

**Oral Interpretation of Literature**  
**Speech 125**  
**Monday / Wednesday 9:30-10:50 am**

**Instructor:** Dewi Hokett

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**Text:** Communicating Literature: An Introduction to Oral Interpretation. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Todd Lewis

**Materials:** One black 5 x 7 3 ring binder, 5 x 7 non-glare page holders.

**Course Description:** Oral Interpretation is based on the conviction that the close study of literature for performative reasons is in itself a rewarding experience. Sharing the results of such analysis with an audience gives motivation and focus to understanding literature and satisfaction of performance. The skills that are acquired through performance allows students to provide a stronger foundation for critical argument of literature as well as enhancement of presentation.

Through study, practice, coaching, presentation, peer feedback, and increased confidence the student should develop: 1) the ability to communicate the meanings of literature to others by achieving a fusion of literature, reader and listener; 2) an understanding and explanation of the theoretical considerations of oral interpretation; 3) increased responsive critical listening skills; 4) a heightened understanding of all genres of literature; 5) acceptance of constructive criticism.

**Course Requirements:**

**Exams:** Two examinations; a midterm and a final worth **100 points** each will be given. The exams may consist of essay, short answer and multiple choice questions.

**Readings**

**Ungraded: Children's Literature:** The student will prepare a short (1:30 to 2 minutes maximum reading of a children's story. Must be presented as if you were reading to a group of children---but it must be a performance piece, no showing of pictures.

**Prose Interpretation:** The student will present a 6-8 minute interp from one source centered around a unifying theme. This may include novels, short stories, essays, etc. **200 points**

**Dramatic Monologue:** The student will present a 6-8 minute one character monologue from a play, screen play, radio or television drama. **200 points**

**Programmed Interpretation:** The student will present an 8-10 minute interp utilizing a combination to two or more genres centered around a unifying theme. **200 points**

**Duo Interpretation:** Two students will present an 8-10 minute performance from a play, screen play, or television drama. **200 points**

**NOTE:** Sign-up sheets for each presentation will be distributed in advance of each class performance. One class PRIOR to the oral performance a copy (Xeroxed, or typed) of the program must be turned in the instructor. Failure to turn in the manuscript copy on time will preclude the student from performing. All presentations must the time limit restrictions. Presentations may be videotaped. The use of a notebook will be required to hold manuscripts for presentations. If a student fails to perform on the designated day, the grade will be lowered ten percent for each class day late.

**PARTICIPATION:** Attendance and meaningful participation are prerequisite to a performance class as an effective learning experience. Effective participation includes assigned critiques of fellow students, the sharing of relevant opinions, ideas and feelings as well as regular and timely attendance. Two free absences are allowed, ten points off the overall grade for any to follow. Attendance on performance days is especially important to provide audience and feedback for fellow students. In addition, throughout the course students will be placed into smaller groups to discuss literature, performances and course material.

**READINGS:** The student is expected to remain current and ready to discuss all text and other assigned readings. Each chapter assignment must be completed before each class session. Dr. Lewis has seasoned his book with a variety of literature. Students may be called upon for an extemporaneous reading. In addition, students are expected to do extensive reading to find their interpretation pieces.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Many opportunities will be provided for extra credit. Students may opt to visit a speech tournament for a total of 50 points (10 points per round), and attend the Evening of Reading by the Speech and Debate Team (30 points). Other extra credit opportunities may arise as the semester progresses.

**APPROPRIATE ATTIRE:** On performance days, the student is required to dress appropriately in order to enhance credibility. Please do not perform in shorts, sandals, or T-Shirts, as it becomes difficult to take the speaker seriously. No hats or sunglasses allowed. Costumes for performance are prohibited as well. Simple, solid colors for performance enhance credibility.

## **GRADING:**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
Prose Interpretation	200
Programmed Oral Interp	200
Dramatic Monologue	200
DUO Interpretation	200
Midterm	100
Final	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000 Points</b>

**Note:** Attendance and Participation grades are considered A grades unless 3 absences occur or behavior and contribution to the class hinders performances, whereupon the points will be deducted from the overall scale at the end of the semester.

### **Tentative Schedule for Spring 2012**

#### **Week One**

January 16 (No class) / 18  
Introduction to the Course / Syllabus Discussion

#### **Week Two**

January 23  
Chapter 1, 2  
Ungraded interp assigned  
January 25  
Chapter 3

#### **Week Three**

January 30  
Chapter 4, 5  
February 1  
Chapter 6

#### **Week Four**

February 6  
Chapter 7, 12  
February 8  
Chapter 8: Introduction to Prose

#### **Week Five**

February 13  
Chapter 9: Introduction to Drama  
February 15  
Prose Choices Due for Discussion  
**Ungraded Children's Lit Assignments Due: 2 min max**

**Week Six**

February 20

No Class

February 22

**Ungraded Assignments Continue****Week Seven**

February 27

Chapter 13: Introduction to POI

Drama Choices due for Discussion

February 29

**Prose Interpretation Performances: 6-8 minutes****Week Eight**

March 5 / 7

**Prose Interpretation Performances: 6-8 minutes****Week Nine**

March 12

**Prose Interpretation Performances: 6-8 minutes**

March 14

TBA: NO CLASS

**Week Ten**

March 19 / 21

NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

**Week Eleven**

March 26 / 28

**Dramatic Monologue Performances: 6-8 minutes**

POI Choices Due

**Week Twelve**

April 2 / 4

**Dramatic Monologue Performances: 6-8 minutes**

Intro to DUO Interp: DUO's Assigned / Pairings Announced

**Week Thirteen**

April 9 / 11

**TBA: MIDTERM GIVEN ON MONDAY / NO CLASS WED****Week Fourteen**

April 16 / 18

**Programmed Oral Interpretation Performances: 8-10 minutes max**

**Week Fifteen**

April 23 / 25

**Programmed Oral Interpretation Performances: 8-10 max**

Begin DUO Workshops (teams work together during class time)

**Week Sixteen**

April 30 / May 2

DUO Workshops (teams work together during class time)

**Week Seventeen**

May 7 / 9

**DUO Performances: 8-10 minutes max****Week Eighteen: May 16: FINAL EXAM WEEK****Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 16: 10-11:50 am**Extra Credit Tournament Observation**

Southwestern Invitational	Southwestern College	Feb. 3 (Fri)
Sunset Cliffs Classic	Point Loma Nazarene University	Feb. 4-5 (Sat, Sun)
Tabor-Venitsky Invite	Cerritos College	Feb. 18 (Sat)
<b>PSCFA Cool Off</b>	<b>Saddleback College (performance option)</b>	<b>April 29 (Sun)</b>

**Other**

Evening of Forensics	Palomar College (P 32: 6 pm)	TBA
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**\*\*It is important to note that if the student possesses the point equaling an A score (900-1000) before the date of the Final Exam, they will be exempt from the Final. The student will be contacted if they have reached this goal.**

