

JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY
Liberal Arts Division
ORAL INTERPRETATION- LITERATURE
SUMMER 2014
June 14- July 17

Instructor: Mr. Peter Manos

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(my preferred contact mode, and where all work must be send)

Phone: 216-534-1494,

I. Course Description

ORAL INTERPRETATION LITERATURE provides practice in effective oral interpretation of written texts for live performance. The course will cover how to apply principles of text analysis and delivery to a variety of practical speaking and listening situations. This is an entirely computer online based course. **No need to buy any textbooks. All copy to be performed will be supplied online in Blackboard.** You will need a home recording capability to record your voice and send it to me as a sound document to my e-mail account: petermanos216@aol.com. Written work will be submitted on **Discussion Board in Blackboard.**

Lecture hours: 03

Prerequisites: None

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Throughout this class you will develop:

1. Self-confidence and fluidity in the oral presentation of a wide variety of literature to an audience
2. An awareness of the communicative potential inherent in both literature & yourself
3. Basic techniques in selecting, analyzing & interpreting prose, drama, poetry, etc.
4. Critical listening & writing skills
5. Objective & subjective criteria for evaluating literature & performance.
6. An appreciation of the process by which written matter is brought to life in performance

III. GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS:

1. Complete all assignments in a timely and meaningful manner
2. Read, select & analyze a variety of literary material for performance
3. Successfully plan and present a variety of live reading performances
4. Be a polite, attentive and critical scholar of oral interpretation
5. Take part in a variety of structured exercises & activities
6. Competently complete written assignments

IV. GRADING POLICY: 90-100 A; 80-89 B; 70-79 C; 64-69 D; 63 and under F

Final Grade for this course will consist of your achievement of 510 points from the following:

10 points= First contact

50 points= INTRO: O FOR A MUSE OF FIRE (Oral, written work)

50 points= INTRO: LORD CHANCELLOR, ALL IN GREEN, etc. (Exercise pieces)

50 points= CHARACTER: THE RAVEN (Oral, written work)

50 points= CHARACTER: THE TELL-TALE HEART

50 points= SOUND & SENSE: TO BE OR NOT TO BE (Oral, written work)

50 points= SOUND & SENSE: DYLAN THOMAS (Oral, written work)

50 points= STORY: NARRATIVE BALLAD- HIGHWAYMAN, etc. (Oral, written work)

50 points= STORY: FLIGHTS OF FANCY- HOBBIT, etc.

50 points= MIXED PALLET: FORCES OF LIGHT, DARKNESS, ETC.

50 points= FINAL- ADVICE TO THE ACTORS

V. Course Requirements

No purchased text is required. In lieu of a textbook, this course is supported by a Blackboard site. (<http://my.tri-c.edu>). You are required to download all material to serve as your text. As you participate in activities, you are to incorporate these and materials of your own selection or composition as the case may be, record your assignments using “Audacity” and e-mail me directly at Petermanos@aol.com since Tri-c will not let sound documents through its firewall. You are to refer to material found on Blackboard or sent to you directly, and any other material you feel is necessary to complete each assignment.

Save all your assignments on a computer document storage device (DVD or flash drive) as backup. If in-home recording fails there are recording facilities at Tri-C west.

Assignments must be completed by 11 PM on deadlines given. Grades will be reduced by one letter grade per day after this unless I have given permission for a change ahead of time.

It would be a good idea to talk to me immediately to notify me of any difficulties that arise **prior to the date** that you are scheduled to submit work. In an emergency, which would preclude timely delivery of assignment, call the number above and leave a message that includes both your name and the phone number where you can be reached.

VI. EVALUATION PROCEDURES

1. Three types of literary presentation: Prose, Poetry & Drama will assess the degree to which you achieve the goals of the course. To receive your presentation score, submit a one page reflection or self-evaluation after each of your performances.

2. A plethora of exercises will be part of presentation & participation grades. As part of this you will keep a journal of reflections on class activities & performances

3. A comprehensive essay examination will be administered during the final class session and may contribute to 1/5 of your final grade.

4. Finally, punctuality and evidence of effort in submission of assignments will be integral to every grade. We do not expect Oscar-quality performance values but we do expect competent growth based upon solid study, analysis and application of performance value principles, coupled with practice experience. Grading criteria & extra credit may be designed to accommodate any

ONE individual emergency during the term; however, please note that missing more than one major class assignment, MAY NECESSITATE COMPLETING THIS COURSE IN A DIFFERENT TERM.

VII. ADDITIONAL HELP

Oral Interpretation is a form of acting. Acting method books may be consulted. Recordings of readings by professional actors may also be consulted.

Besides the texts supplied here, there are available at least TWO other sources for help:

- Internet sites feature texts & background material that will enhance understanding
- The Library with a variety of texts ideal for public presentation

Human Resources:

- Learning Center tutoring
- Your fellow students. Read to them. Get their feedback.
- Faculty & staff constitute a gold mine of experience & expertise.

Don't put things off! Lack of preparation is the biggest cause of failure or low grades.

VIII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE: INTRO, Diction, Tone, Atmosphere, Acting, *Oh for a muse of fire*

Into to Oral Interpretation through Shakespeare's famous intro to Henry V

Exploring the bag of tricks inside your voice and intro to acting

WEEK TWO: INSIDE THE STORY: Narrator as active character *The Raven, etc.*

Exploring the melding of character and story in performance

WEEK THREE: SOUND & SENSE: Dylan Thomas, etc.

Exploring the musicality of sound in poetry performance

WEEK FOUR: THE SONG IS THE STORY: *Highwayman, etc.*

Exploring story-telling in narrative poetry

WEEK FIVE: MIXED PALLET: Forces of light & darkness

Finding the right voice for the right piece

FINAL EXAM DUE JULY 17

Advice to the players

Bringing the written word to life: Hamlet's advice to the players and your own

You will write and perform your final meditations on Oral Interpretation

Disabilities Act: Disabled Students Services (DSS) supports and arranges accommodations for students with disabilities. Supportive services include career, academic, financial aid, personal counseling, support groups, classroom accommodations, interpreters and access to adaptive equipment. **To receive services, students with disabilities must have an established need for academic assistance and provide documentation of their disability six to eight weeks before classes start.** The U.S. Department of Education, the Carl Perkins Act and Cuyahoga Community College fund the DSS Program. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information, or if you need special arrangements in case the

building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For specific information pertaining to accommodations, contact the ACCESS office.

Intellectual Dishonesty: To plagiarize is defined by *The American Heritage College Dictionary* as “to use and pass off as one’s own work (the ideas or writings of another).” This means that all academic work will be done by the student to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. An initial act or plagiarism could result in a failing grade for the document(s) in question. A second occurrence of plagiarism could result in a failing grade for the entire course or possible dismissal from the college. Refer to College Handbook

The instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus as necessary. Any changes will be announced. It is a good idea to exchange contact information with a classmate in case you miss an announcement.

Go to INSIDE JCU and go to BlackBoard tab.