

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

COMMUNICATION 135 – ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

This course provides both a theoretical and a practical exploration of the oral interpretation of literature. Attention is given to art appreciation, art criticism, and analysis as it relates to the performance of literature in various genres. The oral interpretation of traditional literary genres of poetry, prose, and drama is practiced, as well as newer and more diverse modes of expression such as spoken word and other cultural forms of artistic expression. Emphasis is on the effective interpretation, communication, and evaluation and performance of various literary works.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Methods of art appreciation and art criticism as relevant to the oral communication of literary works of art
- 2) Nature, importance, and ethics of oral interpretation
- 3) Structure of dramatic action
- 4) Methods of literary selection, analysis, and editing
- 5) Analysis and interpretation of literature as art
- 6) Application of standards in the performance of literature
- 7) Evolution of diverse modes of expression such as spoken word and other cultural forms of artistic expression
- 8) Verbal and nonverbal elements of performance
- 9) Analysis of audience
- 10) Critical listening and analysis of performance

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Compare and contrast artistic standards relevant to the appreciation and oral communication of literature.
- 2) Evaluate selections of literature to determine literary merit.
- 3) Analyze genres of literature to identify genre specific structures and standards of art appreciation, art criticism, and interpretation.
- 4) Analyze and evaluate selections of literature using various types of literary analysis such as dramatic analysis and modal analysis for the purpose of interpretation.
- 5) Prepare literary selections for performance by employing appropriate editing techniques that focus on unity of time, place, action, mood and character.
- 6) Research and construct individual and/or group presentations for various audiences.
- 7) Employ a variety of verbal and nonverbal delivery techniques to bring the literature to life and heighten the effectiveness of the performer's message.
- 8) Critically evaluate oral communication of literary works of art.

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for

evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Written assignments and/or tests that require students to identify genres of literature and analyze selections of literature.
- 2) Instructor evaluations of student analyses such as critiques of poetry, prose, and drama presentations.
- 3) Instructor evaluation of student performances including performances of poetry, prose, and drama.
- 4) Performance final or written exam that measures students' ability to identify genres of literature and critique performances.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with movable seating, video recording/playback equipment

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture, discussion, group activities and reading assignments
- 2) Preparing, practicing, delivering and listening to performances, live and recorded
- 3) Demonstrations by the instructor, guest performers, and recordings made by professional artists

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Written exercises
- 3) Conduct research for assigned projects
- 4) Prepare presentations for in-class activities and simulations

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Gura, Timothy and Charlotte Lee. *Oral Interpretation*. 12th edition. Pearson, 2010.
 - b. Lee, Valerie. *The Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Women's Literature*. Pearson, 2006.
 - c. Demastes, William, ed. *The Best American Short Plays 2014-2015*. Applause Books, 2016.
 - d. Roetzheim, William, ed. *The Giant Book of Poetry*. 2nd edition. Level 4 Press, 2006.
- 2) Supplemental: As assigned

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Analyze and identify genres of literature.
- 2) Construct and present programs of literature in each genre.
- 3) Evaluate literature as works of art.