

COURSE OUTLINE
Speech 106
Oral Interpretation of Literature

I. **Catalog Statement**

Speech 106 is designed to teach the skills and techniques of oral interpretation of literary works. Students learn to use their voices and articulation techniques to communicate emotional energy through the words of the text. Class exercises and instructor feedback are used to teach these concepts and to focus on the students' individual strengths and weaknesses. Selected students are chosen to participate in a reader's theatre production.

Units – 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 101. ESL students should complete ESL 155.

Note: An audition may be required.

II. **Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading: 6; Writing: 5; Speaking/Listening: 6; Math: 1

III. **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. demonstrate through written examination the ability to analyze the structure of prose, poetry, and drama relevant to oral interpretation;
2. analyze a variety of selections of prose, poetry, and drama and present these pieces orally;
3. demonstrate through oral performance knowledge of the structural analysis of selected literary works;
4. evaluate individual areas of strength and weakness in oral performance of literature through self-analysis, peer evaluation, and instructor feedback;
5. identify and practice techniques and exercises designed to improve individual weaknesses in oral performance skills.

IV. **Course Content**

- A. Voice development for oral interpretation 11 hours

1. Breath control and diaphragmatic breathing
2. Projection
3. Pitch and quality
4. Elements of variety and contrast
 - a. Pausing and phrasing
 - b. Intonation
 - c. Rate
- B. Analysis of the text 9 hours
 1. Beats (units of intention) and transitions
 2. Style
 3. Use of language
- C. The use of the body in oral interpretation 6 hours
- D. Elements of narration 3 hours
- E. Techniques of the oral interpretation of drama 9 hours
 1. Channeling emotional energy through voice and body
 2. Building bodies and voices of characters
- F. Oral interpretation of poetry 6 hours
 1. Elements of language
 2. Elements of structure
- G. Group performance of literature 4 hours

V. **Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. class lecture and discussion;
2. group learning;
3. Video-taped recording and playback of students performances.

VI. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

1. Instructor evaluation of 8-10 oral performances
2. A midterm examination consisting of objective and essay questions
3. A final examination consisting of objective and essay questions

VII. **Textbook**

Lee, Oral Interpretation

Houghton Mifflin Co., 12th edition, 2009

12th Grade Textbook Reading Level

ISBN: 97-802-05582-860

VIII. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. analyze a variety of selections of prose, poetry, and drama and present these pieces orally;
2. demonstrate through oral performance knowledge of the structural analysis of selected literary works;
3. evaluate individual areas of strength and weakness in oral performance of literature through self-analysis, peer evaluation, and instructor feedback;