages from literature and poetry to present in class.

Conduct of Course

This course consists of 6 hours of practical lab which include exercises and practice.

Class Participation:

This is a practical course and all exercises and presentations occur in class. However, skills are built and good grades are achieved overall only by a good deal of preparation done in homework before the assignments are presented. Essential elements to receiving a passing grade in participation are: full participation in class exercises and activities with energy and attention to underlying principles; full attention paid observing and critiquing the work of classmates (students are expected to watch and listen to each performer with “unconditional regard.” They then critique their work in a clear constructive manner.); full participation in class discussion and engagement; and evidence of growth in skill from experiential learning each class.

Punctual, full attendance earns a passing grade; beyond this element the grade is based on quality of continuous, energized participation and how your contribution to the class advances the work of the whole group.

Punctual attendance is mandatory. Absences and late arrivals adversely affect your final mark.

Classes missed cannot be made up. In many exercises you are partnered with other students and if you are absent, it affects their performance and grade, so please don't let your fellow classmates down. Exceptions are made because of illness or personal or family emergency only, provided you email me before class to let me know. Emails received after class begins do not excuse an absence. Three unexcused absences results in an in-class activity mark of 0.

Students are expected to watch and listen to each performer with “unconditional regard.” They then critique their work in a clear constructive manner.

Students are expected to prepare their assignments outside of class time.

Evaluation Procedures

In class presentations	40%
In class activities, assignments, effort, development and impromptu exercises	40%
Final Presentation	20%

No supplemental assignments or exam re-writes are allowed in the University Transfer Department.

Grade Equivalents and Course Pass Requirements

A minimum grade of D (50%) (1.00) is required to pass this course.

Letter	F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Percent Range	0-49	50-52	53-56	57-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90-94	95-100
Points	0.00	1.00	1.30	1.70	2.00	2.30	2.70	3.00	3.30	3.70	4.00	4.00

Students must maintain a cumulative grade of C (GPA - Grade Point Average of 2.00) in order to qualify to graduate.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in any course. Absence for any reason does not relieve a student of the responsibility of completing course work and assignments to the satisfaction of the instructor. Poor attendance may result in the termination of a student from a course(s).

If you do not meet the established attendance requirements, your instructor will recommend that the Registrar withdraw you from the course. A failing grade of RW (Required to Withdraw) will appear on your transcript.

In cases of repeated absences due to illness, the student may be requested to submit a medical certificate.

Instructors have the authority to require attendance at classes.

Course Units/Topics

How the voice works.

- Basic exercises to enhance awareness of the breath, anatomical structure, alignment, the relaxed body, resonating areas and articulation.

Regimen for vocal health.

- Techniques for improving vocal production and expressivity.
 - Finding physical and vocal ease in “pressure based” situations.
 - Exercises to enhance good interpersonal skills- true listening and responding.

Vocal identity through awareness of body and physical habits that affect vocal and physical power and expressiveness.

- Impromptu speaking, improvisation and the creation of self-generated material.
- Predominantly solo presentations of prepared material demonstrating the application of the techniques explored in class.

Approach for the creation, analysis, interpretation and expression of written material.

- Analysis of chosen text for effective interpretation including subtext, imagery, structure, build, rhythm and tempo.
- Practice in preparing material and effectively organizing for presentation to an audience.



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