

COMM 101
Public Speaking and Critical Thinking
T Th 2:30-3:45
425 Corby

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OVERVIEW

This course outlines the skills of public address, approaches to critical thinking practices, and some of the foundational tenets of communication theory. The course will emphasize the relationship between context and communication in speaking and thinking, underlining the social responsibility that comes with our capacity for communication.

PURPOSE and OBJECTIVE

Students should gain skill in public speaking, an understanding of communication theory, and an appreciation for critical thinking applied to our contemporary world.

TEXT

All readings and guidelines for public speaking will be available on-line or in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation. Read. Discuss. Students will read for each class and come prepared with observations, examples, questions, and objections. As a performance course, speaking should be practiced in each session. Contributions that evaluate readings and apply readings to contemporary issues are particularly valuable. (50 points)
2. Short Assignments. Based on readings and discussions, students will write several one-page observations. (50 points)
3. Quizzes. Announced and unannounced quizzes will allow students to demonstrate their familiarity and comprehension of concepts and skills presented in readings and discussions. All quizzes must be completed at the time given. NO QUIZ CAN BE TAKEN AT ANY OTHER TIME. (75-100 points)
4. Group project. Students will be randomly assigned to a group and a topic of import. Group will research topic, decide priority of issues attached to topic, and present their findings to the class. Students will be evaluated as part of the group (50) and for their individual contribution to the group (50). Details forthcoming. (100 points)
5. Informative Speech. Students will explain a topic to the class. Topics will be selected from list provided. A typed phrase outline with sources cited in APA style will be due at time of speech. Details and requirements for speech will be distributed in class. Speech must be given on assigned day. NO SPEECH MAY BE GIVEN AT ANOTHER TIME. (100 points)
6. Persuasive Speech. Students will present a solution to a problem. Topics will be selected from list provided. The persuasive topic may build on the informative topic. Details and requirements for speech will be distributed in class. Speeches must be given on assigned day. NO SPEECH MAY BE GIVEN AT ANOTHER TIME. (100 points)
7. Final Exam. One final exam consisting of short questions to be decided by students and instructor will allow students to demonstrate their comprehension of course material and information. (50-100 points)

COURSE EVALUATION (Points will vary, percentages remain, failure is not available)

90 %	A
80%	B
70%	C
60%	D

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE may vary depending on class progress and interest)

Readings will be assigned in advance for each class session. Details on assignments and speeches provided when assigned. Quiz topics will be explained prior to each quiz.

DATE	TOPIC	TASKS (Likely topics)
J 14	Meet & Greet 1.0	
J 16	Speaking Truth (Aristotle)	A 1 (Rhetoric)
J 21	Audience/Credibility	
J 23	Selective Perception	A 2 (Perception)
J 28	Perception * Group Meetings	
J 30	Rhetorical Devices	
F 4	Arguing not to argue	Q 1 (Rhetoric, Perception)
F 6	Know, to do (Research, Sources)	Groups & Topics assigned
F 11	Research * Group Meetings	
F 13	Organizing the Speech (Attention, Outline)	A 3 (Attention, Outline)
F 18	Organization * Group Meetings	
F 20	Shooting the Messenger (Anxiety)	A 3 (Speech openings)
F 25	TBA * Group Meetings	
F 27	Delivering the Message (Verbal, non-verbal)	A 5 (Verbal, non-verbal)
M 4	SPRING BREAK	
M 6	SPRING BREAK	
M 11	Group Presentations	
M 13	Group Presentations	Informative topics due
M 18	Speech Topics (Social learning)	Q 2 (Organization, Delivery)
M 20	Just the facts (Information)	
M 25	Popular Culture Speech Topics	
M 27	Informative Speeches	Persuasive topics due
A 1	Informative Speeches	
A 3	Informative Speeches	
A 8	Persuasion & Propaganda	
A 10	Motivating for action	Q 3 (Information, Persuasion)
A 15	Persuasive Civic Issue Speeches	
A 17	Persuasive Civic Issue Speeches	
A 22	Persuasive Civic Issue Speeches	
A 24	Review & Prep Exam	

ATTENDANCE

Participation is crucial for success in this course. Do the readings, participate, and all will be well. We will proceed in the direction indicated by the schedule, but our pace, our pauses, and our detours will depend on class needs and interests. If you are absent, do not assume the schedule is accurate. Absence does not excuse missed or delayed work or prevent unannounced assignment or quiz, neither of which can be made up after due date.

NOTE

This class abides by all Loyola University Chicago policies and guidelines on civility, attendance, plagiarism, and equal access. (Also see <http://www.luc.edu/soc/Policy.shtml>) Respect for all and self, combined with a willingness to participate and invite others to participate, will improve the methods of debate and discussion in this course and society.

1/07/2014