

COM 2523---Public Speaking---2011/2012

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Welcome!

Public speaking is perhaps one of the most influential skills one can gain over the course of a lifetime. Many thrive at giving presentations in public settings, yet others are wracked with absolute terror when they think about having to give a speech in public! Whether you consider yourself a gifted speaker or you are scared to death to speak in front of a group, this class is for you! Study in Public Speaking will set you on the path to becoming a much more articulate and engaging communicator in any situation that God calls you to speak out!

Catalog Description of COM 2523.

Students gain theoretical and applied knowledge of public speaking techniques. Speeches will include extemporaneous, impromptu, informative, persuasive, and rhetorical analysis.

Course Text:

Your course instructor will list their required course in the syllabus addendum.

Learning objectives.

Successful completion of this course should enable the student to:

- 1) Gain factual knowledge in the art of public communication
- 2) Develop skills in expressing messages in both oral and written form.
- 3) Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view in various communication settings.
- 4) Understand how to adapt effectively to different types of audiences.
- 5) Adapt messages to have the greatest impact in particular circumstances.
- 6) Learn how to effectively use visual aids and/or electronic presentational tools in your speeches and presentations.

Course requirements.

The following are requirements for the Public Speaking course at JBU. Your section instructor will have detailed assignment instructions for each of the following areas listed in their syllabus.

- **Evaluation (5% of your grade)**

As you are taking a course earning college credit, you will get feedback from a communication professor teaching at John Brown University. Your section instructor will facilitate the videotaping of one of your presentations, as that will be a valuable tool to help you to improve your speaking skills.

Prior to performing your speech, you will fill out a form that outlines your goals and expectations for the performance. The form is available at speechstudent.com/concurrent. Your instructor will let you know whether you are to fill it out online or complete the handout to turn in to them.

After your speech performance, your teacher will arrange for you to watch your video so that you can complete another form in which you write up a reflection of your performance. Once your forms have been completed, your instructor will share those with Professor Roebuck, as well as your video. Don't worry! Your video will be kept confidential, and Professor Roebuck will provide additional feedback to help you grow as a speaker.

Professor Roebuck will not grade your speech, as your section instructor will do that in your classroom. This part of the course is intended to give you additional feedback, and to help you to grow as a speaker through self-reflection on your performance. To get maximum credit on this part of your grade, be sure that you carefully proofread the paragraphs you write and develop your ideas thoughtfully and completely.

- **Speeches (50% of your grade)**

You will give a minimum of 5 major speeches in the class. Your section instructor will give you a specific rubric for each assignment. Additionally, they may choose to narrowly focus the following speeches in a particular direction of their choosing. For example, your instructor may have the Informative Speech be a Speech of Introduction, where you share interesting aspects about your life. The time limits listed below are a suggestion. Your section instructor may have different requirements. Read their syllabus carefully!

SUGGESTED SPEECHES (may be slightly different in your class):

1) Informative Speech. Students will compose and deliver an original speech with the general purpose to inform. (5-6 minutes)

2) Impromptu Speech. Students will give a speech with very little preparation. Students will be given a choice of topics (one word abstracts, quotations, fortune cookie slips, etc.), and then will have no more than 3 minutes to prepare a 3-5 minute speech.

3) Extemporaneous Speech. Students will deliver a speech from brief notes, not from a manuscript text. Students will be given a question or topic prompt to help them compose the speech. Preparation time will be limited. Depending on the preference of your section instruction, time may be as little as 30 minutes to no more than 2 days from the time the prompt is given. (4-5 minutes)

4) Persuasive Speech. Students will compose and deliver an original speech with the general purpose to persuade. Students may also participate in debates to fulfill this assignment. (5-6 minutes)

5) Rhetorical Analysis. Students will analyze a significant speech or other form of persuasive communication, such as a commercial, bumper sticker, political cartoon, etc. Analysis should be done through some sort of persuasive theory or concept, such as Aristotle's discussion of ethos, pathos, and logos. This assignment may be strictly a speech, or it can be a paper combined with a presentation. (5-6 minutes).

• Assessment of Public Speaking Knowledge (30% of your grade)

Your section instructor will utilize tests, quizzes, essays, or other methods to assess the knowledge you are learning about public speaking. The assessment should be based on reading, lectures, or other instruction you receive.

• Participation (15% of your grade)

During the course of the class, students will participate in class discussions, group assignments, practice speeches, and/or peer review of their classmates' speeches.

Grading scale for the course...

A = 93-100%, A- 90-92%

B+ 88-89%, B = 80-81%, B- = 78-79%

C+ 78-79%, C = 72-77 %, C- = 70-71%

D+ 68-69%, D = 62-67 %, D- = 60-61%

F=59% and below