

## **COURSE SYLLABUS FORM**

**American University of Beirut**

**Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

**Department: Civilization Sequence Program**

**Course Number and Title: CVSP/Theater 267 Voice and Acting**

1. **Course Learning Outcomes:** After taking this course students will know proper use of their vocal equipment and how to speak with clear diction and poise (psychomotor skills). Basic acting techniques will be imparted through in-class exercises designed to increase physical control, imaginative powers and the ability to assess and engage audiences.
2. **Resources Available to Students:** Notes, speech exercises and play scripts shall be handed out in class. There is no textbook but supplementary readings and sourcebooks shall be on reserve in either Jafet or CELRT Library. Audio and video materials shall exemplify class topics and a local play production should be seen and reported on at least once during the semester.
3. **Grading Criteria:** Class attendance and positive-attitude participation in exercises and minor assignments is important. Individual improvement and self-monitoring contributes to the final grade as well as the quality of delivery of test speeches.
4. **Schedule:** (Week by week with some flexibility)
  - 1) Introduction to the course.
  - 2) Criteria for good public speech. Vowel sounds, inflection, pitch range of men and women.
  - 3) Breathing, vocalization, tone. Anatomy of vocal mechanism.
  - 4) Achieving relaxation, diaphragm breathing and paralinguistics.
  - 5) The three resonating chambers; their use, balance and control. First test speech: Extemporaneous delivery.
  - 6) Prepare second text speech. "Voice mapping" a speech as an aid to expression.
  - 7) Second test speech; acting introduction; gesture, stage movement.
  - 8) Ongoing stage work. External technique and Internal practice of "belief" (concentration). Interaction with place and audience.
  - 9) Play reading: characterization and dialogue work. Interaction with text and with other characters.
  - 10) Work on selected dramatic speeches on-stage. "Building" a speech. Stage "blocking".
  - 11) Flexible; movie clips and/or audio selections. "Clinic" work on coming assignment or on poetry.
  - 12) Video-recording dramatic speeches.

- 13) Finish video recording. Begin evaluation/critiques.
- 14) Treatment and delivery of Shakespeare's language.
- 15) In-class movie clips illustrating acting styles; realistic vs. stylized, character acting, comic vs. serious approaches.

5. **Course Policy:** Attendance and punctuality are important. Lateness and unreadiness to do assignments lowers grades. No more than two absences without a medical excuse are allowed. Absence from a test speech or final exam speech requires a medical excuse.