

SPCM 1100  
Public Speaking  
Maymester  
2009

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M-F 9:30-12:15  
367 MLC

Office Hours: TU: 1:00-2:00  
H: 1:00-2:00

I. Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to present several oral presentations before a public audience. By the end of the semester, the student should be able to identify a variety of rhetorical strategies for use in both individual and group presentations. Additionally, students will become effective critics of public communication by develop listening skills, an understanding of evidence credibility, and an awareness of organizational patterns and language choices deployed in speeches.

II Course Requirements

A. Examinations

The examinations will be administered on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>. The format for the first examination will some combination of multiple choice, true/false questions, and short essays on the materials assignments to that point in the semester. The final examination is cumulative test that will require the student to apply public speaking concepts to a public speech.

B. Speaking Assignments

1. Informative Speech

Each student will deliver a five minute informative speech. In this speech the student should define a social problem, describe the nature of the problem, and outline the cause(s) of the problem. A typed formal outline should be turned into the instructor prior to the presentation of the speech. The outline must include a bibliography containing at least THREE library sources. and SEVEN additional research resources. The grading criteria for this assignment include: substantive content, organizational structure, and delivery (both non-verbal and verbal). Students will be assigned a speech date randomly by the instructor. A self-evaluation of the speech may be one component of the grade for this assignment.

## 2. Persuasive Speech

Each student will deliver a six minute persuasive speech. In this speech, the student will use the topic area selected for the informational speech. In addition to identifying the social problem and its causes the students will suggest a policy solution(s) for the audience. A typed formal outline should be turned into the instructor prior to the presentation of the speech. The outline must include a bibliography containing at least THREE additional library sources. The grading criteria for this assignment include: substantive content, organizational structure, and delivery (both non-verbal and verbal). Students will be assigned a speech date randomly by the instructor. A self-evaluation of the speech may be one component of the grade for this assignment.

## 3. Group Assignment

At the beginning of the semester we will select topics that are of local, regional, national or international significance. Such topics might include: affirmative action in university admissions policy, the status of campus safety policies, the need for undergraduate curricular reform, and the ability of the university to balance the needs of undergraduate instruction with other goals. We will establish teams with approximately five to seven members that will discuss the issue from a distinctive viewpoint. The communicative exchange between the competing perspectives on an issue should take approximately twenty-five minutes of a class period. As with individual presentations, the grading criteria for this assignment include: substantive content, organizational structure, and delivery (both non-verbal and verbal).

We will have a more detailed discussion of the relevant grading criteria for each oral presentation when the assignment is covered in class lecture.

### C. In-Class Assignments

#### 1. Speech Feedback Forms

Students will provide written feedback to several speakers in each round of presentations. The grading criteria will include: the ability to identify communication strategies in speeches, the ability to critically assess evidence, and the ability to provide helpful feedback for the student speaker.

#### 2. Class Participation

Students will provide oral feedback to speakers following speeches. Additionally, students should look for opportunities to clarify rhetorical concepts during class discussions. Finally, students will be asked to speak on a given topic/issue in the course of a class period or to fulfill impromptu speech assignments.

### III. Text

Stephen Lucas, *The Art of Public Speaking*, 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, McGraw Hill, 2009.

Please purchase two SONY Handycam DVD-RW disks (30 Minute 1.4 GB).

Note: Other minidisk may not work in our recorder. They are available in a three pack at a cost of about \$8.

### IV. Procedures

#### A. Preparedness

Readings should be completed before class on the day listed. Students should be prepared to discuss the materials.

#### B. Grades

##### Scale for Grades:

A	100-94
A-	93-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D+	69-67
D	66-64
D-	63-60
F	59-0

Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Informative Speech	15%
Persuasive Speech	20%
Group Presentation	15%
In-Class Assignments	10%

Note: Students must finish all of the assignments to complete the class.

C. University Honor Code - All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/index.html>

#### D. Research Requirement

As part of your participation in this class, you may be required to satisfy a departmental research requirement. For information about the three options for completing the research requirement, see the document entitled: The UGA Speech Communication Research Participation: Information for Students. Please read and be aware of the choice you make. Failure to fulfill the research requirement will result in a grade of Incomplete (I) for this class. Note: You will need to complete a separate research project or paper for each Speech Communication class that requires or offers research participation.

#### V. Attendance

Students are expected to arrive by the beginning of class and to be in attendance every day. In the event that a student misses more than two classes, the final course grade will be reduced by a letter grade for each additional absence. Students MUST attend class on days they are scheduled to speak. To receive a passing grade, speeches must be presented before the student audience.

#### VI. Assistance

I will be more than willing to help students with questions or provide assistance with any of the assignments. If you are unable to make the office hours, simply make an appointment.

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*