

**Voice and Diction for International Students FALL 2013 Syllabus  
SUNY Rockland Community College**

**Course Information**

Course Number: SPE 104.001N  
Course Title: Voice and Diction for International Students  
Credits: 3  
Meets: MWF 1:00 – 1:50  
Room: 1116  
Angel: <https://sunyrockland.sln.suny.edu>

**Contact Information**

Instructor: Chaya Rachel Nove  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Email: [cnove@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:cnove@sunyrockland.edu)

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help students who are non-native speakers of English improve their voice and articulation abilities in order to enhance their communicative skills. Students will become familiar with the phonetic symbols of the American English sound system and the theories and mechanics of sound production. Through individualized attention as well as activities with partners and in small groups, students will practice English speaking and listening and work to reduce first-language influence on English pronunciation. Common pronunciation problems will be addressed. Additionally, the course will offer students exercise in proper breath control and correct voice production in order to improve vocal quality, range, rate and power.

Students please note: *Mistakes are part of the syllabus of this course.* Mistakes are good, as they help us learn to distinguish between the nuances of sound – so don't be afraid to make them! Also, the goal of this course is *not* to eliminate your accent or to make you sound like a native speaker. The goal is to model proper English pronunciation so that your particular way of speaking does not interfere with your being understood.

**Required Text**

Grant, Linda. (2010) *Well Said, Third Edition: Pronunciation for Clear Communication*. Boston, MA: Centage Learning.

**Student Learning Objectives**

By the end of the semester, students will:

- Refine their ability to discriminate between English sounds and those of their native language
- Recognize and discriminate between correct and incorrect phoneme production
- Demonstrate the ability to produce the correct phoneme and minimize foreign, regional and other elements of their speech patterns that may interfere with intelligibility.
- Refine their use of the International Phonetic Alphabet.
- Demonstrate at least five exercises to relax the vocal mechanism.
- Demonstrate the ability to control breathing to facilitate acceptable speech patterns.

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- Develop an appropriate rate pattern.
- Develop vocal variability.
- Demonstrate a range of tone and volume through oral presentations.

**Course Requirements / Criteria for Evaluation of Course Competencies**

Students will keep a notebook/journal to record notes, thoughts and observations. Several entries will need to be submitted (reflection papers)

Students will submit a recorded speech sample to be analyzed two or three times during the semester.

Student will receive advisement on individual speech difficulties based on their recorded speech sample and on in-class observation.

Students will periodically critique their own speech production via audio recording for self-assessment and determination of progress. Audio feedback will assist students with speech sound discrimination and development production, as well as vocal skills.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of competencies learned through weekly quizzes and mid-term and final examinations with a minimal passing grade of 65%.

Students will demonstrate an awareness of correct voice and diction techniques through self-evaluation and critiquing of others, e.g., phonetic clarity and accuracy, vocal quality, voice projections, and vocal variety.

**Attendance and Participation:**

Due to the nature of this course, daily attendance and participation are essential. You are allowed 3 excused absences if your class meets twice a week and 5 absences if your class meets three times a week. Please budget accordingly. Exceeding the amount of days you are allowed for absence will result in a reduction of your final grade for the course. **Please Note: When you reach double the amount of absences allowed for your class you will automatically be issued a failing grade for the course.**

Also, punctuality is expected of every student! Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as an absence after three incidents.

There are **100 points** possible for class participation and peer feedback. These points will be reduced based on your verbal participation, nonverbal participation, and attendance overall. There is a ZERO tolerance policy in place with regard to disruptions during student presentations.

**Late and/or Missed Assignments**

Makeup exams will be given only when prior notice of absence is received. Written assignments that are not submitted on their due dates will receive one full grade penalty for being one week late (*e.g.* from A to B). Assignments that are submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy format unless permission is granted to submit an electronic copy.

Presentations and class activities cannot be made up, for obvious reasons. Please read the schedule carefully and make sure that you do not miss any important days. It is impossible to render a grade for an undelivered speech or an unaccomplished assignment.

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**Cell Phone and Laptop Use Policy**

Cell phones and laptops are great tools, but they have limited if any use within the classroom. Use of these electronic devices at inappropriate times is both disruptive and rude. Laptops (but not cell phones) may be used for note taking during class lectures. They should NOT be used for Internet access unrelated to class activity. Cell phone use is not permitted at any time in the classroom, in either text or audible mode (unless they are required for a class activity, as specified by your instructor). Your phone should be turned OFF (not set to vibrate) while you are in class. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please let me know before class begins. You can then set your phone to vibrate and sit close to the door so that you can leave quickly and quietly if necessary.

Students seen using cell phones or laptops inappropriately will be reminded once of this policy. Continued cell phone use may result in an absence being recorded, dismissal from class, or my holding of cell phones until the end of class. **Students who continuously break these rules should expect a reduced final grade or an F.**

**Academic Dishonesty**

*Academic dishonesty is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. DO NOT DO IT.* Below is the policy for academic dishonesty as per the SUNY Rockland student handbook:

1. Academic Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to the following:
  - a. Cheating on examinations.
  - b. Plagiarism, i.e.: the use of words or ideas of others, whether borrowed, purchased or otherwise obtained, without crediting the source.
  - c. Submitting work previously presented in another course.
  - d. Willingly collaborating with others in any of the above actions which result(s) in work being submitted which is not the student's own.
  - e. Stealing examinations, falsifying academic records and other such offenses.
2. If the instructor deems that a student is guilty of cheating or plagiarism, the instructor may initiate disciplinary action through the Dean of Students, and/ or may:
  - a. Require that the student repeat the assignment or the examination.
  - b. Give the student a failing grade for the assignment or examination.
  - c. Give the student a failing grade in the course and deny the student continued access to the class.
  - d. The instructor should advise the Dean of Students, in writing, of any of these actions.
3. If the student wishes to appeal the above decision, he/ she may request in writing a hearing before a Hearing Committee.

**Accessibility Services (AS)**

RCC is committed to providing qualified students with disabilities equal access to all programs, services and facilities in compliance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the American with Disabilities Act. If you believe you will need accommodations to succeed in this class, you are strongly encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) located in the Tech Center, RM 8150, (845) 574-454. Services are available to students with documented disabilities and are individualized based upon disability documentation, functional limitations and assessment of student's needs without compromising academic standards.

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**Grading:**

Exams (2)	40%
Reflection Papers and Homework	10%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Final Presentation	20%
Class Participation	10%

**Letter Grade Scale**

98 – 100 =	A+
93 – 97 =	A
90 – 92 =	A-
87 – 89 =	B+
83 – 86 =	B
80 – 82 =	B-
77 – 79 =	C+
73 – 76 =	C
70 – 72 =	C-
65 – 69 =	D
Below 65 =	F

*Any changes made to this syllabus during the semester will be presented to the class and implemented by student consensus.*