



Spring 2025 COMM 1 – Public Speaking CRN: 45512

Details & Contact Information

| TYPE | INFORMATION |
|----------------------------|---|
| Instructor | Ruth Zylka, M.A. |
| Email | zylkaruth@fhda.edu |
| Student Hours | Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:15pm-12:30pm or by appointment Zoom link: Ruth Zylka's Meeting Room |
| TBA Hour | Wednesdays 1pm-2pm |
| Class Days, Time, Location | Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30pm-2:20pm in Room L43 |
| Course Format | Hybrid Instruction |

Why Take Public Speaking?

Public speaking is an important skill that can be applied to your personal and professional life. In this course you will learn how to design well-organized, researched, effective extemporaneous speeches on topics of social significance. You will have the opportunity to practice these skills and build the necessary understanding of the elements of an effective speech through our class lectures, class activities, readings, assignments, and self-evaluations. This knowledge and experience will prepare you to present the required speeches throughout our course.

How to Engage with the Course

1. **Read and review all Canvas modules** in a timely manner. Our class is a Hybrid course, so you will meet in-person and have some work to complete in Canvas Modules each week.
2. **Engagement and participate** in class activities. These are vital to your success and will ensure you get the most out of the course.
3. **Read the textbook.** You will have Canvas assignments on the content of our textbook. I will connect content from our textbook in our lectures, so it is important you read and understand the required chapters on the course schedule.
4. **Turn in all assignments through Canvas by 11:59pm on the due date** (refer to course calendar at the end of the document). Your grade will suffer greatly if you turn in assignments late. For each day the assignment is late your grade will

automatically drop 5%. This means if you turn in an assignment worth 30 points two days late, 3 points will be automatically deducted before the assignment is graded. There will be no make ups for speeches.

5. **Be willing to learn, grow and stretch yourself.** Public Speaking is an important life skill, and our class will prepare you in many ways to become an effective public speaker.

Name and pronoun

If you'd like to be known by a name different from the name on the roll sheet or if you have a personal pronoun, please contact me, and I will make every effort to call you by the name and pronoun you use.

Course Information

Course Description

Theory and techniques of public speaking in a democratic society. An introduction to a variety of perspectives and approaches used to research, assess, organize, present, and evaluate public presentations. Students will develop and apply effective research strategies.

Student Learning Outcomes

- A successful student will be able to organize strategies for successful oral presentations.
- A successful student will be able to clearly evaluate oral presentations.

Course Objectives

- A. Investigate the process and nature of oral communication.
- B. Gain experience in the presentation and evaluation of public communication presentations.
- C. Organize and plan speeches for a variety of purposes, including narrative, informative, persuasive and special occasions.
- D. Utilize supportive materials, such as visual aids and documentation.
- E. Practice audience analysis with emphasis on cultural, gender and generational diversity.

Assessments, Assignments and Speeches

There are 5 Speeches along with written outlines, personal evaluations and peer evaluations (all listed in a chart below) that will help me assess your understanding of course content. I will also use weekly Canvas module assignments/quizzes and module

content pages to ensure you are clearly understanding course readings and course content.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. *The Natural Speaker, 10th Edition* by Randy Fujishin
2. Recording Device: phone, computer, tablet or camera
3. Computer and access to the Canvas platform and Zoom

Modality and Participation Policy

Our course is a Hybrid course, which means you will attend class twice a week and work through our Canvas modules at a self-paced schedule based on course due dates. Your participation in class is vital not only for you, but also for your classmates and instructor. I expect you to be an active participant in our course and thoughtfully/respectfully interact with your classmates. If something comes up and you are not able to attend class, please email BEFORE class starts. If continued uncommunicated absences and tardies continue to occur, this will impact your participation points.

Guidelines for Respect

I desire our class to be a safe, welcoming, and encouraging environment. This will require effort from all of us. Respect is always expected. We must also be willing to listen to one another, hear one another out and sometimes kindly agree to disagree. Our language needs to be uplifting and appropriate. Be willing to share honestly, but appropriately and only information you feel comfortable sharing.

Accommodation Needs

You must be enrolled in DeAnza's Disability Support Services (DSS) each quarter to be allowed academic accommodations. If you need help contacting DSS, please send me an email or talk with me during student hours and I will help you.

If You Fall Behind

Don't just give up! I understand that sometimes life happens and things beyond your control impact your ability to stay on track, so please contact me so we can develop a plan to help get you back on track.

Finding Grades and Reading Instructor Feedback

Finding grades and feedback from your instructor is important to your academic growth and overall success in our course. All grades will be posted on Canvas and feedback will be posted on your Canvas assignments. There are great resources on Canvas if you are unfamiliar with where to find this information that is included in our Orientation module.

Registration, Dropping and Withdrawal

It is your responsibility to make sure you are registered and or drop the course by the required deadlines. Ensure you know the final day to drop with a "W".

Course Assignments and Points

| Assignments | Possible Points |
|--|-----------------|
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| All About Me Speech (1-2 minute introduction speech) | 40 |
| Informative Speech (3-5 minute speech) | 65 |
| Demonstration or Tribute Speech (5-6 minutes speech) | 75 |
| Persuasive Speech (6-8 minutes) | 85 |
| Outlines (3 outlines, 25 pts. each) | 75 |
| Personal Evaluations (4 total, 20 pts. each) | 80 |
| Peer Evaluations (3 speeches, 15 pts. each) | 45 |
| Final – Impromptu Self-Evaluation Speech | 70 |
| Participation Points | 55 |
| Reading Quizzes (10 pts. x 10 quizzes) | 100 |
| Total | 700 |

Academic Dishonesty

Student code of conduct will be upheld at all times in our course. Dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating and knowingly furnishing false information will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. This includes not properly citing sources or using proper references when writing an outline. It is my responsibility as an instructor of Foothill College to inform college authorities of any academic dishonesty. Incidences of academic dishonesty are something that will be on your record permanently for the rest of your college career, so turn in your own work and properly cite sources. By registering for this course, you have agreed you understand and will adhere to our student code of conduct.

Nondiscrimination Statement

De Anza College does not discriminate against any person in the provision of any program or service based on age, ancestry, color, gender, gender identity, marital status, medical condition, mental disability, national origin, physical disability, race, religious creed, sexual orientation or veteran status.

How the Class Works

Schedule

Below is a schedule of our course broken down week by week with coordinating content, reading schedule and assignments. If you follow this schedule, you should be able to stay right on track and not miss any important dates.

Assignments

Details for all assignments will be communicated and submitted via Canvas. No assignments will be accepted via email.

Grading

All grades and instructor comments will be posted on Canvas for student review. Assignments will be graded based on rubrics made available with the assignment instructions. Grading is based on how well a student follows given instruction and the expectations listed on a specific assignment rubric. As your instructor, I am committed to equitable and fair grading practices for every student. Please refer to the course assignments and points chart listed on page 4 for specific information regarding possible points for each assignment.

Your final grade will be based on the following point scale:

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| A = 700-665 (100%-94%) | C = 536-514 (77%-74%) |
| A- = 664-629 (94%-90%) | C- = 513-490 (74%-70%) |
| B+ = 628-606 (90%-87%) | D+ = 489-467 (70%-67%) |
| B = 605-583 (87%-84%) | D = 466-444 (67%-64%) |
| B- = 582-560 (84%-80%) | D- = 443-420 (64%-61%) |
| C+ = 559-537 (80%-77%) | F = 419 and fewer points (61% and below) |

Tentative Course Calendar and Assignments

| Weeks and Readings | Content | Assignments |
|---|---|--|
| Week 1: 4/7 – 4/11 Read Chapter 1 | Syllabus & Introduction to Public Speaking - Models of Communication, Types of Speeches, Parts of a Speech | Get textbook, Review Syllabus, Review Canvas Syllabus Quiz Due 4/13 |
| Week 2: 4/14 – 4/18 Read Chapter 2 | Origins of Public Speaking – Rhetorical Appeals, Role of Public Speaker, Public Speaking Ethics, Listening, Feedback, Audience Analysis | All About Me Speeches 4/17 |
| Week 3: 4/21 – 4/25 Read Chapter 4 & 5 | Organizing a Speech & Outlining, Selecting a Topic, Demonstrative Speaking, | Personal Evaluation Due 4/27 |

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| | Tribute Speaking, Speaking with Confidence Vocal Delivery, Note Cards | Demonstration or Tribute Speech Topic Due 4/27 |
| Week 4: 4/28 – 5/2 Read Chapter 3 & 8 | Demonstration or Tribute Speeches | Present Demonstration or Tribute Speeches on 4/29 & 5/1 |
| Week 5: 5/5 – 5/9 Read Chapter 6 & 7 | Special Occasion Speaking, Using Effective Language Types of Delivery Presentation Aids Informative Speaking | Personal Evaluations Due 5/11 Informative Speech Topic Due 5/9 |
| Week 6: 5/12 – 5/16 | Narrative & Story Telling, Research – Library resources, Proper sources, Citing Sources (APA formatting) | |
| Week 7: 5/19 – 5/23 | Informative Speeches | Present Informative Speeches on 5/20 & 5/22 |
| Week 8: 5/26 – 5/30 Read Chapter 9 | Persuasive Speaking & Civic Engagement | Persuasive Speech Topic Due 5/30 Personal Evaluations Due 6/1 |
| Week 9: 6/2 – 6/6 Read Chapter 10 | Persuasive Speaking Outlining and Speech Prep | |
| Week 10: 6/9 – 6/13 | Persuasive Speeches | Present Persuasive Speeches on 6/10 and 6/12 |
| Week 11: 6/16 – 6/20 NO CLASS ON 6/19 – JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY | Persuasive Speeches | Present Persuasive Speeches on 6/17 |
| Week 12: 6/23 – 6/27 | Review Module and Final Reflection Speech | Final - Self Reflection Speech on Thursday, June 26 from 11:30am-1:30pm |