

Department:

Speech

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to study and practice the techniques of effective oral reading and performance. The focus will be on the careful reading, analysis, discussion, rehearsal, and performance of selections taken from various forms of literature, including poetry, essay, novel, short story, and drama.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Use voice qualities, facial expressions, and body movements to enhance the effectiveness of reading aloud from various works of literature.
2. Explain and demonstrate how pitch, tone, intensity, phrasing, pauses, enunciation, and rhythm affect listener comprehension and appreciation.
3. Use reading skills and critical analysis to understand meanings of written works.
4. Use presentation and performance techniques to interpret and provide understanding of selections from works of literature for an audience.
5. Interpret literary works with accuracy and integrity for a listening audience.
6. Use effective listening skills to respond to other presenters or performers.
7. Offer honest, thoughtful, well-intentioned, and constructive criticism of others.
8. Receive and respond to constructive criticism with respect, thoughtfulness, and maturity.

Course Content:

- A. Basic Principles of Oral Interpretation
 1. Beginnings and endings
 2. Analyzing the literature
- B. Voice Development
 1. Breath control
 2. Volume and projection
 3. Pitch and pause
 4. Intelligibility
- C. Use of the Body in Oral Interpretation
 1. Posture
 2. Kinesics
 3. Sense Imagery
 4. Empathy
 5. Rehearsal
 6. Performance analysis

- D. Interpretation of Prose
 - 1. Style
 - a. Paragraphs
 - b. Sentences
 - c. Speech phrases
 - d. Balancing sentences
 - e. Choice of words
 - f. Tone color
 - g. Prose rhythm
 - h. Description
 - 2. Types of prose
- E. Narration
 - 1. Point of view
 - 2. Action and plot
 - 3. Character
 - 4. Dialogue
 - 5. Setting
 - 6. Cutting and excerpting
 - 7. Analyzing the performance
- F. Solo Drama Performance
 - 1. Purpose of solo performance
 - 2. Acting and interpretation
 - 3. Structural elements in drama
 - 4. Analyzing a scene
 - 5. Working a scene
 - 6. Putting it together
- G. Interpretation Techniques
 - 1. Properties
 - 2. Embodying characters
 - 3. Building bodies
 - 4. Physical contact
 - 5. Interplay of characters
 - 6. Physical focus
 - 7. Reading stand
 - 8. Cutting and excerpting
- H. Language of Poetry
 - 1. Poetic content
 - 2. Classifications of poetry
 - 3. Figurative language
 - 4. Stanzas
 - 5. Poetic syntax
 - 6. Tone color
 - 7. Titles
- I. Group Performance

1. Readers theatre
2. Chamber theatre
3. Group performance of compiled scripts
4. Other kinds of literature
5. Directing the group performance
6. Cautions

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by class participation, performances, written analyses, quizzes, peer critiques, and portfolio completion.

Instructional Materials:

Oral Interpretation, Gura, Lee, 12th Ed., Pearson, 2010. ISBN-13: 9780205582860

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students **must** complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: <https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services>.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.