

Public Speaking and Critical Thinking COMM 101 Section 002

T/Th 10:00-11:15 | LSB 312

Instructor: Brett Ommen

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

Increasingly, employers are looking for talent with the ability to both present complex information in a variety of settings for a variety of audiences and to process information delivered in these presentations critically with an eye toward making strong judgments about both the information and the sources of that information. In this course, we will focus on both the critical production and reception of speech predicated on this notion of judgment: how we judge information, how we judge our audience's need for information, and how we—as audience—make judgments to move ourselves and our communities forward.

Course Goals

- Understand a range of speaking styles and formats that can be adapted based on the range of audiences we might need to speak with over our lives and careers
- Organize and deliver a speech clearly and effectively
- Evaluate ideas, sources, and evidence in our own and others' presentation
- Effectively deliver speeches that inform and persuade specific audiences in an ethical fashion

READING: This course does not have a required textbook. Instead, core concepts will be introduced and discussed in class and your time and energy outside of class should be directed toward researching your various speech topics and staying up to date on speaking strategies in current events (political speeches, popular speeches, etc.). So much of public speaking depends on an ability to adapt to a changing discourse environment. To be effectively prepared for those changes, you should be reading news daily as well as researching your specific interests more deeply. If you'd like more context or reinforcement of course concepts, you can find them in the course packet included on Sakai.

DECORUM: You are expected to display the same level of professionalism and respect as required by work roles, through attending class regularly, arriving on time, being prepared for class, and remaining for the full class period. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in discussions and stay engaged during lectures and speech presentations. Students using electronics while another student presents a graded speech will lose participation points. Students are also expected to show respect for others' opinions/experiences through verbal/body language.

ATTENDANCE: Speaking classes necessarily require not only a speaker but also an audience. The course relies on class sessions to equip you with tools to develop and deliver effective presentations. As such, you are expected to be in class regularly and consistently. Failure to consistently attend concept sessions will likely effect your speaking assignments. Failure to attend peer speaking days will impact your audience participation grade.

Audience participation involves not only being present for your peers' speeches, but also being an attentive and critical audience member. Arriving late, presenting a distraction, sleeping, or otherwise

demonstrating a lack of attentive listening will count the same as if you had not shown up at all.

Other Policies:

COMMUNICATION: The instructor has made every effort to keep course materials as accessible as possible. To that end, all of your texts will be available on the course management system and the student is responsible for accessing, reading, and abiding by all assignments, schedules, and policies contained in those documents. The Instructor will make every effort to keep grades updated. Students with concerns about their standing in the course or their understanding of course content and policies should communicate these concerns with the instructor as necessary. Email is an acceptable form of communication for all **non-grade related** matters.

SAKAI (<https://sakai.luc.edu>) is an online learning tool that allow us to communicate and collaborate with each other during the semester. On it, you will find the course syllabus, e-mail addresses of all course participants, announcements, online assignments, online grade-book, etc.

MAKE UP WORK: Make up work will not be allowed (on any assignment or exam) except for cases of extreme emergency. In the event of such an emergency, it is your responsibility to ensure the instructor is notified **prior to** the missed assignment, and that you work with the instructor and Student Services to ensure the absence is documented appropriately. Work will be completed in as timely a fashion as possible.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES Any student that needs special accommodation during exams or class periods should provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities confidentially to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student's needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of the course content and processes. It is the student's responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. ***Plagiarism in your work will result in a minimum of a failing grade for that assignment.*** The case may carry further sanctions from the School of Communication or the University, the most serious being permanent expulsion. Avoid turning in work that could be interpreted as plagiarism or academically dishonest (e.g., failing to properly credit a source or using someone else's ideas without clarifying that they are not yours). This is an academic community; being uninformed or naïve is not an acceptable excuse. It is dishonest to:

- turn in the same work for two classes;
- turn in a paper you have not written yourself; or
- copy from another student or use a "cheat sheet" during an exam.

ASSIGNMENTS	Points
Declamation	50
Informative Manuscript	100
Informative Outline	150
Persuasive Outline	200
Persuasive Limited Notes	250
Mediated Speech	75
Peer Review One	50
Peer Review Two	50
Audience Participation	75

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8/28 Anxiety

8/30 Delivery & Style

9/4 Declamation

9/6 Declamation

9/11 Invention and Audience Analysis

9/13 Arrangement

9/18 Citations and Support

9/20 Informative Workshop

9/25 Informative One (manuscript)

9/27 Informative One (manuscript)

10/2 Outlining and Speaking

10/4 Visual Aids

10/9: NO CLASS

10/11: NO CLASS

10/16 Informative Two (speaking outline)

10/18 Informative Two (speaking outline)

10/23 Persuasion-strategy

10/25 Persuasion-appeals

10/30 Persuasion-evidence

11/1 Persuasion Workshop

11/6 Persuasive One (speaking outline)

11/8 Persuasive One (speaking outline)

11/13 Persuasive One (speaking outline)

11/15 Feedback and Review

11/20: NO CLASS

11/22: NO CLASS

11/27 Persuasive Two (limited notes)

11/29 Persuasive Two (limited notes)

12/4 Persuasive Two (limited notes)

12/6: Mediated Presentation Assignment

12/11: Final Exam Session 1 PM