



## **Speech 1315 Public Speaking**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Eric Mueller

Office Location: RCHS B120

Office Hours: Wednesday 7-8 am; 3:45-4:15 pm

Office Phone: 972-636-2529

Office Fax: 972-635-2906

Email Address: eric.mueller@rcisd.org

Preferred Form of Communication: email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours (Up to 48 hours during the weekends)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Software Required: Word processing software such as Microsoft Word. Research sites such as Google, etc. Computer capable of producing a slide show. No text. Slide shows provide course information.

### **Course Description**

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

This is an interdisciplinary course in speech and public address. Assignments will focus on speaking, writing, and analysis.

#### **Student Competencies**

1. Students will be able to identify key communication terms and concepts.
2. Students will be able to organize and perform basic public speeches.
3. Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
4. Students will be able to analyze and evaluate speeches and be able to present themselves professionally.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Critical Thinking - Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Communication - In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with message and organizational structure.
3. Personal Responsibility - Students will practice academic honesty.
4. Social Responsibility - Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Minimal Competencies**

Students will need to be familiar with the university learning management system, (myLeo Online), know how to use a personal computer, navigate the Internet, and use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Power Point, Google Docs and Google Slides.

### **Instructional Methods**

The following methods of instruction will be utilized for this course:

- Assigned work and testing from the lecture and notes.
- Lectures and discussions during assigned meeting times.
- Group interaction for knowledge generation.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

All students are expected to comply with the following requirements.

- All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.
- Students are expected to regularly check the course site for announcements and updates.
- Students are expected to complete all assignments and readings.
- Students are expected to review any supplementary materials that the instructor provides, such as web links, news stories, etc.
- Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be on time to class.
- Students are expected to complete all assigned writing assignments, quizzes, class activities, and exams. Coursework will be submitted to D2L.
- Students are expected to exhibit respect toward their fellow classmates and the instructor. This includes treating everyone with courtesy and esteem in all correspondence for the course. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.
- The university does not tolerate academic dishonesty.

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- Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited-to:
    - plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own)
    - cheating on exams or other course assignments
    - collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments or taking exams)
    - abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material.
    - For this course, academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic work. In particular, any student who passes off work as their own that was actually written by someone else, without proper citation or attribution, will be considered to have committed plagiarism. This holds true whether material comes from the textbook, another publication, an Internet source, or another student.
    - Any act of academic dishonesty on an exam or quiz will result in a score of 0 for the exam or quiz. Any act of academic dishonesty on a writing assignment will result in a 0 for the entire semester's exam grade.
- Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the appropriate offices on campus and may result in significant administrative penalties.
- Students will comply with all myLeo Online and D2L technical requirements in terms of training, computer access, & Internet access.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 451- 500 Points
- B = 401- 450 Points
- C = 351- 400 Points
- D = 301- 350 Points
- F = 300 & > Points

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Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Assignments	20%
Discussions	20%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

## Assessments

**Formative Assignments:** Late work incurs a 20% penalty. Daily assignments need to be finished on the day they are assigned unless otherwise specified.

**Summative Assignments:** Late work incurs a 20% penalty. Test make-ups should be scheduled in advance.

Students will take two exams, a midterm and a final. All exams will include material from the lectures and class discussions. These exams will contain multiple choice and short answer. Students have one class period to complete each exam. The dates for exams will be listed on the course calendar in the syllabus.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

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## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Students are encouraged to use email, class time, and office hours to seek clarification of course content. Students are encouraged to use RCHS email to contact the instructor--Please be advised that the university system will only send out emails to a student's official university email and all grades will be recorded in MyLeo.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am looking for a course that maximizes participation and collaboration in the process of learning. Students must provide strong efforts to help interpret and implement classroom lessons and content.

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

- Pre-plan with your instructor if you are going to be absent for exams. Make arrangements with your instructor for the assignment you are going to miss. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if an absence occurs. If prior arrangements are not made, students will not be allowed to make up missed assignments. In the event of a school activity on an exam date, students must pre-plan with the instructor. Arrangements must be made prior to the missed exam. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if an absence occurs. Any absence not pre-planned, or a missed appointment, will result in a zero for the exam.

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- Students are expected to come to class prepared to interact with the instructor and other students by respectfully listening, discussing, questioning, and taking notes relating to the topic at hand. Cell phones will not be used for notetaking or quizzes. All students will need a Chromebook, notebook and pens or pencils. Students must use appropriate language in all emails, class discussions, and postings.
- Class attendance and participation is critical for the successful completion of this course.
- Class Conduct: Please turn off or silence and put away all cell phones, headphones, etc. before entering the classroom. No obscene/vulgar language will be permitted in the classroom.
- Academic Honesty: Students are expected to abide by the university guidelines regarding academic integrity and honesty.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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### [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

### **Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

#### [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule

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34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

### **AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

## **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

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# Assignment Explanations

## **Daily Work:**

Worksheets, group interaction, outlines, etc. due for individual class periods

## **My Art:**

Choose art that represents something about you and explain what it says about you as a person.

## **Narrative Performance:**

A story from your life that taught you an important lesson about what it means to be a good person.

## **Subculture Performance:**

A formal speech using traditional organization and evidence that explodes three myths about a specific subculture which you may or may not be a member.

## **Informative Speech:**

A traditionally organized and evidenced public speech on an important topic of public significance.

## **Persuasive Value Speech:**

A problem-solution speech that illustrates how your solution uphold two important values.

## **Interview/Resume:**

You will create a resume and use it in type of interview with your instructor.

## **Student Evaluations:**

You will evaluate other students' speeches and your evaluations will be returned to them. You are responsible for part or all of another student's grade.

## **Tests:**

Two multiple choice and short answer tests.

# Class Schedule

## **Week 1:**

Introductions. Social Contract. Faerie tale discussion.

## **Week 2:**

My Art performance. Perfect School Project. Introduction to Communication.

## **Week 3:**

Introduction to Communication. Listening. Assign Narrative Performance. Introduction to Storytelling.

## **Week 4:**

Storytelling. Urban Legend Assignment. Evaluation of speeches. Narrative performances. Assign Subculture Speech. Introduction to Communication Ethics.

## **Week 5:**

Introduction to Communication Ethics. Speech in a Can. Subculture Speech work. Presentation. Communication apprehension. Communication Culture.

## **Week 6:**

Communication Cultures. Subculture Performances. Public Communication. Civil Society. Logical fallacies. Assign Informative Speech.

## **Week 7:**

Informative Speech preparation. Informative topics due. Public Communication. Informative speaking. Evidence rules and uses. Informative outline. Test Review available.

## **Week 8:**

Test Review. Midterm Examination. Persuasive Performance Assignment.

## **Week 9:**

Informative Speeches.

## **Week 10:**

Persuasive Speaking. Values Work. Persuasive topics due. Language. I statements. DESC scripts.

**Week 11:**

Persuasive Outline due. Self, self-concept and Identity. Johari Window.

**Week 12:**

Power. Persuasion and power. Conflict and resolution.

**Week 13:**

Persuasive Speeches. Conflict resolution. Final examination review.

**Week 14:**

Group interaction. Advanced research. Professional communication.

**Week 15:**

Interviewing. Resume assignment.

**Week 16:**

Interviewing. Resume due. Final examination.

**Week 17:**

End of semester glow