

**Loyola University Chicago**  
**COMM 101-203 Public Speaking and Critical Thinking**  
**Fall 2017**

Mon / Wed / Fri 10:25 – 11:15 AM

Instructor: Sarah Gitersonke  
E-mail: sarahgitersonke@gmail.com  
Telephone: (312) 536-0066  
Office hours: By appointment

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to teach you how to research, organize, write and deliver speeches. You also will learn to be an intelligent, thoughtful and critical listener. As a speaker, you will develop an understanding of the discipline of rhetoric and the art of public speaking. You will then be asked to demonstrate your knowledge in the following ways:

- Selecting a topic or position on an issue; researching the topic; and choosing the proper material to support the position.
- Organizing your ideas in a logical, cogent manner.
- Writing clearly using lively words.
- Using proper presentation methods to deliver a speech to an audience.

As a listener, you will be responsible for the following:

- Critiquing speeches based on the guidelines for proper public discourse.
- Expressing your opinions about a speech topic.
- Doing so in a constructive, supportive manner.

**No Textbook required. All materials and videos will be shared in class.**

### **Grading**

Students will be expected to know material covered in lectures and supporting materials. This will be measured through four speech presentations, a written report evaluating a public speaker and classroom participation. The ability to deliver an effective speech varies from student to student. What is important is to give each speech your strongest effort and to show improvement through the semester. Grades are based on a 1,000-point scale.

The lessons from this class will be extremely valuable in all stages of your life, from giving a great wedding toast, to eulogizing a beloved relative, to making a sales presentation or business pitch and participating in political and social movements.

Informative Speech: 100 points  
Cultural Artifact Speech: 150 points  
Textual Analysis Speech: 200 points  
Civic Issues Speech: 250 points  
Speaker Evaluation Written Report: 100 points  
Classroom Attendance and Participation: 200 points

All speeches must be accompanied by an outline and a bibliography. Failure to give the instructor an outline and bibliography on the day of the presentation will result in a reduction of **one letter** grade. The outline should be neatly typed.

### **Final grade scale**

1000-940: A  
939-900: A-  
899-880: B+  
879-830: B  
829-800: B-  
799-780: C+  
779-730: C  
729-700: C-  
699-680: D+  
679-640: D  
639-600: D-  
599-0: F

### **Professionalism**

You are expected to act in a professional manner in class. That means approaching your schoolwork as if it were your job. Showing up, and showing up on time, are critical. Letting the instructor know ahead of time of an absence is crucial. Participation and listening attentively to your fellow students' speeches is important. Unexcused absences will affect your final grade. If you have an unexcused absence on the scheduled day of your presentation, you will receive an F for your presentation. There will be no make up opportunities for unexcused absences. All students are expected to be present for all speeches given by classmates.

### **Attendance**

Attendance and class participation are critical. We work as a group to develop speaking and listening skills, meaning you will learn a great deal by watching and hearing your classmates. It is not enough to simply show up. You will be expected to be a regular participant in all we do, which is why participation and attendance account for a full 20% of your final grade. The only way to get the full 200 points for class participation is to be an active contributor every time we meet. If you sit silently, or speak only when called on by the instructor, you will not get the grade you desire.

If there is an unexcused absence on the scheduled day of your presentation, you will receive an F for your presentation. If you are absent on a day when fellow students are delivering speeches, your most recent grade will be marked down **one letter**. There will be no exceptions. Repeated unexcused absences will greatly affect your final grade. If you are unable to make class, it is important to call or e-mail the instructor **beforehand**. If you have more than **four** absences during the semester, your grade will be reduced by a **full letter**, unless **medical documentation** proves the necessity of the absence.

### **Academic Dishonesty Policy**

Plagiarism is stealing. Period. It's no different than shoplifting or grabbing someone else's bicycle. Plagiarism in any form will be reported to the Dean of Students and the student will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.

### **Additional Classroom Policies**

- Students are expected to be actively engaged in class discussions.
- No late assignments will be accepted.
- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and proofread.
- Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices. Laptops are welcome if you are using them to take notes. **NO SOCIAL MEDIA ALLOWED.**
- Students are reminded that the syllabus schedule may change over the course of the semester as events dictate.

### **Tentative Schedule**

#### **Week One**

Aug. 28, 30 (no class Friday, Sept 1<sup>st</sup> – Labor Day Holiday)  
Introduction; Review of syllabus; Public Speaking Overview

#### **Week Two**

Sept. 6, 8 (no class Monday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day Holiday)  
Informative vs Persuasive Speeches

#### **Week Three**

Sept. 11, 13, 15  
Organizing and outlining; Introductions; Conclusions

#### **Week Four**

Sept. 18, 20, 22  
**SPEECH ONE: INFORMATIVE**

#### **Week Five**

Sept. 25, 27, 29  
Exploring cultural artifacts; Principles of public speaking

**Week Six**

Oct. 2, 4, 6

Coping with performance anxiety; Exploring great speeches

**Week Seven**

Oct. 9, 11, 13 (No class Mon. Oct 9 – Mid Semester Break)

In-Class Group Exercises

**Week Eight**

Oct. 16, 18, 20

**SPEECH TWO: PERSUASIVE**

**Week Nine**

Oct. 23, 25, 27

Exploring textual analysis; Comparing speeches

**Week Ten**

Oct. 30, Nov. 1, Nov. 3 (Guest Speakers Oct 30 / Nov. 1)

Ethics of public speaking

**Week Eleven**

Nov. 6, 8, 10

**SPEECH THREE: TEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

**Week Twelve**

Nov. 13, 15, 17

Analyzing civic issues

**Week Thirteen**

Nov. 20, 22, 24

**THANKSGIVING BREAK. NO CLASS.**

**Week Fourteen**

Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1

Special occasion speeches

**Week Fifteen**

Dec. 4, 6, 8

**SPEECH FOUR / FINAL: CIVIC ISSUES**

**About the instructor:**

Sarah Gitersonke has been working in the communications field for the past 12 years. Throughout her career she has focused on video production and on-camera spokesperson media training for global brands and PR firms. She has a B.A. in Speech Communication from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.