

Montgomery County Community College  
 SPC 113  
 Voice and Articulation  
 3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed for students in communication-intensive careers such as theater, broadcasting, sales, or teaching, as well as those in the English Second Language (ESL) Program to help them improve their vocal skills. Exercises and techniques to improve English pronunciation and articulation, vocal projection, rhythm and fluid delivery, projection, and resonance, will be taught. The International Phonetic Alphabet will also be covered. Application and practice will be required.

**PREREQUISITE(S):** Students must have successfully completed or tested out of ENG 011 or REA 011 or ESL 009.

**CO-REQUISITE(S):**  
 None

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Describe the physiological factors that govern breath control and sound production.	Lecture Discussion Active Student Participation Critique Sessions Audio and/or Video Taping for Feedback	Journal Entries Quizzes Two Vocal Observation Papers
2. Demonstrate exercises for improving breath control, placement, and sound production	Breathing Warm-Up Exercises Vocal Exercises Choral and Individual Vocal Drills	Verbal Feedback Peer Observations and Feedback Journal Feedback
3. Demonstrate improved listening, speaking and vocal analysis skills.	*Watch and listen to selected video, audio and live vocal selections	Discussion and Critiques Vocal Observation Papers

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4 Identify the purposes and applications of the International Phonetic Alphabet, and explain its relevance to American English.	Lecture IPA Demonstration IPA Exercises Transcription In class Evaluation	Transcription Homework Transcription of Final Project Text Application of IPA on Final Vocal Presentations
5. Identify and apply techniques for vocal and speech improvement, based upon individual need.	Audio and/or videotaping for Feedback Critique Sessions Student Self-Evaluation	Instructor feedback and Discussion

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

#### SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Physiological Basis of Vocal Production
  - a. speech mechanisms
  - b. breath control (tome, volume/projection)
  - c. sound production (resonance, pitch)
2. Articulation and Diction
  - a. articulated sounds (vowels, consonants, diphthongs)
  - b. American English (speech patterns, International Phonetic Alphabet)
3. Voice
  - a. vocal variety and vocal expressiveness
  - b. individual specialization and application

#### LEARNING MATERIALS:

Textbook:

Wells, Lynn K. (2004). *The Articulate Voice: An Introduction to Voice and Diction* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Allyn & Bacon.

Accent Reduction: The Standard American Accent, by Ivan Borodin

Accent Reduction: Using Consonants to Sound American, by Ivan Borodin

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

American Accent Training: A guide to speaking and pronouncing American English for Everyone who speaks English as a second language, with 5 audio CDs, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, by Ann Cook

#### COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Tobi Mackler

Date: 2/7/2000

VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John Flynn

Date: 4/2005

Revised by: Tobi Mackler

Date: 6/22/2005

Revised by: Celeste Walker and Tom Donlan

Date: 5/27/2013

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 6/4/2013

Revised by: Tom Donlan

Date: 2/2014

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 3/18/2014

Revised by: Celeste Walker and Tom Donlan

Date: 4/17/2014

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.

Date: 6/16/2014

Revised by: Tom Donlan

Date: 11/15/2017

VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 2/2/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*