



Public Speaking

COMM 203 – 515

Spring 2018

12:40 pm – 1:30 am

BLTN 024

INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. David Tarvin
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309 G Bolton Hall

OFFICE HOURS: (MWF only)

08:50 am – 09:10 am (in BLTN 024)
11:20 am – 12:40 pm (in office)
01:40 pm – 03:00 pm (in office)

COURSE DIRECTOR:

Prof. Nancy Street
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107 Bolton Hall

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Public Speaking: The Virtual Text

This textbook is provided free of charge to all COMM203 students.

The chapters are located at www.publicspeakingproject.org and posted on e-campus.

Nancy J. Street Packet for Public Speaking: COMM 203, Spring 2018

This packet contains further policies and forms for the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Principles, practice and criticism of public speaking. Training in speeches of social and technical interest designed to teach students to develop and illustrate ideas and information. Emphasis on public speaking that informs and persuades audiences.

TAMU Undergraduate Catalog

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the completion of this course, the successful student will be able to do the following:

1. Select speech topics and organizational patterns to satisfy the rhetorical situation as articulated in the speaking assignment
2. Research, select and develop appropriate background and supporting material to support and extend the purpose of the speech and with consideration for the audience
3. Cite background and supporting material orally during the speech, in writing in the text of the full-sentence outline and in the bibliography
4. Deliver speeches extemporaneously from a set of limited notes and within the specified time frame
5. Express ideas artfully, both verbally and nonverbally, with respect and sensitivity for themselves and their audience
6. Respond knowledgeably to questions from the audience
7. Produce and integrate sensory aids (including computer generated visual aids) to support their message and with respect and sensitivity for the audience
8. Critique their own speeches and those speeches of others with respect to invention, arrangement, language, style, critical thinking and delivery
9. Work together with a team of classmates to critique one another's outlines and speeches and to deliver a group presentation

AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus, or call 979-845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

TITLE IX DUTY TO REPORT

As a result of Title IX rulings, and as an employee of the State of Texas, I have a duty to report anything you tell me about sexual abuse or sexual violence, even if you ask me not to tell anyone. If you would like to talk to someone who does not have to report your disclosure to the university authorities, please talk with campus mental-health counselors, pastoral counselors, social workers, psychologists, health center employees, or any other person with a professional license requiring confidentiality.

ATTENDANCE

This is a public speaking class and therefore you will be speaking and/or part of the public (listening) every day. Therefore, **you are expected to attend every single class period**. We will do our best to make the classes engaging, stimulating and something that you will want to attend! However:

1. **Attendance is required.**
2. You may, however, have three (3) unexcused absences. Unexcused absences may be taken only on days when you are not scheduled to speak or not scheduled to take a quiz, exam or test. I do not need to know the reason for your unexcused absences.
3. Attendance will be recorded for students who:
 - 1) Sign the daily attendance sheet
 - 2) Are present for the entire class period

It is the student's responsibility to see that he or she has signed the attendance sheet prior to departure for the classroom each day.

4. Excused Absences are recognized by the University (please see Student Rule 7.3). You must provide the satisfactory documentation attached to the appropriate form found on e-campus within the timeframe specified in Student Rule 7.3.

"The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>."

Please note that I may verify any documentation for excused absence requests.

5. For each unexcused absence in excess of three (3), your final course grade will be reduced by one letter grade.

COPYRIGHT STATEMENT

The materials, notes, and lectures produced for this course are protected by federal copyright law. Distribution of these materials in any way, including digital versions of documents and information, may constitute a violation of copyright law, the Texas A&M University Student Code of Conduct (see TAMU Student Rule 24), and/or the Aggie Code of Honor (See Student Rule 20)

COURSE WORK

A NOTE OF CAUTION: Cheating, plagiarism, and scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. You are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have permission of that person. You commit plagiarism if you copy verbatim from a book, published article, or web site without proper quotations and citations. Cheating and plagiarism result in severe penalties. Please familiarize yourself with the University's penalties for these offenses. For additional information, please visit: aggiehonor.tamu.edu. An F* will be recommended for students convicted of any form of scholastic dishonesty.

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

ASSIGNMENTS

The graded assignments this semester include 4 speeches, 4 1-page papers, a delivery assignment, and a final exam. Each speech is timed with a one-minute leeway (for example, Speech 1 is 4 minutes, but there is no penalty for going over 3 and under 5 minutes). Speeches 2 & 3 will have a Q/A session after each speech for the audience to ask questions about your speech. For each speech round, students will evaluate peers from other groups and then write a final paper based on their improvement over the course of the semester. The final exam will test students over my lectures and chapters from the textbook.

LATE WORK

Managing speaking dates is a complicated process. Classes are only 50 minutes long and there is no room for makeups. Once you have chosen a group, your speech dates are set for the entire semester. Please review due dates and exams for other courses and try to pick a group that presents on days that do not interfere with your other course work. Without proper documentation for a university excused absence, you will earn a 0 for missing a speech. See the course packet for more details. See Student Rule 7: <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>

Homework assignments may be turned in late, but will receive a letter grade deduction per day after the due date. Peer critiques are due the day of the speech (uploaded to the speaker's Google Drive) before midnight.

COURSE READINGS

Our readings come from *The Public Speaking Project*, a free resource that you can access through e-campus. I recommend reading each chapter prior to class as organized on the schedule below. My lectures do not regurgitate the textbook, but elaborate on it. Reading before class will help you understand lectures, take more effective notes, and ask insightful questions.

HOMEWORK

There are a total of 19 homework assignments which consists of a syllabus contract, a task for combating culture shock, a song lyric assignment, peer critiques, and four peer-evaluation papers. By the third week of school, students will submit a signed contract to show that they have read the syllabus in its entirety. The song lyric assignment will help students with learning the importance of delivery. Students will submit peer evaluation forms (via Google Drive) to each of the students they critique. These critiques culminate in a Peer-Evaluation Paper (PEP) that evaluators will write to each of the four speakers they analyzed throughout the semester. The PEP highlights the speaker's strengths, how they have improved over the course of the semester, and areas for future development.

EXAM

There is only one exam in this course. The exam is 30 multiple choice questions that cover the course material for the entire semester. Note, the exam is not during finals week (see schedule below for date).

SPEECHES

SPEECH 1: DEFINING THE SELF

Speech 1 will be an informative speech that introduces the speaker to the audience through definitions of a particular word. You are to find one word in the dictionary and discuss three different definitions as it pertains to you and introduces you to the audience.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 5 minutes (4-6)
- Informative in tone
- Fits prompt & topic
- Minimum of 3 quality citations
- No visual aids allowed

SPEECH 2: TEACH ME SOMETHING

Speech 2 will be an informative, group speech that teaches the rest of the class a lesson from the textbook. Although your group will be assigned a chapter (based on schedule), you will work closely with the instructor and with your group members to narrow down individual topics that relate to the broader theme. You will have the entire period, but should include an interactive activity that is at least 20 minutes long.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 50 minutes (minimum 6 minutes per group member)
- Time for Q&A
- Informative in tone
- Fits prompt & topic
- Minimum of 3 quality citations (1 must be a peer-reviewed journal article) – excludes textbooks
- Visual aids are optional

SPEECH 3: ENGAGED CITIZEN

Speech 3 will be a persuasive speech to encourage the audience to become engaged citizens. The topic of this speech will likely be the most difficult to choose for the entire semester, so begin thinking about it early. For this speech, you will be encouraging the audience to participate and contribute in a positive way to society.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 7 minutes (6-8)
- 1 additional minute for Q&A
- Persuasive in tone, uses MMS thoughtfully and carefully
- Fits prompt & topic
- Minimum of 5 quality citations (2 must be from peer-reviewed journal articles; 1 must be within 6 months old)
- Visual aids required

SPEECH 4: ELEVATOR SPEECH

Speech 4 will be a persuasive speech that allows speakers to hone in on their public speaking skills. It is an 'elevator speech' in that speakers will first introduce themselves. The second part of the speech reviews and analyzes your time in the course: where did you need improvement and where have you grown?

REQUIREMENTS:

- 6 minutes (5-7)
- Persuasive in tone, uses 10x10 matrix for creativity
- Fits prompt & topic
- Minimum of 3 quality citations
- No visual aids are allowed

GRADES

ASSIGNMENT	PERCENTAGE	Final grades will be calculated according to this formula:	
SPEECHES (70%)			
Speech 1	10%	100 % - 89.5 %	A
Speech 2	20%	89.49 % - 79.5 %	B
Speech 3	25%	79.49 % - 69.5 %	C
Speech 4	15%	69.49 % - 59.5 %	D
HOMEWORK (15%)		< 59.49 %	F
Syllabus Contract	1%		
Song Lyric Assignment	4%		
PEP & Evaluations	10%		
EXAM	15%		
Total	100%		

** Note: There is no rounding up (e.g. 89.499 is a B+)*

GRADE CONCERNS

On receiving a graded assignment or speech, you have one week from the day that the assignment is turned back to argue for a grade change. Following that one-week period, your grade on the particular assignment is not negotiable. After that one week, we may talk about the assignment, and I will offer suggestions and assistance if needed, but the grade will stand.

CLASS ENVIRONMENT

Public Speaking is one of the most feared classes at the undergraduate level. Jerry Seinfeld famously joked:

“According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.”

Although many folks may fear public speaking, I promise many of you will come to love this class. In fact, I predict it will be one of your favorite courses of the semester. My teaching philosophy relies heavily on humor and improv, as they foster collaboration to create group cohesion. Therefore, participation and attendance are mandatory. Learning every student’s name in the course is mandatory. When we create a positive atmosphere and are comfortable around one another, we have less fear and are more confident in delivering our speeches.

RESEARCH EXTRA CREDIT

As the extra credit assignment for this class, you must collect 2 credits of research participation through the Department of Communication (for a total of 1 hour of participation). The two credits will influence your grade by either *replacing one (1) unexcused absence* OR *adding one (1) point to your final grade*. There is no benefit associated with earning only one (1) research credit. There will be a defined time period for earning extra credit. Details will follow on E-campus and will be delivered to you via your TAMU email.

SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT	NOTE
WEEK 1			
M 01/15	MLK, Jr. Day		
W 01/17	Syllabus & Introductions		
F 01/19	Intro to Public Speaking	Chapter 1	
WEEK 2			
M 01/22	Speaking with Confidence	Chapter 11	
W 01/24	Informative Speaking	Chapter 15	
F 01/26	Lab Day		Song Lyric due
WEEK 3			
M 01/29	Organizing & Outlining	Chapters 8 & 9	Syllabus Contract due
W 01/31	Workshop & P.R.E.P. Outlining		
F 02/02	Speech 1 – Group A		
WEEK 4			
M 02/05	Speech 1 – Group B		
W 02/07	Speech 1 – Group C		
F 02/09	Speech 1 – Group D		
WEEK 5			
M 02/12	Speech 1 – Group E		
W 02/14	Communicating with Visual Aids	Chapter 13	
F 02/16	PowerPoint Karaoke		
WEEK 6			
M 02/19	Audience Analysis	Chapter 5	
W 02/21	Improv Activities for Group Work		
F 02/23	Workshop Day – Audience Analysis		
WEEK 7			
M 02/26	Speech 2 – Group B: Listening Effectively	Chapter 4	
W 02/28	Speech 2 – Group C: Statistics and Support	Chapter 7	
F 03/02	Speech 2 – Group D: Language and Framing	Chapter 10	

WEEK 8

M	03/05	Speech 2 – Group E: Deliberate Delivery	Chapter 12
W	03/07	Speech 2 – Group A: Communicating Visually	Chapter 13
F	03/09	Workshop Day – Engaged Citizen	

WEEK 9

M	03/19	Guest Lecture – Library Resources	
W	03/21	Rhetoric & Origins of Public Speaking	Chapter 2
F	03/23	Persuasion	Chapter 16

WEEK 10

M	03/26	Monroe’s Motivated Sequence	Chapter 16, p. 12
W	03/28	MMS Activity	
F	03/30	No classes	READING DAY

WEEK 11

M	04/02	Workshop Day	
W	04/04	Speech 3 – Group C	
F	04/06	Speech 3 – Group D	

WEEK 12

M	04/09	Speech 3 – Group E	
W	04/11	Speech 3 – Group A	
F	04/13	Speech 3 – Group B	

WEEK 13

M	04/16	Review	Peer Eval Papers due
W	04/18	Exam	
F	04/20	Workshop Day	

WEEK 14

M	04/23	Speech 4 – Groups D & E	
W	04/25	Speech 4 – Groups E & A	
F	04/27	Speech 4 – Groups A & B	

REDEFINED WEEK

M	04/30	Speech 4 – Groups B & C	
T	05/01	Semester Review and Final Thoughts	REDEFINED FRIDAY