

PUBLIC SPEAKING - SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

You will often be called upon to speak, not only to give a formal presentation of your own ideas, but also to persuade, to celebrate a victory, or to commemorate a loss. Communicating verbally is key to success in higher education and in employment, and yet a vast majority of people report feeling uncomfortable speaking before a group. If you are unable to handle nerves and structure an argument simply and effectively, your listeners won't be able to recognize its value.

In this course, you will learn how to organize, outline, and present three different types of speeches – informative, persuasive, and ceremonial. You will learn how to incorporate storytelling, control your nerves, and use your voice and body to communicate with your audience. You will critique yourself and others on presentation and content, and in the final week, you will debate ideas in a competitive environment. At the end of the course, you will be better able to organize your thoughts and express them verbally.

TEACHING METHODS

Classroom session will feature lectures, group discussions, warm-up exercises, speeches, and peer review assignments.

EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be expected to read class materials on time, watch recorded speeches in class and at home, participate in discussions, submit outlines and critiques, and present weekly speeches to the group. At the end of the term, students will submit final speech from their chosen genre, and participate in a debate.

TEXTBOOKS

The textbook is Stephen E. Lucas: *The Art of Public Speaking* (any recent edition). I'd also recommend a grammar text such as this one:

http://www.amazon.com/Style-Lessons-Clarity-Grace-Edition/dp/0321898680/ref=pd_cp_b_0

TENTATIVE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introductions and Informative Speech

We will begin the course by introducing ourselves and each other. Students will conduct a number of exercises to get over nervousness and submit a short analysis of a TED talk. We will then move on to the Topical Pattern for a speech. Students will brainstorm informative speeches to present as groups, then write and deliver their own informative speech. At the end of Week 1, students will submit self-evaluations based on recordings of their speeches.

Week 2: Persuasive Speech

We will begin Week 2 with a discussion of what went right and wrong in the first formal speech, and I will introduce ideas about kinesics – effective ways communicate nonverbally. We will take part in a number of exercises to build nonverbal communication skills. We will then proceed to patterns of persuasive speech. We will outline and deliver a persuasive speech and critique each other's work.

Week 3: Ceremonial Speech

Again, we will begin the week by looking back on what we learned from presenting our persuasive speeches. Then we will move on to storytelling. We will cover the types and structures of ceremonial speeches, then prepare and deliver a ceremonial speech.

Week 4: Final Speech And Debate

In our final week, we will discuss the types of speech we have covered. Students will develop their final speech and we will end the term by participating in a lively team debate.

The goal of the course is that students will improve their capability to construct arguments and express themselves verbally. Beyond that, students may improve their ability to participate in competitive academic environments where ideas must be presented and defended.

GRADING

In this course you will be asked to:

- Write a short response to a TED talk (10%)
- Outline and present an informative speech (15%)
- Outline and present a persuasive speech (15%)
- Outline and present a ceremonial speech (15%)
- Present a final speech (30%)
- Participate in class discussions and critiques throughout the course, and compete in the final debate (15%)

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