



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number	Course Title	Credits
THR105	Acting II – Principles of Characterization	3
Hours: Lecture/Lab/Other	Co- or Pre-requisite	Implementation Semester & Year
2/2/0	THR104	Fall 2023

Catalog description: A continuation of the skills developed in THR104. The course will focus on the actor's movement and voice skills to support character work. Students will utilize Michael Chekhov's Acting Technique and improvisation to broaden basic acting skills. Attendance at dance, chorus, and theatre productions is required.

General Education Category:
Not GenEd

Course coordinator:
Jody P Gazenbeek-Person, x3524,
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Required texts & Other materials:

1. *The Articulate Voice: An Introduction to Voice and Diction*, by Lynn K. Wells, Allyn & Bacon, 4th Ed. ISBN-10 0205380328 ISBN 978-0205380328
2. *Spoon River Anthology* by Edgar Lee Masters, Signet Classic ISBN-10 : 0451530586 ISBN-13 978-0451530586
3. Our library and the county system contain a collection of relevant books, videos, recordings, and electronic databases to supplement the students' learning. Please consult with the Program Coordinator for further and specific reading recommendations.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate heightened physical and vocal abilities in order to increase creative expression and stage presence, and to enhance characterization. [Supports ILG # 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10, & 11 PLO # 2, 5]
2. Demonstrate a technical approach to developing the actor's voice for the stage including vocal freedom, breathe control, diction, projection, relaxation, and range in order to enhance characterization. [Supports ILG # 6, 10, & 11 PLO # 3]
3. Demonstrate a technical approach to developing the actor's physical instrument for the stage including: alignment, releasing tension, grounding, and self awareness. [Supports ILG # 6, 10, & 11 PLO # 3]
4. Demonstrate creative freedom and spontaneity through improvisational exercises and scene work. [Supports ILG # 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9,10, & 11 PLO # 2, 3, 5]
5. Demonstrate advanced listening, imagination and interactive skills. [Supports ILG # 1, 6, & 11 PLO # 3, 6, 7]
6. Demonstrate ensemble or group interaction through the development and performance of material created using improvisation and the Chekhov technique. [Supports ILG # 1, 6, & 11 PLO # 2, 3, 6, 7]
7. Apply enhanced vocal, movement, and acting skills to the analysis and performance of a monologue. [Supports ILG # 1, 6, 10 & 11 PLO # 1, 2, 3, 5]
8. Analyze acting, vocal, and movement skills through observation of live theatrical productions, their own work, and the work of their peers. [Supports ILG # 1, 6, & 11 PLO # 2, 6]

Course-specific Institutional Learning Goals (ILG):

Institutional Learning Goal 1. Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Institutional Learning Goal 5. Social Science. Students will use social science theories and concepts to analyze human behavior and social and political institutions and to act as responsible citizens.

Institutional Learning Goal 6. Humanities. Students will analyze works in the fields of art, music, or theater; literature; philosophy and/or religious studies; and/or will gain competence in the use of a foreign language.

Institutional Learning Goal 7. History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and assess their subsequent significance.

Institutional Learning Goal 8. Diversity and Global Perspective: Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples

Institutional Learning Goal 9. Ethical Reasoning and Action. Students will understand ethical frameworks, issues, and situations.

Institutional Learning Goal 10. Information Literacy: Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Institutional Learning Goal 11. Critical Thinking: Students will use critical thinking skills understand, analyze, or apply information or solve problems.

Program Learning Outcomes for Theatre AA, Theatre AFA & Communications: Speech and Theatre (PLO)

1. Conduct research in preparation for performing a role;
2. Independently interpret dramatic literature for performance;
3. Use a variety of acting, movement, and vocal techniques to craft a performance;
4. Work collaboratively with artistic and production staff;
5. Create successful auditions by preparing materials and exhibiting professional conduct.

Communication: Speech and Theatre utilizes these two additional PLOs:

6. Develop communicative competencies in physical presentation, vocal variety techniques, and anxiety management skills to deliver prepared or extemporaneous speeches;
7. Develop effective interpersonal and intrapersonal communication skills.

Units of study in detail – Unit Student Learning Outcomes:

Unit I: Chekhov Technique and Improvisation [Supports Course SLOs 1, 2, 4, 6, 7]

The student will be able to

- Demonstrate heightened physical abilities in order to increase creative expression and stage presence, and to enhance characterization.
- Demonstrate creative freedom and spontaneity through technique and improvisational exercises.
- Demonstrate advanced listening, imagination and interactive skills.
- Demonstrate ensemble or group interaction through the development and performance of material created using improvisation and masks.

Unit II: Movement [Supports Course SLOs 1, 2, 3, 8]

The student will be able to

- Demonstrate heightened physical abilities in order to increase creative expression and stage presence, and to enhance characterization.

- Demonstrate a technical approach to developing the actor's physical instrument for the stage including: alignment, releasing tension, grounding, and self-awareness.

Unit III: Voice [Supports Course SLOs 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8]

The student will be able to

- Demonstrate heightened vocal abilities in order to increase creative expression and stage presence, and to enhance characterization. **(SLO: 1, 2,3)**
- Demonstrate a technical approach to developing the actor's voice for the stage including vocal freedom, breathe control, diction, projection, relaxation, and range in order to enhance characterization. **(SLO: 1, 2, 3, 4)**
- Apply enhanced vocal skills to the analysis and performance of a poem. **(SLO: 1, 7)**
- Analyze appropriate vocal qualities through observation of live theatrical productions, their own work, and the work of their peers. **(SLO: 1, 8)**

Unit IV: Final Project: Scene Work [Supports Course SLOs 1 - 8]

The student will be able to

- Describe, perform, and discuss the life and work of an important dramatist and use this knowledge to enrich their performance of scenes from their plays.
- Research and compile character biography.

Evaluation of student learning:

1. Active participation in class exercises developing approaches to the actor's physical instrument for the stage including: alignment, releasing tension, grounding, and self-awareness.
2. Active participation in class exercises using Michael Chekhov's Technique to expand movement vocabulary.
3. Active participation in class exercises using Michael Chekhov's Technique to create various characters.
4. Paper analyzing movement choices for a dramatic scene using Michael Chekhov's Technique and other improvisational exercises.
5. Small group performance of a scene from contemporary dramatic literature.
6. Active participation in class vocal exercises.
7. Analysis and performance of a poem from *Spoon River Anthology*.
8. Students will be required to see two professional live productions and analyze the vocal and movement skills of the actors using information acquired in class. Students must obtain the instructor's approval for each production.