

PUBLIC SPEAKING: EMBODIED COMMUNICATION
THST S343 SPRING 2021

Instructor: Dr. Elise Morrison
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Course Meetings: MW 9am-12:15pm
A Zoom Room Near You

Objectives

Public Speaking is designed to improve your understanding of the communication process and to develop your skills as a public speaker and as a critic of public discourse. You will learn strategies for impromptu speaking, preparing and delivering presentations and speeches, and building overall confidence in oral expression. We will study techniques to formulate and organize persuasive arguments, cultivate critical thinking, engage with an audience, and use the voice and body effectively.

As a practicum, this course is a hands-on, on-your-feet workshop. The majority of class time is dedicated to exercises and presentations during which you will receive coaching and constructive criticism. You will also learn to provide effective coaching and feedback to your fellow classmates; this is a central aspect of becoming a better public speaker yourself and a more astute critic of communication.

Assignments

Throughout the course you will deliver four prepared speeches of increasing length and complexity. You will prepare outlines for each speech, to be turned in to your instructor in advance of your speech. You will also write two short papers that analyze various aspects of oral presentation and rhetoric. During class time, you will be given the opportunity to practice impromptu speaking and participate in a practice job interview.

Speaking: **Speech of Introduction:** Introduce yourself in 2 minutes. The goal is for your audience to remember your name and learn something about you. No outline is required.

Speech to Teach: Deliver a 4-minute speech in which you teach us about an idea or how to do something. The emphasis is on organization as well as on establishing common ground and credibility. Outline and bibliography due prior to speech.

Speech to Initiate an Action: You have 6 minutes to persuade the audience to take a specific action. The emphasis is on

motivation and follow-through. Outline due prior to speech.

Speech to Change an Attitude: You have 8-10 minutes to change your audience's attitudes on a topic that you will have pre-tested for agreement/disagreement. The emphasis is on argumentation, credibility, and persuasion. The bibliography should include at least four sources. Outline and bibliography due prior to speech.

Impromptu Speeches: 1-minute impromptu speeches are scheduled throughout the semester. Emphasis is on developing coherent messages in impromptu environments; no preparation necessary.

Interviews: You will receive in-class coaching on how to persuasively communicate your skills and interests in a job or academic interview. Your mock interview will include feedback from the class and the instructor.

Written:

Rhetorical Analysis of a Famous Speech: Write an essay that analyzes the rhetorical strategies used in a famous speech of your choosing. Please select and submit for approval one speech from one of the following sources (other sources may also be approved on an individual basis): <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/top100speechesall.html> or Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare (Act 1, scene 2; Act 2, scene 1; or Act 3, scene 2). What do you find persuasive about this speech? Why? What rhetorical appeals are used particularly effectively in this speech? What was the effect of the speech on its audience(s)? What could have improved the speech? Your essay should explain your conclusion in terms of the rhetorical appeals logos, ethos, and pathos. 4-5 pages.

Self-Assessment/Course Evaluation: The purpose of this assignment is to assess your work in the course and the course itself. Review your speeches, your notes, outlines and comments from the audience. Reconsider the goals you set for yourself. Where do you see the greatest gains? In what areas would you like to do more work? What are your goals and plans for the future in terms of rhetorical practice? 2-3 pages.

Readings: All required texts are available for download or as online links through the course page online.

POLICIES

Absence policy: This course depends heavily upon student participation and the communal nature of this course depends on your physical and mental presence. We cannot do this without each and every one of you. Please note that every unexcused absence will lower your

participation grade by 20%. Excused absences are for medical or family emergencies, or religious observances, and the expectation is that, whenever possible, you notify your instructors in advance about any absences. Work-related absences (even job interviews) are considered unexcused, so please schedule carefully.

Zoom policies: This course will be conducted on Zoom out of necessity for maintaining a safe community learning environment during the COVID 19 pandemic. Out of respect to your teachers, your fellow classmates, and your self, please refrain from having additional windows visible during our class. If we are discussing an article or speech that you have in electronic form, you may of course have this open for reference, or if you are using a powerpoint or other sensorial aid to give your speech. We will discuss respectful uses of electronic communication platforms in the class and the policy of respectful focus and attentiveness is an excellent place to develop good habits for your daily and professional lives.

GRADING

Oral Presentations and Written Components **90%**

- Speech of Introduction (5%)
- Speech to Teach (10%)
- Rhetorical Analysis of Famous Speech (20%)
- Speech to Initiate an Action (20%)
 - Outline (10%)
 - Speech (10%)
- Speech to Change an Attitude (30%)
 - Outline (15%)
 - Speech (15%)
- Final self assessment (5%)

Class Participation **10%**

This means that you are present (in all senses of the word), engaged with course materials, and supportive of the contributions of your fellow classmates and instructors.

******* Like all things, this syllabus is subject to change. Stay tuned and flexible! *******

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lecture/Discussion</u>	<u>Assignment/Reading</u>
<i>Week One</i> Monday	Introduction to Course Syllabus discussion Key Features of Communication Speech of Introduction Assignment Delivery Styles	Set Goals (in class)
Wednesday	Feedback and Criticism Small Group Assignments Speech to Teach Assignment Outlining and Organization Seeing and Hearing Yourself	Speeches of Introduction (all) Watch Speeches of Introduction in Small Groups
<i>Week Two</i> Monday	Storytelling as Strategy Speaking to Teach Meet with Instructor re: Outlines Practice Speeches in Groups *Speech to Teach Outline due by midnight (via dropbox)	Reading: Denning, Stephen. "Telling Tales" Kaye, B. and B. Jacobson. "Tall Tales and True Tales"
Wednesday	Voice/ Body/ Mind(fulness) Impromptus Speech to Teach Group 1	Reading: Rodenburg, Patsy. "User's Manual to the Voice" Watch video of your speech (outside of class) Reading/Listening: Pick a "Ted" talk to watch and report on in class
<i>Week Three</i> Monday	Speech to Teach Group 2 Speech to Teach Group 3 Speech to Initiate Action assignment	Watch video of your speech (outside of class)

Wednesday

Persuasive Communication
Logos, Ethos, Pathos
Rhetorical Analysis of Speech assignment

Readings:

Corbett, *Classical Rhetoric for the Modern Student*, pp. 1-26
Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book 1, Chapters 1, 2 and 3, as excerpted
in americanrhetoric.com

<http://www.americanrhetoric.com/aristotleonrhetoric.htm>

Bring in: Advertisements and Political Campaigns

***Speech to Initiate Action Outlines due by midnight, Thursday (via dropbox)**

Week Four
Monday

Race, Gender, and Communication

Reading:

Gloria Anzaldua, "How to Tame a Wild Tongue"
Dwight Conquergood, "Rethinking Elocution"
Butler, J. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"

Speech to Change Attitude Assignment
Speech to Initiate Action Group 3

Watch video of your speech (outside of class)

Wednesday

Speech to Initiate Action Group 2
Speech to Initiate Action Group 1
Topic Checks

Watch video of your speech (outside of class)

***Speech to Change Attitude Outline due by midnight Thursday April 8 (via dropbox)**

***Rhetorical Analysis of Famous Speech Essay due by 5pm, Sunday (via dropbox)**

Week Five
Monday

Speech to Change an Attitude
Revisit Goals

Watch video of your speech (outside of class)

Wednesday

Speech to Change an Attitude

Watch video of your speech (outside of class)

Final Words

***Self assessment paper due by 5pm, Friday (via dropbox)**