

# **COM 1361.04(CRN# 20828): PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Spring 2012

**Dr. Terry M. Thibodeaux**

3 credit hours

MWF 10:00-11:00

Classroom: Rather Com Bldg 201

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Office Hours:

9:00 to 10:00 MW

M-Th Afternoons in Sam Center: CHSS Suite 170

## **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is an introductory course in research, composition, organization, and delivery of informative and persuasive speeches for various purposes and occasions. It includes strategies for reducing speech apprehension.

In this course, you the student will:

1. Recall and apply the principles of effective public speaking.
2. Increase your confidence in your public speaking ability.
3. Develop the ability to analyze your audience's characteristics and needs.
4. Learn how to develop and articulate a sound, ethical argument.
5. Develop skills that enable you to analyze public speakers more effectively.
6. Analyze how public speaking is applicable to your everyday and professional life.
7. Access and use course material through the Blackboard course page at the SHSU Homepage.

## Required Text

Gregory, H. (2008). *Public Speaking for College & Career. (9th Ed.)* Boston: McGraw Hill.

### General Course Policies

1. ATTENDANCE. Attendance is essential for class participation and is checked each class period. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Each class period is worth points toward the participation grade. As per university policy, each student may be absent three class hours without penalty. For every three hours of absences beyond the third hour absent, the course grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

If a student enters class after the instructor finishes taking roll, that student is considered absent. It is the tardy student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his/her attendance before leaving that class period; otherwise, the absence stands. Two tardies = one absence.

2. GRADING SCALE. All grading is done on a total points basis, with a total possible of 1000 points for the class. Final grades will be determined by total number of points earned, using the following 8% scale: A=920+; B=919-840; C=839-760; D=759-680.

3. PARTICIPATION. Twenty percent (20% or possible 200 pts.) of the final grade comes from class participation--participation in class discussions, oral & written evaluation of students speeches, in-class impromptu speaking activities, etc.

4. EXAMS. Five exams will be administered covering content from class lecture/discussion, and assigned readings. Each will be a 100-point exam. (Total: 500 points or 50% of grade)

5. SPEECH PRESENTATIONS. Three graded speech presentations are required, incorporating various types of speeches (narrative speech, informative speech, persuasive speech), each counting a total of 100 points (300 points total possible for all graded speeches). Each will require an outline submitted **via Blackboard** at least by the day of the speech. The outline is part of the overall grade for each speech. Failure to submit an outline will result in a grade of zero for that assignment. More detail on individual speeches and outlines will be forthcoming in class and on Blackboard webpage.

6. LATE WORK. There are NO make-ups for scheduled presentations missed. Missing a scheduled presentation results in ZERO points on that presentation. Credit for any late work is given at the discretion of the instructor. Any tests or assignments accepted late will incur a

standard penalty of 10% per day late. The phone number or e-mail address listed above is to be used to explain extenuating circumstances for any missed or late work.

7. **UNGRADED SPEECHES.** As time permits, additional speaking assignments will be made, allowing students as much practice as possible in the public speaking experience. These speeches will be critiqued but not graded (as opposed to the graded speeches in #5 above). These ungraded speeches, similar to participation in class discussions, will count only as part of the participation grade.

8. **SPEAKER EVALUATIONS.** For every graded speaking presentation, each student will be required to evaluate other students' performances based on criteria established during the course. These evaluations have no bearing on the speaker's actual grade. The critique will be given to the speaker after the class has given oral comments on the speech. The instructor will grade **the evaluator** on the quality of the critique. The speaker will keep all critiques of his/her performance. This process provides valuable feedback to the speaker and contributes to the participation grade of the evaluator.

9. **BLACKBOARD COURSE WEB PAGE** Students are required to use the Blackboard (Bbd) course homepage for this class. Assignments, due dates, handout information, changes in class schedule, etc., will be posted there as needed. It is highly encouraged that you check the Course homepage regularly. This will save you time, work, and stress.

10. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES.** Cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices, other than computers used strictly for the class (in note-taking, etc.) must be turned off before entering the classroom, since they pose a distraction to the class. Any student disrupting the class by use of any electronic devices will be dismissed from the class resulting in an absence for that period. Repeated offenses may result in the student being dropped from the class.

11. **INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION.** Students will be required to complete an evaluation of the instructor and course late in the term. These evaluations are part of the university Faculty Evaluation System that is used to determine teaching effectiveness, course effectiveness, and also affects faculty merit and promotion decisions.

12. The following four sections can be found at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

13. CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT. The Code of /Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

It is expected that students behave in class in such a way that does not distract other students' learning or participation in class.

## Class Calendar

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings in Text</u>
Jan 18	Intro to course; Self-introductions	Def's and Model; Ch 1
Jan 23	Comm App; Listening	Ch 2, 3
Jan 30	Audience & Topic Issues	Ch 4, 5
Feb 6	<b>Exam 1 (Ch 1-5); Narrative Speech</b>	Ch 6
Feb 13	<i>Narratives continue</i>	Appendix (p 126), Ch 7
Feb 20	Information, Sources, & Plagiarism	
Feb 27	Supporting your Ideas; Visuals; <b>Exam 2 (Ch 6-9 &amp; Appendix)</b>	Ch 8, 9, Appendix (p 201)
Mar 5	Organizing your Ideas; Intro's and Conclusions; Outlining <b>Ex 3 (Ch 10-12: Outline)</b>	Ch 10, 11 Ch 12, 13
Mar 19	Words & Language; Delivery	Ch 14
Mar 26	Speaking to Inform; Speaking to Persuade <b>Exam 4(Ch 13-16)</b>	Ch 15, 16
Apr 2	Persuasion; Special Occasion Speeches	Ch 17, 18, 19
Apr 9	<b>Exam 5 (Ch 17-19) Informative Speech</b>	
Apr 16	<i>Informative Speeches</i>	
Apr 23	<i>Informative Speeches</i>	
Apr 30	<i>Begin Persuasive Speeches</i>	
Monday, May 7	<b>Final Exam Period: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.</b> Finish Presentations/Extra Credit Speeches	