

THE UNBELIEVABLY GREAT ORAL INTERPRETATION SYLLABUS

COURSE: ORAL INTERPRETATION

Communication 2123

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TEXTBOOK: Communicating Literature: An Introduction To Oral Interpretation
Todd V. Lewis 4th Edition

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The study of verbal and nonverbal communication for aesthetic purposes, and of the dramaturgical skills that relate to the performing arts. Emphasis is given to those skills that promote oral proficiency.

OBJECTIVES: To prepare you for the confident and appropriate presentation of various forms of literature before an audience. Recommended for elementary education majors, communication majors with an interest in the performance of literary works or those who want to sit around in a coffeehouse drinking espresso and rapping with others about great works of literature.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the semester, everyone will have had the opportunity to.....

1. Gain an understanding of what Oral Interpretation is and isn't and its history.
2. Be able to choose materials appropriate for interpretation to a particular audience and occasion.
3. Be able to fully analyze a selection of prose, poetry, and dramatic literature.
4. Know how to use your voice effectively when delivering a presentation to an audience.
5. Know how to use your body effectively when delivering a presentation to an audience.
6. Understand the differing aspects of prose interpretation.
7. Know how to effectively perform a piece of prose literature.
8. Understand the differing aspects of dramatic interpretation, including character differentiation and focus placement.
9. Know how to perform a piece of dramatic literature.
10. Understand the different elements in poetry interpretation.
11. Know how to perform poetry selections.
12. Know how to write an introduction to all literary pieces.
13. Know how to analyze a piece of literature for presentation.
14. Understand the role played by apprehension and how it affects us.
15. Gain an appreciation for various forms of literature.
16. Have developed specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the fields most closely related to this course.
17. Have developed skills in expressing yourself orally and in writing.
18. Have learned how to apply course material to improve thinking and problem solving.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

PRESENTATIONS

To successfully complete the course, you will need to do three (3) graded performance assignments to the best of your ability, read the book, take the four (4) related quizzes, and take the mid-term and final exams, doing the best you can on each. Failure to do any one (1) performance, take the mid-term or final exam will result in your failing the course.

Each assignment will require a comprehensive written analysis of the piece you have selected to perform. Criteria for that analysis will be made available to you in advance of the presentation and you will be expected to follow that criteria. Failure to turn in a written analysis of the work selected will constitute an incomplete assignment and will result in your final course grade being lowered by one letter. **ALL ANALYSES WILL BE TYPED - NOTHING HANDWRITTEN WILL BE ACCEPTED!!** Use normal sized type and margins.

You will also be expected to take part in the story-telling assignment which is also an oral presentation, but will require no analysis.

Time limits will be established for each performance and a penalty assessed if those time limits are violated.

The written analysis will be handed in prior to each performance, graded, and hopefully given back to you at the next class meeting. You will receive a critique form at the end of class on the day you do your presentation so you will know what areas in which you need to improve.

You will know in advance the day your performance is to be given since we will have a sign-up day prior to the performance date. Performances can only be made up if you aren't here on your scheduled day and if there are extenuating circumstances. These **MUST** be accompanied by **WRITTEN** documentation (no notes from your Mother). If no documentation is presented, if we have time, you will be allowed to perform, but there is a 25 point penalty for each class day you're late. Including the written analysis, each presentation/performance is worth 150 points.

ATTENDANCE

Be here. Oral interpretation involves listening, evaluating, and writing as well as performing so you should plan on attending every class meeting. However, you will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences during the course of the semester which may be taken at your discretion and do not need to be justified in writing unless they fall on a day you're scheduled to perform.

Everyone starts with 100 points for attendance. After the previously mentioned three (3) unexcused absences, 15 points (for Tuesday/Thursday classes.....10 points for Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes) will be deducted from your attendance point total for each additional absence. Excused absences are at my discretion and if an absence is excused, it will not count against your point total.

To insure everyone is treated equally, an attendance sheet will be passed around daily, so make sure you sign it. If your name isn't on it, you weren't in class.

If you have to be away for a University-sponsored event, make sure the coach or person in charge either e-mails me with notification of your absence, or gives you something to turn in to me. This becomes particularly important if it falls on the day a presentation is due.

EXTRA CREDIT

There are NO extra credit options scheduled. You live and die by your own merits, or lack thereof, not by something you see someone else do. You are, however, encouraged to attend performances that may be given on campus. Extra Credit should not be ruled out entirely however, since there is always the possibility something might come up.

CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC NOISEMAKERS

These are no longer being tolerated, so you should **TURN THEM OFF** upon entering the classroom. Nothing can be that important and if it is, you probably shouldn't be in class that day anyway. If you leave them on, be prepared for a quick exit from the classroom because you will be told to leave if you keep annoying us with your ringtones. **TEXT MESSAGING** will get you an even quicker exit. Anyone caught text messaging during the course of the semester will be escorted from the classroom and not allowed to return under any circumstances. You're here to learn Oral Interpretation - not how to text message your friends.

ASSIGNMENT AND GRADE BREAKDOWN

Here are the assignments and the number of points each one is worth, followed by a chart showing what you need to get a specific grade.

Prose Interpretation.....	100 Points
Prose Analysis.....	50 Points
Poetry Presentation.....	100 Points
Poetry Analysis.....	50 Points
Dramatic Interpretation Presentation.....	100 Points
Dramatic Interpretation Analysis.....	50 Points
Attendance.....	100 Points
Personal Story.....	50 Points
4 Quizzes @ 25 Points Each.....	100 Points
Mid-Term Exam.....	100 Points
Final Exam.....	100 Points
 Total Possible Points.....	 900

GRADES

810 - 900	A
720 - 809	B
630 - 719	C
540 - 629	D
1 - 539	Better Luck Next Time

ABOUT EACH PRESENTATION

Prose - This is a work of fiction and can range from fairy tales to Dickens to Steven King. You

should choose something in keeping with your career objectives. If you're going into Early Childhood Education for example, a kid's story or fairy tale would be better than reading a selection from an adult novel.

Poetry - You interpret a poem and there are many types to choose from. Song lyrics are acceptable within reason (no rap with offensive lyrics for example). Again, do something in keeping with your career objectives.

Dramatic Interpretation - This is a scene from a play (some movies are acceptable - limitations will be explained when its time for the assignment) which has two or more characters in which you believably perform all the roles without acting.

Personal Story - In a Public Speaking class, this would be the get-acquainted speech. Here, you tell a prepared story about yourself, not something you throw together on the spur-of-the-moment. This is the ice-breaker and it also serves as a way for everyone to get to know each other.

IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

YOU SHOULD SAVE ALL PAPERS WITH GRADES UNTIL YOU KNOW YOUR FINAL GRADE. If there is a question about your grade, you will need to have papers in hand to discuss that grade. All I will have will be the Attendance sheets and the Final Exams. Everything else will have been handed back to you. No papers, and the grade recorded is gospel and will stand throughout eternity and beyond. If you have a question - and I have been known to occasionally record a grade wrong - despite what you may have heard, I am not perfect - e-mail me at the special e-mail address you will be given on the last day of class and there's a chance the problem can be resolved immediately. If it can't be, you will need to make an appointment with me after the resumption of classes and you will be allowed 10 minutes to present your case. **DO NOT** expect me to come in over a break. That won't happen. And, **DO NOT** demand I do anything!! Similarly, **DO NOT** stop by unexpectedly during the first week of the following semester and expect me to drop everything to deal with your complaint. That won't happen either. The second week of classes is much better.

A FEW PARTING COMMENTS

1. This class should be fun. There's no law that says you can't have fun in class.
2. On days when presentations are being given - if you're late, wait outside until you hear a thunderous round of applause and people yelling "more, more, more" signifying a person has finished. It's very distracting when someone comes in during a presentation, not mention, rude. There should be a sign on the door each day presentations are being given.
3. You are expected to be in class even if you aren't giving a presentation. Doing homework for other classes while someone is presenting will result in my deducting 20 points from your point total when you present. If you've already presented, you'll get a paper notifying you of that deduction. All books etc. should be under the desk on presentation days unless you're presenting that day.
4. ALL presentations delivered in this class should be rated G or PG at the worst. There's a place for profanity and off-color comments and it's not in your presentation. Only mild profanities will be accepted (let's face it - no one says "what the heck" anymore) and even those should be kept to a bare minimum. Likewise, presentations should be avoided which are deemed to be racially, culturally, socially, or sexually offensive. If you have doubts about a presentation, see me.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, A FEW WORDS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Support Services, including registration assistance and equipment, are available to people with documented disabilities through the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), MS 2.03.18. You may contact that office at 458-4157 to make arrangements. If you wish to take an exam through the DSS office, you will need to provide documentation.

Everyone should read the University statement on plagiarism/collusion. It can be found in Section 203 of the Student Code of Conduct, in the University Information Bulletin or on-line at <http://www.utsa.edu/OSJA/section203.htm>

TUESDAY/THURSDAY COURSE CALENDAR

PLEASE NOTE: Depending upon enrollment and factors which are beyond my control, some dates may change. **ALSO,** quiz dates are not shown since they will be given on dates to be determined and will **NOT** be announced in advance. **BE IN CLASS!!!**

Thur., Aug. 27	Go Over Syllabus.....Explain First Assignment
Tue., Sept. 1 Thur., Sept. 3	Basics of Communication, Terms, Concepts..Why Study Oral Interpretation? 3-4 MINUTE PERSONAL STORY - EVERYONE PARTICIPATES!
Tue., Sept. 8 Thur., Sept. 10	Finish Personal Stories....Ch. 1 & Introduction....Apprehension Finish Apprehension...Ch. 2..History of Oral Interpretation
Tue., Sept. 15 Thur., Sept. 17	Ch. 3 Literature...Criteria For First Presentation Available Ch. 8 Prose Interpretation
Tue., Sept. 22 Thur., Sept. 24	Ch. 4 Nonverbal Communication Ch. 5 Vocal Characteristics....Voice and Diction
Tue., Sept. 29 Thur., Oct. 1	Ch. 6 Preparation For Analysis Ch. 7 Preparation For Performance
Tue., Oct. 6 Thur., Oct. 8	TBA SUBJECT TO CHANGE - IF CHANGED, AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE IN CLASS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 SIGN-UP DAY FOR PROSE PRESENTATIONS NOTE: IF YOU AREN'T IN CLASS ON SIGN-UP DAY, YOU SHOULD PLAN ON GOING FIRST ON THE FIRST DAY AND COME TO CLASS PREPARED TO DO SO
Tue, Oct. 13 Thur., Oct. 15	PROSE PRESENTATIONS BEGIN PROSE PRESENTATIONS END MID-TERM EXAM STUDY GUIDES AVAILABLE CRITERIA FOR POETRY PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE ALSO
Tue., Oct. 20 Thur., Oct. 22	MID-TERM EXAM ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UPS!!!!!! Ch. 10 Poetry and all that implies
Tue., Oct. 27 Thur., Oct. 29	More On Poetry SIGN-UP DAY FOR POETRY PRESENTATIONS NOTE: IF YOU AREN'T IN CLASS, YOU SHOULD PLAN ON GOING FIRST ON THE FIRST DAY AND COME PREPARED TO DO SO
Tue., Nov. 3 Thur., Nov. 5	POETRY PRESENTATIONS BEGIN POETRY PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE
Tue., Nov. 10 Thur., Nov. 12	POETRY PRESENTATIONS END CRITERIA FOR DRAMATIC INTERPRETATIONS AVAILABLE Ch. 9 Dramatic Interpretation
Tue., Nov. 17 Thur., Nov. 19	More on Dramatic Interpretation Finish Dramatic Interpretation SIGN-UP DAY FOR DRAMATIC INTERPRETATIONS NOTE: IF YOU AREN'T IN CLASS, YOU SHOULD PLAN ON GOING FIRST ON TUESDAY AND COME PREPARED TO DO SO

Tue., Nov. 24 DRAMATIC INTERPRETATIONS BEGIN
Thur., Nov. 27 THANKSGIVING NO CLASSES

Tue., Dec. 1 DRAMATIC INTERPRETATIONS CONTINUE
Thur., Dec. 3 DRAMATIC INTERPRETATIONS END
 LAST DAY OF CLASSES
 FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDES AVAILABLE

Monday, December 7.....Tuesday, December 8.....STUDY DAYS

FINAL EXAM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15 10:30 AM

NOTICE

The last page are important dates and reminders of which you should be aware. This covers anything and everything you would want to know with regards to such things as drop dates, tuition refunds, graduation applications.....if its not on here, it probably isn't important.