



COMM 1301: PUBLIC SPEAKING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Corrie Boudreaux

Email: cmboudreaux@utep.edu

Office: Cotton 307A (go through computer lab)

Office Hours: MW 10am – 12pm, or by appointment

Required text:

This class is an Open Resource class. You will not be required to purchase a textbook. However, there are required reading and/or viewing assignments that will be posted regularly on Blackboard.

Our base text is [Public Speaking: The Virtual Text](#).

COURSE INFORMATION



Course Overview

This course provides an introduction to the art of public speaking. From in-class presentations to presidential addresses, public speech affects the way individuals view society and the way society views individuals. This course will give students a better understanding of the significant role public speaking plays in their academic and professional lives. The activities and assignments are designed to help students learn the basic features of narrative, informative, and persuasive speech and to enhance their ability to design, deliver, and analyze public speech.

Expectations

The major grading emphasis is on the conception, development, and logical communication of ideas. The course may be designed or modified as a result of diagnostic analysis utilized during the initial meetings. The planning of assignments reflects the adult status, wide-ranging interests, intelligence, and good mastery of language skills expected of college students. Students are anticipated to be mature and well prepared to take responsibility for preparation and completion of assignments. Students are expected to manage their time effectively and provide self-motivation in completing assigned readings and speeches, and to be ready to participate in text discussions each day. In addition to taking responsibility for completing readings and speech preparations, students will be encouraged to select real-world topics of substantive interest that call for challenging research and idea development. Both

hard work and creativity will be rewarded. Detailed explanations of all assignments will be provided as the semester progresses. If clarifications are needed, students are encouraged to ask questions whenever they wish, either during class or during posted office hours. Email consultation is also welcome.

Course Learning Goals

- To transform nervousness into an effective presentation
- To conceptualize, focus and develop a topic into a meaningful, purposeful communication
- To understand and apply logical organization and idea development
- Develop research skills utilizing the library and the internet
- Speak in a natural, extemporaneous manner without reading from a text

Course Policies



Attendance. Attendance and participation are mandatory. Having more than 3 unexcused absences/tardies will negatively impact your grade. I appreciate the courtesy of receiving notification when you will be absent, but notification alone will not make your absence excused. Documentation is required and absences will be excused according to University policy and my discretion. **If you do not intend to finish the course, it is your responsibility to drop the course before the drop deadline.** If you drop after the drop deadline, or if you remain on the roster without attending class/doing work, you will be graded according to whatever work you've completed; any work you've missed will be counted as a zero and will negatively affect your final grade. **Unexcused absences on presentation/speech days will drop your grade on that speech at least one letter grade.**

Late Policy. Late assignments will receive either a grade reduction or a zero. Extensions may be granted if there is a legitimate need. If you intend to request an extension on any assignment for a legitimate reason, you must notify me in advance about the reason why you need an extension. Extensions may be given for serious reasons such as serious illness, military obligations, or religious observance. Documentation is required. I do not accept most extension requests after deadlines have passed. Extensions are granted at my discretion.

Laptops and devices. Laptops and other electronic devices are only permitted when class time has been allotted for research/speech preparation. Notes must be taken with pen and paper. You may not use a

laptop or other device for daily note-taking unless you have a documented accommodation from CASS. No audio or video recording during class is permitted unless you have a documented accommodation.

Email. You should have access to and regularly check whatever email is associated with your Blackboard account. I frequently use Blackboard for announcements and class information. You may contact me through email at any time for questions. My response time is typically 3-8 hours on weekdays and 24-48 hours on weekends. Evening and weekend email may not be answered until the following day. I do not accept assignment submissions through email.

Academic Dishonesty. All work must be completed by you. All work must be completed this semester. You may not turn in work you've done prior to this class. You may not turn in work that you've also submitted in another class. You may not turn in work you didn't do. If you violate this policy, you will receive a zero on that assignment. In addition, you may receive a zero for the course and/or students who are suspected of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. More information can be found in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures, under the heading "Alleged Student Scholastic Dishonesty" and the UT System Regent's Rules and Regulations.

Students with Special Needs. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires reasonable accommodations be made for students with documented special needs, and that all materials needed for a course be made available to all students in that course, whether it is face-to-face or online. If you have any special needs that require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations, you will need to make a formal request by contacting the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at cass@utep.edu or visit <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

Points/Extra Credit. I do not offer extra credit and I do not round up grades because you are only one point away from an A, etc. If you are concerned about your grade, complete all assignments on time and ask me for help as soon as possible. Do not wait until late in the semester to seek help.

Writing. I have high standards for your written and oral communication skills. If you have concerns about your writing ability, you must start working on written assignments EARLY and you must make appointments with the University Writing Center to help you through the writing process. Organization, clarity, grammar, spelling, etc., WILL be a factor in your grade on written assignments. Come talk to me if you have questions or concerns about these expectations.

EVALUATION



Narrative Speech – 90

Celebratory Speech – 90

Informative Speech – 150

Persuasive – Fact or Value - 200

Motivational/Policy Speech – 200

Final Exam - 100

Participation and Readiness - 100

Reflections/Other Assignments – 70

Total: 1000 points*

A – 899.5 – 1000 points

B – 799.5 – 899.4 points

C – 699.5 – 799.4 points

D – 599.5 – 699.4 points

F – under 599.5 points

*Some variation in total points may occur.

Please note: A “C” grade is **average and does not indicate a failing grade. Students aspiring to achieve a high grade will have to demonstrate excellence by going above and beyond basic assignment requirements. “A” grades are the exception, not the norm. **