COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides instruction in the fundamentals of vocal performance as it relates to effective oral communication. Students develop ideas for the purpose of communication and learn effective techniques for clarity of expression, ideas, and message while considering the effect on audience. Theatrical communication techniques are one of several skill sets taught. Oral, aural, written, and visual literacy are all explored, with intense focus on oral presentation. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Communication.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After successfully completing this course, students will:

1. Effectively demonstrate skills in idea development for the purpose of communication through discussion, writing and presentation exercises;
2. Effectively discuss and demonstrate the application of theatrical and other communication techniques in presentational exercises;
3. Effectively discuss and demonstrate the interrelationship of the voice, the body, and the mind (ideas and purpose) in various communication situations through presentation exercises and activities;
4. Effectively discuss basic concepts, goals, and objectives of communication skills;
5. Work effectively in a collaborative environment.

THECB CORE CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES

1. Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information;
2. Communication Skills: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication;
3. Teamwork skills: to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal;
4. Personal Responsibility skills: to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENTS

The following assignments (among others) will be used to assess the student’s level of achievement of the THECB Core Curriculum Objectives:

1. Each student will attend a live presentation where oral communication is utilized in a variety of situations (formal address, reading, or play) and write a formal essay. The essay will analyze both content and oral communication effectiveness
in context of the specific perceived goals of the communicator. The essay will also examine the effective and persuasive oral communication and its connectivity to the overall message/purpose of the presentation. (Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, and Personal Responsibility)

2. Each student will be part of a group presenting information on a topic of historical, intercultural, or social relevance, chosen from a list provided by the instructor of the course. The group project will be evaluated. (Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility, and Teamwork)

TEXT: Roles in Interpretation, Yordon, Own the Room, Karia. The Voice Book, For Actors, Public Speakers and Everyone Who Wants to Make Best Use of Their Voice, McCallion. All lecture notes for the course will be available on Blackboard.

MISSED CLASS POLICY
THREE absences are allowed in this class, whether they are excused or unexcused. Each additional absence will result in your final grade being lowered by one full letter grade. Additional absences may be “erased” by attending a play and writing an essay on it (but class participation and any missed work will still be affected). *This policy is in support of the university’s expressed desire to ensure student success through consistent class attendance.

Tardiness: The sign-in sheet for latecomers will remain available for you to register your attendance for the first 15 minutes of class. After that it will be taken up, and any name not recorded will be counted as absent for the day.

Late Work: Quizzes may not be made up after the fact, but can be taken early by arrangement if necessary. Other late work may be made up IF the instructor has been contacted within 24 hours of the missed class or deadline. Without a doctor’s excuse or prior arrangement with the instructor, all late work will be penalized by one full letter grade. No incomplete grades will be assigned for this course.

GRADING RUBRIC

Oral Presentation Essay (50 points); Group Presentation (50 points); Presentation Assignments (115 points); Quizzes (105 points); class work/homework/participation in group discussions (80 points). Total Points: 400

Extra Credit: 3 points will be awarded for essays written in response to plays produced by the department during the semester, if not being used to “erase” an absence.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. The time to be concerned about your grade is NOT the week before finals—it is ALL semester.
**Expectations for Out-Of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. The Office for Students with Disabilities is located on the first floor of University Hall, and their email address is http://www.uta.edu/disability/.

**DROP POLICY**
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*
Suspected violators will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs. **Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.**

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.