

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for THEA 25

FUNDAMENTALS OF STAGE SPEECH

Effective: Fall 2008

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

THEA 25 — FUNDAMENTALS OF STAGE SPEECH — 3.00 units

Theory and practice of speech improvement for acting with emphasis on development of the voice, articulation, and pronunciation for theater production.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter Grade

Discipline:

Family: Theater Support

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

- A. Describe the key elements in the physical creation of sound and speech;
- B. Use mental imagery for the creation of effective speech;
- C. Demonstrate effective breathing in vocalization;
- D. Demonstrate clarity in tone production;
- E. Demonstrate vocal projection and volume control;
- F. Demonstrate pitch and rate control;
- G. Demonstrate clear articulation;
- H. Speak effectively using Standard American speech;
 - I. List and pronounce the key elements of the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA);
 - J. Speak effectively in several American and international accents;
- K. Perform a monologue and scene using clear and effective speech;
- L. Demonstrate improvement in all dimensions of speaking between the beginning of the course and the end.

V. CONTENT:

- A. The physiology of voice production
- B. Mental imagery in voice production
- C. Breath support and control
- D. Tone production
- E. Projection and volume control
- F. Pitch, melody and vocal variety
- G. Articulation and enunciation
- H. Elements of Standard American Speech
 - I. International Phonetics Alphabet
- J. Accents
 - 1. Standard British
 - 2. Cockney
 - 3. American Southern
 - 4. New York
 - 5. Others as time permits
- K. Monologues, scenes and group speech

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Demonstration** -
- C. Participatory exercises
- D. Presentation of monologues, scenes and group speech
- E. Instructor evaluation and critique of students' work 1. Exercises 2. Performances

- F. Class discussion
- G. Video and audio recordings
- H. Readings 1. In text 2. In handouts

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Read Chapter 4 of Cecily Berry's *Voice and the Actor* and be prepared to discuss her approach to the pronunciation of consonants. B. Write a short critique of the Shakespearean monologue presented by a fellow student. State specifically what the strong points were in the presentation and also what improvements could be made. Make reference to elements of projection, articulation, tone quality, pitch, melody, expressiveness and communication of meaning. C. Transpose Linda Loman's final speech in *Death of a Salesman* from Standard English to the International Phonetics Alphabet. D. Present before the class Antigone's final speech (from Sophocles' *Antigone*), giving special emphasis to volume, articulation and emotional truth. E. Present before the class Doolittle's *Pygmalion* monologue about middle class morality using a Cockney accent.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Class Participation
4. Home Work
5. Class Performance
6. Other:
 - a. Methods
 1. Active participation in classroom exercises
 2. Participation in classroom discussions
 3. Quality of prepared performance
 4. Quizzes – Typical question: List and describe three exercises Cecily Berry suggests for the improvement of breath support.
 5. Final exam – Typical question: Transpose Sophie's Act 1, Scene 2 monologue from *The Star Spangled Girl* into the International Phonetics Alphabet.
 6. Completion of homework assignments

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Up to the discretion of the instructor
 - b. Recommendation: at least five prepared performances, three quizzes and one final exam

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Linklater, Kristi *Freeing the Natural Voice.*, Drama Publishers, 2005.
2. Berry, Cecily *Voice and the Actor.* Somerset., Wiley, 1991.
3. Lessac, Arthur *Use and Training of the Human Voice: a Bio-Dynamic Approach to Vocal Life.* 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 1996.
4. Handouts describing the International Phonetics Alphabet

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Audio recorder