

Shakespearean Interpretation, Form III

Course Description

This course is taught as part of the Covington Latin Speech curriculum. After the first two years of the curriculum in which students are introduced to basic declamatory skills and introduced to elements of characterization through story-telling, the junior year introduces students to more advanced dramatic skills. While some students will do so through the vehicle of the Junior Drama class, others will opt for the less time intensive Junior Speech option. In this class students are introduced to basic dramatic and acting techniques through the required performance of Shakespearean monologues. Students must choose a three to five minute Shakespearean monologue from an approved list. Through a series of practice performances students are introduced to physical, vocal and characterization techniques. The preparation of the monologues culminates in a public performance by the group of both their individual monologues, and a choral group performance. Following this performance students also, time allowing, prepare a recitation of a Shakespearean sonnet. These sonnets are then individually performed publicly in underclass English classes.

Course Goals

- To improve students' facility with vocal public presentation
- To introduce students to basic acting and dramatic techniques
- To lessen student anxiety regarding public speaking
- To foster student appreciation for Shakespearean drama and poetry