

COM 210  
Oral Interpretation of Literature  
Fall 2003

Instructor: Dr. Frank Thompson  
Email: fthomps@ccom.ua.edu  
Office: 210-A Phifer Hall  
Office Hours: M 1:00 - 2:00  
                  W 10:00 - 11:00 and by appointment  
Credit Hours: 3

Required Text: Lee, Charlotte I. & Timothy Gura. **Oral Interpretation.**  
10th ed., 2001.

**Course Objectives:**

COM 210 is a beginning course in the oral interpretation of literature. The course is designed to cover the principles and techniques of analyzing and presenting literature orally. By examining the written word from a variety of cultures, and diverse backgrounds we hope to gain a greater understanding of differing points of view. The course will cover works of poetry, prose, and drama. The specific objectives are:

1. To increase your ability to contextually analyze literature.
2. To gain a theoretical approach to the study of the oral interpretation of literature.
3. To develop your presentational skills.
4. To use the body and voice to convey and share the different points of view from a diverse group of writers.

**Course Outline With Assigned Text Readings and Topics**

Date	Topic/Activity	Readings Assignments
8/21	Purposes and Procedures of Course	
8/26-28	Definition of Oral Interpretation/ Guidelines for Material Selection	Chapter 1 & 2
9/2-4	Selection Analysis/Cutting the Selection	
9/9-11	Voice and Body as Tools of Communication	Chapters 3&4
9/16-18	Interpretation of Prose Material Elements of Prose	Chapters 5&6
9/23-25	<b>Prose Performance</b>	
9/30 -10/2	<b>Prose Performance</b> Mid-term Exam	
10/7-9	Interpretation of Dramatic Material	Chapter 7
10/14-16	Interpretation of Dramatic Material <b>Dramatic Performance</b>	Chapter 8

10/21-23	<b>Dramatic Performance</b>	
10/28-30	Interpretation of Poetry Material	Chapters 9&10
11/4-6	Program Oral Interpretation Performance Group Performance Techniques	Chapter 11
11/11-13	<b>Program Oral Interpretation Performance</b>	
11/18-20	<b>Program Oral Interpretation Performance</b>	
11/25	<b>Group Interpretation Performance</b> No Class on 27th - Thanksgiving Holiday	
12/2-4	<b>Group Interpretation Performance</b> Review for Final and Class evaluations	

**FINAL EXAM DATE:** 9:30 am Class - 12/11/03 8:00 am  
12:30 pm Class - 12/10/03 11:30 am  
The final will be comprehensive.

**Course Requirements:**

To accomplish the course objectives, each student is expected to complete the following course work:

**1. Present four performances during the semester:**

Prose - Students will present an 8 to 10 minute selection of prose material. This will include an introduction and any needed transitions. A manuscript will be used.

Drama - Student will present an 8 to 10 minute selection of dramatic material (taken from a play). It may be serious and/or humorous in nature. This will include an introduction and any needed transitions. A manuscript will be used.

Program Oral Interpretation - Student will present an 8 to 10 minute selection from two or three different genres of literature -- i.e. prose, poetry, play. This will include an introduction and any needed transitions. A manuscript will be used.

Group Interpretation - Class members will be divided into group of 5-7 students. Each group will present a "Reader's Theatre" performance on a central theme 20-25 minutes in length.

2. Each student will present oral assignments in class and submit written assignments related to various classroom activities.
3. Each student will need to provide a small black three ring binder to be used when presenting material.
4. Each student should have read and be prepared to respond to all reading assignments.
5. Each student should contribute to class discussions and critiques of student performances.

**6. Attendance Policy:**

Students who do not attend the first two meetings of a Tuesday-Thursday course or the first three meetings of a Monday-Wednesday-Friday course may be administratively disenrolled.

Attendance is very important in any class, and as a result the following rules will apply to the class -- more than three unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your average by 4 points for each absence. There are NO exceptions. The status of unexcused absences will be determined by the instructor.

**7. Grade Requirement:**

Students must earn a "C" or better in all required and elective courses in the major. A "C" or better is required in all external courses required by the major whether they serve as a prerequisite to a major course or are simply required by the major.

**8. Code of Academic Conduct:**

All students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. All acts of dishonesty in any academic work constitute academic misconduct. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

A. Cheating -- using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information.

B. Plagiarism -- representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer program or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own.

C. Fabrication -- presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material

D. Misrepresentation -- falsifying, altering, or mistaking the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

**9. Disability Accommodation Statement:**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability Services, 348-4285. Thereafter, you are invited to schedule appointments to see me during my office hours to discuss accommodations and other special needs.

**10. Distribution of Final Grade:**

Prose Performance	100 pts.
Drama Performance	100 pts.
Program Oral Interpretation Performance	100 pts.
Group Interpretation Performance	100 pts.
Mid-term Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
Total Points	600 pts.

Final Grade Scale:

600 - 579 = A+
578 - 564 = A
563 - 540 = A-
539 - 519 = B+
518 - 504 = B
503 - 480 = B-
479 - 459 = C+
458 - 444 = C
443 - 420 = C-
419 - 399 = D+
398 - 384 = D
383 - 360 = D-
359 - 0 = F