

**CMNS/THTR 133**  
**Voice and Diction**  
3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County  
Common Course Outline

**Description**

**CMNS/THTR 133 – Voice and Diction:** introduces students to the process of linking voice production and the nature of sound, projection, pronunciation, enunciation, and phonetics to the intellectual and emotional landscape of the speaker and listener. Students will analyze and develop their own voice and diction through various practice and performance formats.

**Pre-requisites:** ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain how the human voice is an instrument of emotional and intellectual expression;
2. identify anatomical structures of the vocal and breathing mechanisms;
3. demonstrate good diaphragmatic breathing habits;
4. describe the nature of consonant and vowel production and how it aids in the production of speech sound;
5. develop a personal practice that fosters a freer, stronger voice;
6. utilize effective language and pronunciation in various professional, casual, and/or performance contexts;
7. employ appropriate vocal approaches to a range of styles and structures of texts;
8. practice dynamic listening with the body, voice, and emotional impulses of self and others;  
and
9. coordinate the voice with facial expression and body movement for overall message success.

**Major Topics**

- I. Anatomy and Physiology of Voice Production
  - a. Diaphragmatic breathing
  - b. Tone and timbre
  - c. Articulation
  - d. Fluency
- II. Language and Development
  - a. Phonetics
  - b. Syntax
- III. Prosody: Rhythm, Stress, and Intonation
  - a. Resonance

The Common Course Outline (CCO) determines the essential nature of each course.  
For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

- b. Vocal variety
- IV. Breathing, Relaxation, and Vocal Exercises
  - a. Fitzmorris Technique
  - b. Linklater Vocal Method
  - c. Alexander Technique
- V. Vocal Quality
  - a. Breathiness
  - b. Nasal and denasal
  - c. Throaty
  - d. Glottal shock
  - e. Harsh vocal fry
  - f. Hoarseness
- VI. Text Analysis and Performance Preparation
- VII. Group Performance Techniques
- VIII. Vocal Health

### **Course Requirements**

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- 1 written test
- 3 vocal interpretation performances (assessments evaluating improvement levels, based upon comparisons of work done by the student at beginning of semester, mid-semester, and end of semester)
- 2 vocal response papers analyzing an observed oral presentation
- Active in-class participation

### **Other Course Information**

Credit may be received for CMNS 133 or THTR 133, but not both.

Date Revised: 11/3/2020