

Course Code: COM 140

Course Title: Voice and Diction

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 23.1304

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Basic factors of voice and speech sound production. Class study and analysis of variations in spoken English. Individual analysis and guided practice toward improvement of speech habits.

General Course Objectives

To understand the fundamentals of voice and articulation, and practice effective vocal techniques to improve the speaking voice and to maximize vocal potential in performance.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
None	Placement out of CCS 098	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

At least 3 oral performances including self-assessments. Other assignments include: 1-2 outside speaker analysis papers, Articulation assessment project, audio portfolio, final vocal self-assessment paper, and at least two individual vocal evaluation sessions with instructor (at beginning and end of course). Written midterm (or equivalent chapter quizzes), and final exam required.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Fundamentals of Voice and Articulation, by Lyle V. Mayer.

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Communication: Students will demonstrate the ability to read, write, listen, and speak effectively.
- Creativity and Innovative Thinking: Students will design, present, and interpret materials, information, and ideas in innovative ways.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Basics of the Speech Production Mechanism and Listening Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen for and identify common speech patterns, regional dialects, and elements of effective speech. 2. Identify and analyze basic vocal qualities and suggest appropriate ways to reduce undesirable vocal qualities and enhance desirable qualities. 	6	0	0
Respiration	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and demonstrate effective breathing techniques for speech including proper use of the diaphragm and efficient breath control while speaking. 	3	0	0
Phonation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify, employ, and control the physiological mechanisms that create speech and impact vocal quality. 2. Practice techniques to strengthen the voice. 	3	0	0
Projection	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize signs of vocal abuse and practice techniques to strengthen the voice. 2. Recognize appropriate levels of loudness in professional, social, and performance situations. 3. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately use a variety of loudness levels. 	3	0	0
Resonance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the physiological elements of sound production as well as the function of the resonators and their impact on vocal tone and quality. 2. Demonstrate knowledge of how resonance works. 	3	0	0
Articulation (vowels, diphthongs, and consonants)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and correctly form the vocal sounds of spoken English. 2. Demonstrate ability to correctly identify and transcribe the symbols used in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and use them to help identify correct phoneme production and placement. 	8	0	0
Pronunciation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate the ability to combine proper pronunciation and articulation into a coherent and credible speech style. 2. Recognize the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a standard notation for pronunciation. 3. Use IPA to aid pronunciation and to transcribe basic IPA symbols into orthographic spelling. 	6	0	0
Vocal Variety, Expressiveness, and Coping with Performance Anxiety (performance)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the elements of vocal variety and expressiveness techniques. 2. Recognize the characteristics of performance anxiety as well as coping techniques. 3. Demonstrate the ability to appropriately use vocal variety and expressiveness choices appropriate for professional and performance situations. 4. Practice using dialects and vocal variety to convey a persona. 	10	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Movement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and demonstrate ways that body posture and movement impact the voice. 2. Demonstrate correct posture and body control that enhances the voice during performance. 	3	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0