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# Oral Interpretation of Literature

**Instructor: Terri M**  
**Office Hours: MWF 2:00 p.m.**

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**Web Site: <http://speechone.hypermart.net>**

**Strictly Speaking Forum:**

**<http://rcspeech.hypermart.net>**

**Textbook: Roles in Interpretation by Yorden**

Through this class you will gain a new appreciation of literature as you learn how to share drama, fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's literature with an audience. This type of performance is called Oral Interpretation because you first gain a deep understanding of the literature and then you use your body and voice to convey that understanding to an audience. No two persons approaching the same literature will ever interpret the same piece of literature exactly alike. Thus, each Oral Interpretive performance is uniquely individual. It is as individual as each person's own enjoyment of the literature. I trust that your enjoyment of literature deepens over this semester.

In this class you will learn:

- How to understand various types of literature through close critical study
- How to select materials for public performance
- How to combine different types of literature to develop a complete program
- How to create introductions and transitions for your programs

How to control your voice and breathing in order to adequately convey the emotional impact of your materials.

Drop date  
Final exams

## Assignments and Grading

Exercises 100 points  
Quizzes 100 points  
Midterm 100 points  
Final 100 points  
Short Poetry Reading 50 Points  
Poetry Program 100 Points  
Fiction Reading 50 Points  
Fiction Program 100 Points  
Drama Reading 100 Points  
Long Mixed Program 100 Points  
Reader's Theater 100 Points

*child -*  
*Sucker*  
*Shakespeare*

Total Points 1000

### Grading Scale

A=900-1000

B=800-899

C=700-799

D=600-699

F=Under 600

### Extra Credit

Okay, for all you obsessive-compulsive types, I do allow you to earn up to 50 points of extra credit in this course. (Although, I wonder why I make this offer, the ones who really need the extra credit rarely do it, and the ones that don't need it overload my box with it.)

You can earn extra credit in a variety of ways:

1. **Bluelight Specials.** Some days I'll announce a surprise extra credit assignment only to those who are in class on that day. It pays to come to class regularly
2. **Attend and Critique Speeches.** I give up to 10 points of extra credit if you attend a speech and write a two-page critique of that speech. I encourage you to bring in announcements of upcoming speech events, I will post them

on my office door. I will also post them on a special web page.

3. Give a Speech in the "Real World." We all know that school is just Fantasy Island, but if you arrange to give a speech to a community group, another college class, a church or other organization, let me know. Bring written verification by an official of the group, and I will give you 25 points of extra credit.

4. Internet Specials. I will be posting extra credit assignments on the Strictly Speaking Forum and on the Speech12 Mailing List. So, check the forums and e-mail weekly.

#### Attendance:

You have 100 points just for attending class. So, if you just fill a seat every day that's the same as getting an "A" on a speech. Not bad, eh. I'll also give you 3 free days to miss without penalty. After that you will lose 2 points for each lecture day missed and 5 points for each speech day missed. So, missing eight speech days is like getting an "F" on a speech. If you miss a day when you are scheduled to speak, then it is a 10 point deduction plus the deduction for late speech grade.

Also for the attendance to count, you must be in your seat (paying attention) no later than ten minutes after the start of class. If you leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class you will lose the attendance points for that day.

Now I am not unreasonable, I do understand that there are reasons why one might miss class. So here are some acceptable and unacceptable reasons.

#### Valid Excuses:

1. Death in the family. (And remember I can count. I'll allow two grandmothers, after that I get suspicious)
2. Personal illness. (And if it's contagious, just call, don't come to class to tell me in person.)
3. Auto accidents, car troubles, etc. (But please if you have an accident a week, you might consider walking to school.)
4. Family emergencies. (If you have more than three children, let me know so I can determine the full extent of the epidemic)
5. Giving Birth. (No comment necessary)

Invalid Excuses:

1. Too tired. (Aren't we all)
2. Had to clean my house. (I don't have time to clean mine, why should you clean yours)
3. Wanted to leave early for Thanksgiving. (Why? Afraid they'd run out of food.)
4. Came back late from Spring Break (I see you found the food was plentiful)
5. Had to study for an *important* class. (And this isn't)
6. Anything that implies you were having more fun than the rest of us.

# Internet Stuff

In this class we will be using the power of the Internet to enhance the learning experience. To do this you will need to become familiar with using the computer. If you are not familiar with how to access material on the Internet, don't worry. We will be holding an Internet seminar before the end of the month to get you up and running.

One thing you will need to do, if you do not have personal Internet access and that is to set up a Web-Based E-mail account. Using one of the computers on campus log on to <http://www.hotmail.com> . Following the instructions on the screen you can set up an e-mail account you can access from any Internet accessible computer. Please do this in the next two weeks and inform me of your Internet address so I can add you to the mailing list.

There are several Internet resources created especially for this class.

*Mailing List.* Those familiar with listservs know how these work. For the rest of you here's the idea. A mailing list is sort of a 90's version of the party line. You can send an e-mail to the list simply by typing in one address. Everyone on the list can read it and respond either directly to you or by replying to the list. Your e-mail is posted almost immediately. So, for instance, if you are researching a topic for a speech or term paper and are having trouble finding enough information, you could post a request to the list and if someone on the list has information they can post a reply. I will also be using the list to post assignments, answer questions, clarify instructions and to post extra credit opportunities.

By Friday please subscribe to this list by using any Internet ready computer and logging on to this web site <http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/Spechone> Fill out the form you find on that page by following the screen instructions. Please register with your actual name and not a "handle" or screen name. However, you can use whatever "handle" you want on your e-mail account.

*The Speech Home Page.* This is still under construction, but it already has a bunch of useful information. I will be posting the syllabi for my classes by next week. You can learn how to get an A on a speech, do a web search, access a variety of research sources, beta test chapters from a new interactive Public Speaking text, or learn how to write an effective term paper. The

URL is <http://members.tripod.com/~speechone>

*The Strictly Speaking Forum.* This is an on-line community for my classes. There are separate sections for each class for announcements, requests for help, griping, kibitzing, making contacts or socializing. There will also be posted on the Interpersonal Boards weekly discussion questions related to topics to be covered in class. This helps us keep the conversation going inside and outside of class. I will post "forum only" extra credit opportunities and you will be able to gain extra credit just by taking part in certain forum discussions. In the forum you can also create a private chat room to discuss whatever. We may even have some extra-credit chat events. The URL is <http://forums.delphi.com/m/main.asp?sigdir=RCSpeech>

Please register in this forum by Friday. I will post a notice which you must reply to by Wednesday August 25 to insure that you have completed this registration process.

# Classroom Decorum

I shouldn't even have to deal with this considering that we are all supposedly mature adults who have been taught common courtesy by our parents and the school system. However, for those who still have not discovered how to behave in public, we will go over the rules.

1. When someone else is speaking in class you *Shut Up!!!* This means that you cease any conversations you may be having with your best friend, study partner, husband, wife, sister, brother, lover or stranger sitting next to, behind, or in front of you. In fact, stop talking to yourself. Have I covered all contingencies? Fine! If this rule is not followed I will on first offense call you down publicly, on second offense your attendance points will be taken, on third offense I will deduct ten points from your total points, beyond three offenses I reserve the right to have you removed from class.

2. Don't study for another class in this one. Even if the class is boring, it is extremely rude to me or to any of the other speakers if you are reading a textbook or doing homework for another class. I will tell you to close the book and make every attempt to embarrass you completely if you do this. If that doesn't work, the same penalties as for talking in class will apply.

3. We live in a wonderful world of technology where we can be in constant touch with anybody, anywhere in the world, and they can get in touch with us via pagers and cell phones. Consider this class a technological throwback in this regard. Turn off all pagers and cell phones before entering class. If you are paged or your phone rings, you're attendance points will be taken away for the day, and you will receive a 5 point deduction from any other grade you may have received that day.

4. Take off your hat before speaking. Actually, you should remove caps and hats when you walk into a room, it is only common courtesy, but since

courtesy is less common than it used to be, I won't go that far, but when you speak...lose the hat. If you do not, then you will receive a five point deduction on your speech. This includes cherished speeches, group exercises and PowerPoint presentations.

5. Do not plagiarize. This means taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own. In the past two years I have received no less than five copies of the same analysis of Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Even the same words are misspelled. I give an "F" on any assignment clearly plagiarized. If you plagiarize two assignments I will flunk you in the course.

6. Arrive on time and stay in class. I sometimes wonder how some of my students will fare in the business and professional world when they constantly arrive 15 or 20 minutes late and decide to leave 15 or 20 minutes early from class. I have already laid out the rules for attendance but let's reaffirm them here. Attendance means being in your seat on time and staying in that seat until I say class is over. Anything less does not count.

7. Clean up your mess. Okay, sometimes our demonstration speeches are messy. If that is the case with yours bring a cloth or papers or some other way to protect the furniture and the floors. Failure to do so will reflect on your speech grade.

8. The instructor is absolute dictator in this classroom. In regards to your classroom conduct what I say goes. If you don't like what I tell you to do, then you have two choices: agree (and grumble to your friends in the cafeteria) or drop which will free up more time for speeches. Of course, if you act in a courteous manner, then you will find me a benevolent despot.



# Contract for Speech 12

*I have read and understood this syllabus, the materials related to attendance and assignments and I agree to abide by the above stated rules for classroom conduct. I understand that violation of these rules may result in various grade penalties as determined by the instructor and outlined in this document. I also understand that I may at any time make an appointment with the instructor during regularly scheduled office hours to discuss my progress in the class and receive any help necessary for my success in the class. The instructor shall explain all assignments and requirements for this course thoroughly. We will work together for my eventual success in this course.*

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_ *SSN* \_\_\_\_\_

*Print Name* \_\_\_\_\_

*E-mail Address* \_\_\_\_\_