



TEXARKANA COLLEGE

Syllabus: Oral Interpretation

Course Number: DRAM 2341

Semester & Year: Spring 2014

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: Mon 11 – 3, Tue/Thur 1 – 3, Fri 10 - 2

Textbook Information

No Purchased Text Required.

Student Learning Outcomes for the Course

Demonstrated Competencies:

1. Demonstrate and practice the fundamentals of presenting the scope and variety of works of literature.
2. Critically respond to performances given by peers within the class.
3. Prepare and perform works of poetry, prose fiction and non-fiction, giving attention to pitch, pronunciation and articulation and communication.

Student Requirements for Completion of the Course and Due Dates

Interpretation is the art of communicating to an audience a work of literary art in its intellectual, emotional, and aesthetic entirety.

The New York Times, Sunday, January 16, 1994:

"I certainly don't take on her character," Irene Worth said of the protagonist of her solo work, *Irene Worth's Portrait of Edith Wharton*. "How could I ever presume to? No, I evoke her through the words. (It is) a recital...It's reading aloud, sharing literature with friends..."

Syllabus and Overview of Course

Oral Interpretation is more than a vocalizing of silent reading

You must appreciate your material as a work of art

You must have the ability to communicate through voice and body

Oral Interpretation demands both intellectual and emotional response from the interpreter

The interpreter must then control and channel the understanding and emotion to get the appropriate response from the audience

Thus - Oral Interpretation requires completeness of understanding and skill in communication

Oral Interpretation is an art of **RE-CREATION**

You are an artist - making one art come alive through another

You are the instrument through which the author's voice (the printed page) is communicated to the audience

The instruments of communication are the voice and the body

These instruments must be controlled by an alert and controlled mind

The goal is to make literature, in its many and varied forms, come alive through the use of the human voice

THIS IS NOT A LECTURE CLASS!!!

This is a performance-oriented class, and as such requires your presence if the experience is to be of any real worth to you. Therefore, attendance is a high priority for success in this class. You will be allowed three (3) absences without penalty - each subsequent absence will lower your final average by one letter grade (per absence). Three tardies equal one absence.

I recognize that, as a performance class, much of the Grading is highly subjective on my part. Those of you who have experience in performing will probably have an easier go of it for a while - but note that I will expect more from you. Those of you lacking in either talent or experience may find some of this bit nerve-wracking for a bit - but hang in there - the less-talented/experienced person who prepares, practices, participates, works/tries to the best of their abilities and comes to class is much more likely to receive an "A" than the talented/experienced person who slides by.

You must be prepared to perform at every class. If you are called upon to perform and are not prepared to do so, you will be marked as 'absent' for that class.

You will prepare and perform pieces of the following types:

Poetry

Prose - Nonfiction

Prose - Fiction

Group Interpretation

Final Project (to be explained later)

Each piece will be presented a **MINIMUM** of two times for the class - growth is expected between the initial viewing and the second showing (or third, fourth, etc.). Note, however - just because you perform on Monday, don't sit back and relax because there are many others to go - you may be called upon at any time to perform again, and I will expect that your piece will have progressed since last seen.

Grading will be based upon your preparation, presentation, ability to intelligently discuss the material, participation in group discussions, support and positively constructive criticism of others' work, readiness to perform, etc.

Much of the success of this class depends on you - what you bring to the class. This could turn out to be an awful, tedious bore, or it could be exciting, fun, and well worth your time. This depends on the amount of energy, commitment, and enthusiasm you are willing to share.

Student Assessment

Grading will be based on averaging of Class Participation/Discussion, Quizzes, Critiques, Play Cards and any Extra Credit.

Grading Scale

Grade	
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59-below

CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN IN CLASS!!! (Unless you are a medical professional on call, or have another good reason that you okay with me)... First offense will be given a warning, Second offense will result in you being dropped from the class!!!

Attendance Policy

This is a performance-oriented class, and as such requires your presence if the experience is to be of any real worth to you. Therefore, attendance is a high priority for success in this class. You will be allowed three (3) absences without penalty -

each subsequent absence will lower your final average by one letter grade (per absence). Three tardies equal one absence.

Academic Integrity Statement

Scholastic dishonesty, involving but not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of records will make the student liable for disciplinary action after being investigated by the Dean of Students. Proven violations of this nature will result in the student being dropped from the class with an "F".

This policy applies campus wide, including TC Testing Center, as well as off-campus classroom or lab sites, including dual credit campuses. This information can be found in the Student Handbook at <https://texarkanacollege.edu>.

Disability Act Statement:

Texarkana College complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act and makes reasonable accommodations upon request. Please contact Larry Andrews at 903.823.3283, or go by the Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention Department located in the Administration building for personal assistance.

If you have an accommodation letter from their office indicating that you have a disability which requires academic accommodations, please present it to me so we can discuss the accommodations that you might need for this class. *It is best to request these changes at the beginning if not before the start of class* so there is ample time to make the accommodations..

Financial Aid:

Attention! Dropping this class may affect your funding in a negative way! You could owe money to the college and/or federal government. Please check with the Financial Aid office before making a decision.