

## Syllabus:Public Speaking

Special “A” Academy  
Beijing Professor Brett Gamboa

### Course Description

In this course students will study great historical speeches, trying to discern and adapt the rhetorical and performative tools that great speakers use to win attention and interest for their topics and help persuade their audiences. The course will also introduce the history of communication studies, as well as fundamental ideas in ethics and rhetoric, ideally learning to use what they learn to enhance their future public presentations, and to communicate better during college or job interviews. Classes will also include discussions of writing and argumentation, audience analysis, incorporating multi-media tools, overcoming anxiety, and more.

### Teaching Methods

Our sessions will feature lecture as well as group discussions of your written assignments and formal speeches, as well as peer review exercises.

### Expectations and Assignments

I expect you to attend class, participate in discussions, bring materials to class, complete assignments on time, to write and deliver your speeches as efficiently and eloquently as possible. There will be one major assignment/speech each week, first brought to class for review (both by me and by your peers) and then delivered formally after revisions. There will also be shorter, in-class writing exercises.

### Textbooks

*A Concise Public Speaking Handbook (4th Edition) 4th Edition*

by Steven A. Beebe (Author), Susan J. Beebe (Author): [https://www.amazon.com/Concise-Public-Speaking-Handbook-4th/dp/0205897215/ref=pb\\_sbs\\_14\\_t\\_0?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=JR5FFVSN E9XKPR9PFK36](https://www.amazon.com/Concise-Public-Speaking-Handbook-4th/dp/0205897215/ref=pb_sbs_14_t_0?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=JR5FFVSN E9XKPR9PFK36)

I'd also **recommend** a grammar text such as this one: [http://www.amazon.com/Style-Lessons-Clarity-Grace-Edition/dp/0321898680/ref=pb\\_cp\\_b\\_0](http://www.amazon.com/Style-Lessons-Clarity-Grace-Edition/dp/0321898680/ref=pb_cp_b_0)

### Tentative Outline

#### Week 1: Introduction to Public Speaking

The first week will introduce communication studies. Students will read and discuss short speeches, rehearse and deliver short public speeches about themselves and their interests, in

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a style that may be appropriate for interviews or social situations. They'll also begin study of rhetorical style and argumentation.

### **Week 2: Informative Speeches**

Students will read and watch speeches meant to inform the audience. They will review principles of research, ethics, and organization, and they will gain practical experience researching a topic and then preparing and delivering a short talk about it. Students will also participate in peer reviews and critiques with their classmates, incorporating what they learn into their own presentations.

### **Week 3: Persuasive Speeches**

Students will study a range of persuasive speeches and rhetorical styles, using what they learn to develop a persuasive talk on a subject of interest. They will continue to develop research and argumentative skills and will practice identifying rhetorical figures and incorporating them into their own projects.

### **Week 4: Conclusion**

Students will research a new topic then draw on the skills they've gained giving personal, informative, and persuasive speeches to prepare a formal presentation that they can deliver to their peers. They will also take an examination on the rhetorical devices and argumentative styles studied throughout the course.

During the course, I'll assign daily readings, we'll analyze texts in class, write responses and read and listen to work by other students. My hope is that you will finish the course much more aware of why the great speakers and speeches are great, achieve a better understanding of how to write and speak effectively, and be more prepared to express your opinions in class or interviews or during presentations in the future.