Speech 1315 Public Speaking

Course Syllabus: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: John Murray
Email Address: JRMurray@garlandisd.net
   *Note: My East Texas A&M University email will be provided once it's available
Communication response Time: 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays)

COURSE DESCRIPTION / INSTRUCTOR PHILOSOPHY

An academic course, particular a college-level course, that is focused on Public Speaking should be primarily focused on precisely what its name entails: PUBLIC SPEAKING. This means all students will be required to actively engage in class discussions and make oral presentations to the class. These presentations will be of varying length and will suit specific purposes—informational, persuasive, informal, community awareness, research findings, etc.

This is an interdisciplinary course in speech and public address. I encourage students to research and present topics that are of high interest to themselves. When we explore topics of interest, we are more inclined to demonstrate the confidence, passion, and preparedness that are all hallmarks of effective communication. Students will find that these skills will help them in other academic courses, as well!

Grades for this course will be based on a variety of targeted outcomes. These include written arguments, presentation outlines, peer review and feedback, and (most importantly) the students' presentations, themselves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All students must have access to and use either Microsoft Word or Google Docs for all written assignments. Students must also have access to and use PowerPoint, Google Slides, or Canva for their slides to support their presentations. Any exceptions to these requirements must be requested through the Course Instructor.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

STUDENT COMPETENCIES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

By its design, Speech 1315 is a very dynamic, participative course. Academic success, which includes discernible growth in both speaking and writing, will be evident when students:

    a. will be able to identify key communication terms and concepts.
    b. will be able to research, organize, write and deliver speeches of varying lengths.
    c. will be able to demonstrate effective uses of non-verbal communication such as eye contact, hand gestures, and purposeful pacing.
    d. will be able to modify their oral delivery such as volume, inflection, and pause points in order to accentuate important information in their speeches.
    e. will be able to analyze and evaluate others' speeches in order to provide accurate and meaningful feedback.

The overarching student outcomes are as follows:

    a. Critical Thinking – Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
    b. Communication – In written, oral, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion.
    c. Personal Responsibility – Students will practice academic honesty and be both reliable and supportive of any team/small group projects/assignments.
    d. Social Responsibility – Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or social issue and will engage with all topics in an ethical, respectful manner.

This is a college-level course and expectations are those which are generally associated with those of any higher academic courses. While the Course Instructor and Classroom Facilitators are available to provide day-to-day instruction and to assist students through their academic journeys, students, themselves, are specifically responsible for their commitment to being successful.

Students need to be familiar with the East Texas A&M University learning management system (myLeo Online), know how to use a personal computer/laptop, navigate the internet, and use basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word, Google Docs, PowerPoint, Google Slides, and Canva. This course does not provide instruction in these areas.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This is an on-line course offered and credentialed by East Texas A&M University. Similarly, the Course Instructor is a credentialed Adjunct Professor with the university. The design of this course and all of the associated student deliverables and learning outcomes are consistent with university expectations and are within the Course Instructor's recognized areas of expertise.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES (NON-NEGOTIABLES)

- Students are expected to complete all assigned activities, irrespective of whether they are written, oral, or class participative in nature. Coursework will be submitted to D2L. Classroom Facilitators will also provide feedback to the Course Instructor regarding student performance.
- All students enrolled at the university shall follow tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.
- Students are expected to regularly check the course website and their school emails for announcements and updates. Failure to do so is not a suitable excuse for not meeting assignment responsibilities.
- Students are expected to 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 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. Instances of inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence, Plagiarism, or any form of cheating will receive corrective actions up to and including expulsion from the course. 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 a Classwork Activity will result in a score of 0 for that event. There will be no opportunity for make-up or remediation. The Course instructor MAY advocate for student removal from the course.
  - Any act of academic dishonesty on a Major Activity (Speech Outline, formal presentation) will result in a 0 for the entire semester's exam grade. There will be no opportunity for make-up or remediation. The Course instructor WILL advocate for student removal from the course.
  - Instances of academic dishonesty may also be referred to the appropriate offices on campus and may result in significant administrative penalties.

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GRADING

Final grades for this course will be as follows:

       A = 90 – 100
       B = 80 – 89
       C = 70 – 79
       D = 60 – 69
       F = 50 and Below

Final grades will be earned as a result of scores earned on individual events. Major Activities will be weighted higher than Classwork Activities. Your Classroom Facilitators, working in conjunction with the Course instructor, will provide periodic events schedules.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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

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

LMS Browser Support:
https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

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.

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 school, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, etc.

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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please first contact your Classroom Facilitator on your campus, who will more than likely be able to resolve your question or concern. However, if necessary, students are encouraged to use their school email to contact the instructor. However, keep in mind 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

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

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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
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: 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 The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. 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&MCommerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University 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. The syllabus/schedule are subject to change. 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

Course Assignment Explanations

Classwork Activities:
      a. Documentation of work completed or research conducted
      b. Classroom Facilitator verification of speech rehearsal
      c. Classroom Facilitator verification of group interaction and small group planning

Narrative Performance: A story from your life (Topic will be assigned)

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

Persuasive (Argumentative) 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 (Peer) Evaluations: You will evaluate other students' speeches and your evaluations will be returned to them.

Visuals: Slide presentations constructed through PowerPoint, Google Slides or Canva that are used to support a speech.

Class Schedule

(*Note: This section is under development as coordination between the Course Instructor and the campuses is underway)

All activities will incorporate a variety of written and oral deliverables with a general schedule as follows:

- Monday – Introduction of the event; student preparation
- Tuesday – Student writing and/or slide development
- Wednesday – Finalize preparations
- Thursday – Student presentations
- Friday – Student presentations

Multi-week events will involve scaffolded evolutions of the deliverables (written and oral)

Week 1: "16 Personalities"

Week 2: "Super Heroes"

Week 3 & 4: "Heroes, Icons and Inspirations"

Week 5: "Principal for a Day" – Proposed changes to, creation of or elimination of a school or District policy

Week 6, 7 & 8: Argumentation – "The Bomb Shelter"

Week 9, 10 & 11: "The Effects of Social Media on Teenagers"

Week 12, 13 & 14: "Informational Speech" – Student Choice

Week 15, 16 & 17: "Persuasive Speech" – Student Choice

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