

**Raritan Valley Community College  
Academic Course Outline**

**VOICE AND DICTION**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: THEA-109 VOICE AND DICTION
- B. Date of Proposal or Revision: October 2005
- C. Sponsoring Department: VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
- D. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- E. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3  
Laboratory
- F. Prerequisites: NONE
- G. Laboratory Fees: NONE

**II. Catalog Description**

Students will develop the skills in vocal execution and presentation for the theatrical performance, including techniques of breath control, vocal projection and tonal variation. Breathing and relaxation exercises plus methods of allaying tensions and fears will be stressed. Student performances include the recitation of prose, poetry and dramatic literature.

**III. Statement of Course Need**

This course is a core program requirement for A.F.A. degree in Theatre.

**IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- Free elective
- Degree program requirement for the A.F.A. Theatre Degree.
- Course transferability: According to the njtransfer.org website this course will transfer to most four year universities as a Voice and Speech equivalent course, a theatre, and free elective.

## V. Outline of Course Content

- Methods and techniques of relaxation.
- Methods and techniques of proper breathing.
- Methods and techniques of correct vocal use including diction, vocal variety, and pace.
- Performances
  - Monologue, poetry or literature
  - Shakespeare scene
  - Cold readings
- Critique of live theatre performance from a vocal perspective.

## VI. Education Goals and Learning Outcomes

### Education Goals

Students will:

- Develop appropriate and flexible use of the voice through individual and group exercises. (G.E. 2)
- Discuss readings in text regarding proper vocal use and vocal theories. (G.E. 1)

### Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Apply techniques to help improve vocal performance.
- Analyze performances for correct vocal use.
- Dramatize fiction, non-fiction, and poetic works.
- Discuss the theories that lead to correct vocal use.
- Employ exercises to help reduce physical and mental tension.

## VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- Lecture/discussion
- Small- group work
- Student oral presentations
- Performance

## VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other assessment Instruments

- Examinations
- Written reports
- Essays
- Participation in discussions

## IX. Grade Determinants

- The grade determinants, including attendance, participation, written examinations, weekly assignments and in - class performances, will be used to assess the students according to the learning outcomes and general education goals listed above.

## X. Texts and Materials

- **Suggested text:** Lessac, Arthur. *The Use and Training of the Human Voice*. McGraw-Hill. New York. 1998. ISBN 1-55934-696-5.

## XI. Resources

- Performance space (Welpé Theatre)
- DVD/VHS performances