University of Texas at El Paso  
Syllabus  
Instructor’s Course Requirements  
Spring 2024

I. COURSE INFORMATION  
SEMESTER & YEAR: Spring 2024  
COURSE NAME & CRN: Public Speaking COMM 1301; CRN: 20517  
CLASS MEETINGS: Monday & Wednesday, 9:00 am - 10:20 am; Quinn Hall 202  

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION  
PROFESSOR: Jorge Aguilar Cruz  
OFFICE LOCATION: Cotton Memorial 202 B  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday: 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Tuesday 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
PHONE: (915) 747-7367 EMAIL: jlaguilar3@utep.edu  
*I do not use Blackboard Messages*

COURSE CONTENT  
A. COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduction to the theory and practice of public speaking; the inventing, arranging, phrasing, and presenting of ideas to an audience. The complementary skills of speaking and listening are developed through criticism of presentations presented in class. Prerequisite: (ENGL 0311 w/D or better ) OR (ESOL 1309 w/D or better ) OR (ENGL 1311 w/D or better ) OR (ESOL 1311 w/D or better )

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES: During this course the student will:

1. Present and deliver informative and persuasive presentations.  
2. Clearly organize information for each assignment. Lecture, topic, test, and class exercise.  
3. Recognize, use, and evaluate supporting materials, including the use of visual aids.  
4. Recognize and apply the techniques of objective inquiry to solving problems.  
5. As an audience member, be able to evaluate the effectiveness of oral presentations.  
6. Develop/increase self-confidence.  
7. Learn to listen critically.  
8. Analyze and adapt to different audiences.  
9. Develop and practice appropriate nonverbal communication techniques.  
10. Develop/practice note taking skills

C. LEARNING OBJECTIVES  
1. Apply key communication theories, methods, technical terms, and principles in preparation of their oral presentations and the critiquing of others oral presentations.  
2. Evaluate and analyze the oral presentations of others and themselves in terms of the verbal, nonverbal and Para lingual standards that are set for this course.  
3. Apply competing perspectives and approaches to speaking in public  
4. Practice skills as both a sender and receiver of feedback after presenting or viewing a speech.  
5. Analyze and detect ethical factors in the presentation.  
6. Select the appropriate pattern of organization for the audience, topic, and occasion  
7. Conduct audience analysis and apply/adapt to all presentations.
8. Identify a topic and construct a clear Central Idea statement.
9. Based on the Central Idea statement, construct a speech which fulfills the criteria established for the given assignment.
10. Use and report required research during speeches.

D. ASSIGNED READINGS: The calendar states which chapters the students are to read before every class meeting.

E. ASSIGNMENTS:

POP CULTURE PRESENTATION
(Personal Narrative Presentation) 150 ____________

INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION
w/Typed Outline and Reference Page 250 ____________

PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION
w/Typed Outline and Reference Page 250 ____________

EXAM 100 ____________

COMMON GROUND/COUNTERPOINT PRESENTATION 75 ____________

POP CULTURE CRITIQUE/ANALYSIS PRESENTATION 125 ____________

PRESENTATION TOPICS 50 ____________

TOTAL POINTS 1000 ____________

F. GRADING SCALE:
A = 900-1000 D = 600-699
B = 800-899 F = < 599
C = 700-799

III. RULES, CLASSROOM POLICIES

UTEP ACADEMIC & INDIVIDUAL SERVICES

If you need help, please visit the following UTEP services:
Counseling & Psychological Services, Union West, Room 202, (915) 747-5302, Email: caps@utep.edu
Food Pantry, Memorial Gym, Room 105, (915) 747-8053, Email: foodpantry@utep.edu
Student Health & Wellness Center, Union East, Suite 100, (915) 747-5624, Email: studenthealth@utep.edu
UTEP Tech Support, Library Room 300, (915) 747-4357, Email: helpdesk@utep.edu
Miner Learning Center, Library Room 205, (915) 747-6008, Email: mictutor@utep.edu

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so
that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

GUIDANCE ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is permitted in this course for the following activities, which must be noted or cited:

- Generate ideas for term papers
- Backtracking foundational sources
- Get ideas to properly organize your outlines or essay scripts

However, you may not use AI tools to complete the following activities:

- Complete an entire assignment
- Have AI write your assignment for you

Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

Remember, CHAT GPT and AI cannot do a presentation for you, good luck.

PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE

Your course work and assessments will be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is very important in this class as your participation in class discussion and activities are a vital part of your learning experience in Communication 1301. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the student to drop this class if for some reason you cannot continue. If you miss the Final Drop Date of Thursday, March 28th, I have no choice but to give the letter grade that you achieved, likely an F. It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course.

Attendance will be taken every class meeting. If you are not present when I call roll, you will be marked absent. If you are tardy, send me an email and I will change the absence to a tardy. If you do not send me an email when you are tardy, it will stay as an absence, and you will not receive credit for the day.

Moreover, there will be a deduction of 10 points per absence when a student fails to show up after his or her presentation. 10 points will be deducted for missing the library research days as well. The points for missing the library/research days will be deducted from the informative or persuasive presentations respectively. Students who miss the library days will also present first on the day of the presentation. There will be a loss of a letter grade on the final exam if a student is absent for our final exam meeting should it be a take home exam or in class exam. Points will also be deducted from the presentation when a student is late on presentation day.
Additionally, if being late to class become an issue. **I reserve the option of implementing a “Point per Minute” policy in which I will deduct a point for each minute a student is late to class.** That is my only alternative to a closed-door policy.

If you are not ready to present, DON’T SHOW UP TO CLASS. If you feel that you need to tell me, “Can I go next time?” “I don’t feel well today, can I go next time?” or “I have a big exam today so I studied for that instead of practicing my presentation, can I present another day” If you need to say something related to that, please do not come to class. I will not grant that request. I will take volunteers and then select speakers in random order. If you are randomly chosen, you will need to present.

If you are not ready to present, stay home, don’t come to class, accept the consequences, email me your work before the deadline. We will handle business the next time you are in class. **Any student that refuses to present or is not ready to present will be deducted one letter grade from the respective presentation.** If this is done more than once, I reserve the right to deduct a letter grade, as you get the benefit of the doubt ONE TIME. If you take this option, you will lose points for not being in class for your classmate’s presentations AND you will also lose points for not being prepared.

It’s UTEP policy, that the only official excused absences are 1) University recognized activities, 2) An absence due to religious holy days, and 3) Military leave or duty. You are expected to make every effort to be in attendance. All work must be submitted at the beginning of class.

In the case of funerals, hospital stays, extended medical illness or medical emergencies that included extended stays due to surgery, or complications, then we **may (not guaranteed)** come to an agreement. In all cases I need documentation (proof) that there was an emergency so that I can excuse the absence.

Please be aware of the assignment tardy policy. Other than specific cases you are expected to turn in your assignments along with your classmates. **I will only accept official documentation in case of these absences. This section is on the honors system, that’s to say, that this is only valid if you would like to share. If there is no documentation, I will adhere to the official UTEP policy regarding excused absences. Emailing the assignment so that I know it’s been completed will help a lot.** The rest we can work it out to an extent.

You’re allowed one to make up one presentation and **one only.** This is not a “make up” as in “I want to get a better grade, so I’ll present again”, this is not the case. This one make-up presentation is to make up a presentation you missed in class due to being absent. **The one make-up presentation will have a deduction of 15 points for not presenting in front of the class. The assignment still has the same deadline so that does not mean you can submit your work past the deadline. A second make-up presentation will not be granted, thus that assignment will be an F.**

Weddings, personal events, vacations, “we planned this three months ago,” “Cancun ain’t ready for us”, leaving early to attend a music festival, NFL game, or any other personal reason for an absence is not an excused absence. **Your request to miss class, miss assignments, get assignment extensions, leave the term early, or any other request will not be granted.** The university only excuses absences due to religious holy days, military leave or duty and university recognized activities. These are the only reasons in which missing a final exam or assignment will be excused. Please remember that you need documentation for this to apply.

If there is no line of communication, and assignments are not being turned in, and you are still on the roster, it is the students’ responsibility to drop the course. If the student does not drop the course, the grade at the
end of term will most likely be an “F”. Student ADD/DROP forms can be found here: https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/registrar/students/student-forms.html

In the case of a positive COVID test, diagnosis, or prolonged illness which stops you from attending class the only option will be to make up the assignment before the term ends. Preferably during finals week, just in case we need more time. An incomplete (I) grade can be assigned due to not being able to attend class to deliver the assigned presentations during class or the make-up sessions (finals week) or later to be determined. Once the incomplete is assigned, according to UTEP policy you will be given an exact time frame to complete the assignments. You are still required to turn in the assignment within a reasonable deadline that we both agree on.

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

Late assignments can be accepted. Your assignment will not be deducted points for tardiness unless it’s in strenuous and dire situations, with the only kind of proof being official documentation. Strenuous and dire situations are not doctor’s visits, work related scheduling conflicts, “forgetting to put the alarm on”, waking up late, “I forgot,” “Oh, I didn’t know it was this week,” “I confused the deadlines,” etc., etc., etc. Please read all the information provided in this link: http://catalog.utep.edu/policies-regulations/attendance-grading/

The Informative outline, Persuasive outline, Pop Culture Critique/Analysis script, Common Ground/Counterpoint script, and Pop Culture script are allowed to be turned in late, but there will be a loss of a letter grade for each day that it’s not submitted. If the assignment is not submitted within 2 days (48 hrs., from the time of the deadline) it will be scored and recorded as a zero.

If issues arise, emailing the assignment before the deadline (before our class start time) can help with this a great deal. It lets me know: the work is done, an effort to communicate was made, with those two parts done, I am more than willing to work with you to make up the speech. I will say that this should not be done repeatedly.

If the assignment is emailed after our beginning course time it will be counted as late. No matter if it’s 1 minute late or 17 minutes late. Anything sent after the class start time will be counted late.

MUTUAL RESPECT

Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated, please review the link below for the Student Conduct and Discipline provisions. Link: https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html

Please note, that I was G-checked by a student for the first time ever in Fall of 2022 and I was once called a racial epithet as well. Having said that, this is regarding the proper use of titles for instructors or Professors: Personally, at the very minimum, Professor, or Professor Cruz is encouraged. The use of “hey buddy,” “bro,” “hey man,” “dude,” “guy,” “carnal,” “compa,” “compita,” “bruh,” and the use of my first name are not allowed. It is important to maintain a level of respect between us. As the semester goes on, and I learn your names, I will refer to you by your first name, but please give me time to memorize your names.

Please turn off and do not use I pads, smart phones, laptops, cell phones, tablets, smart watches, and other wireless media during class. If you are using the previously mentioned device, you will be warned to stop and put it away, with the 2nd warning, you will be asked to leave the classroom. It’s disrespectful and distracting to have your tech out while someone is speaking to you, or presenting, etc., etc., etc. I will publicly address the use of phones in class and in front of your peers. Let’s save ourselves from that discussion and embarrassment.
and put your phone away. If this rule continues to be a problem, I will not hesitate to drop a student from the course for continued disruption and violation of course policies.

Be respectful, be attentive, mind your manners, and give people the gift of time. Please be aware that excessive use of your cell phone during class will lead to the student being dropped from the course due to disruptions and improper behavior. Additionally, if any student is caught using their phone while a student is speaking a letter grade from their respective presentation will be deducted.

Email etiquette: It’s highly encouraged that when emailing Professors, emailing a person within any professional context, or any person unknown to you that you include email etiquette. You are not DM’ing, you are not retweeting, you are not sending an impersonal short text to a homie. Please do not send empty emails. Empty emails will be deleted and not read. If you do send an email, please identify yourself and what class you are in. It is also polite to include a greeting and a sign off. Follow up emails without email etiquette will also be deleted. I cannot access the jlaguilar3@miners.utex.edu account, I don’t have access to that email account. Please make sure that you didn’t accidentally send an email to the @miners account.

If you email an assignment within an empty email or an email that lacks email etiquette, the email will be deleted, and the assignment will NOT be accepted. Therefore, making the assignment subject to not only the tardy policy but putting your assignment at risk for a zero. Please email your professors with courtesy and etiquette.

IV. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else's language or ideas as your own. Be very careful to acknowledge/give credit to your sources of information. Plagiarism falls under Academic Dishonesty in the Student Handbook and can result in suspension from the university. Please put in the work and dedication, do not plagiarize.

DO NOT COPY ANYTHING. Properly and correctly cite your sources. Whether you are quoting directly or paraphrasing the information. Please include a citation informing your audience/reader where the information originated. This includes all major assignments. If your work is identical or like another student's, then this section will apply. If you are plagiarizing, please be aware that there are university penalties for this action. Details on said policy and penalties can be found here, link: https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/student-conduct-and-discipline.html

V. CASS POLICY

If you need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utex.edu. Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. Please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities. Please reach out to the CASS office so that we can ensure your success in class. Please be aware that accommodations cannot be retroactively applied. The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and
activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR (Daily)

Week 1 (1/17)  (Wednesday) Syllabus Review

Week 2 (1/22)  (Monday) Informative and Persuasive Presentation Workshop Part I
- Review and discuss presentation requirements and guidelines
- Begin speaking outline review

(Wednesday) Informative and Persuasive Presentation Workshop Part II
- Finish speaking outline review, review and discuss speaking outline samples

Week 3 (1/29)  (Monday) Review and Discuss Pop Culture Presentation
- Review presentation script, format, and requirements

(Wednesday) Speaking in Public (Chapter 1)
- POP CULTURE PRESENTATION TOPICS DUE

Week 4 (2/5)  (Monday) Selecting a Topic and a Purpose (Chapter 5)
- Informative and Persuasive Topic List Discussion

(Wednesday) Giving Your First Presentation (Chapter 4) & Delivery (Chapter 13)
- INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION TOPICS DUE

Week 5 (2/12)  (Monday) POP CULTURE PRESENTATIONS DUE along with Essay Transcript and Reference Page

(Wednesday) Continue and conclude POP CULTURE PRESENTATIONS

Week 6 (2/19)  (Monday) Review and Discuss Pop Culture Critique/Analysis Presentation
- Review presentation script, format, and requirements

(Wednesday) Ethics and Public Speaking (Chapter 2)
- POP CULTURE CRITIQUE/ANALYSIS PRESENTATION TOPICS DUE

Week 7 (2/26)  (Monday) Class Activity for Extra Credit

(Wednesday) POP CULTURE CRITIQUE/ANALYSIS PRESENTATIONS DUE along with Essay Transcript and Reference Page
Week 8 (3/4)  
(Monday) **Continue and conclude POP CULTURE CRITIQUE/ANALYSIS PRESENTATIONS**

(Wednesday) Please meet at the UTEP Library. Use this day to further research on your Informative speaking outline and presentation. Please consult with me to review your assignment for formatting, grammar, and writing. Please use this time wisely, use this time to improve your project.

**Spring Break (March 11th-15th)**

Week 9 (3/18)  
(Monday) **INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS DUE with Typed Outline and Reference Page**

(Wednesday) **Continue INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Week 10 (3/25)  
(Monday) **Continue INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

(Wednesday) **Continue and conclude INFORMATIVE PRESENTATIONS**

(Thursday) *March 28th, Last Day to Withdrawal w/ a grade of "W"*

Week 11 (4/1)  
(Monday) **Discuss and Review Common Ground/Counterpoint Presentation**
- Common Ground/Counterpoint Presentation Topics Assigned

(Wednesday) **Speaking to Persuade (Chapter 16)**
- Persuasive Techniques Lecture

Week 12 (4/8)  
(Monday) **COMMON GROUND/COUNTERPOINT PRESENTATIONS DUE along with Essay Transcript**

(Wednesday) **Continue and conclude COMMON GROUND/COUNTERPOINT PRESENTATIONS**
- **PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION TOPICS DUE**

Week 13 (4/15)  
(Monday) Please meet at the UTEP Library, use this day to further research on your Persuasive speaking outline and presentation. Please consult with me to review your assignment for formatting, grammar, and writing. Please use this time wisely, use this time to improve your project.

(Wednesday) Please meet at the UTEP Library for Library Day #2

Week 14 (4/22)  
(Monday) **PERSUASIVE PRESENTATIONS DUE with Typed Outline and Reference Page**

(Wednesday) **Continue PERSUASIVE PRESENTATIONS**

Week 15 (4/29)  
(Monday) **Continue PERSUASIVE PRESENTATIONS**

(Wednesday) **Continue and Conclude PERSUASIVE PRESENTATIONS**
ASSIGNMENTS

EACH PRESENTATION REQUIRES A DIFFERENT TOPIC, THEY MAY NOT BE SIMILAR IN THEME, APPROACH, OR TOPIC AREA.

ALL TYPED WORK MUST BE IN TIMES NEW ROMAN, FONT SIZE 12, & DOUBLE SPACED, 1 INCH MARGINS ON ALL 4 SIDES

EACH PRESENTATION WILL HAVE A DETAILED REVIEW IN WHICH WE WILL REVIEW OUTLINE STRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION, AND REQUIREMENTS

PRESENTATION OUTLINE OR SCRIPT SAMPLES WILL BE PROVIDED TO REVIEW EACH ASSIGNMENT

WE ARE USING 7TH EDITION APA FORMATTING FOR ANY ASSIGNMENT THAT REQUIRES AN APA TITLE PAGE, RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS, IN-TEXT CITATIONS AND REFERENCES

FOR APA FORMATTING, PLEASE DON’T USE CITATION MACHINE, CITATION GENERATION WEBSITES. THOSE SITES ARE NOT ONLY WRONG AND OUTDATED, BUT IT WILL AFFECT YOUR GRADE

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND PURDUE OWL APA FORMATTING & STYLE GUIDE, LINK:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

DO NOT USE CITATION MACHINE! IT IS OUTDATED AND COMPILES DATA INCORRECTLY

VOLUME, TONE, VOCAL FILLERS, BODY LANGUAGE, EYE CONTACT AND READING OFF ARE ASSESSED FOR EVERY PRESENTATION

PRESENTATIONS AND PRESENTATION DOCUMENTS (SCRIPT & OUTLINES) WHICH HAVE AN IDENTIFIABLE INTRODUCTION, BODY AND CONCLUSION ARE ASSESSED

PRESENTATION DEVELOPMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND TRANSITIONS ARE ALSO ASSESSED

FOR PRESENTATIONS THAT REQUIRE A RESEARCH COMPONENT. SUPPORTING MATERIALS, FORMATTING, DOCUMENTATION OF RESEARCH AND SOURCES, IN TEXT CITATIONS, AND VERBAL CITATIONS, AND AUDIENCE QUESTIONS ARE ALL ASSESSED

FOR PRESENTATIONS THAT REQUIRE A RESEARCH COMPONENT. IF YOU BORROW IDEAS, CONTENT, PARAPHRASE, COPY OR OTHERWISE GRAB INFORMATION THAT IS NOT YOUR ORIGINAL CONTENT, IDEAS, OR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. PLEASE CITE YOUR SOURCES IN TEXT AND INCLUDE THE ORIGINAL SOURCES IN YOUR REREFERENCE PAGE

ALL PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS ARE TO BE DELIVERED FOLLOWING YOUR SCRIPT (paper copy) OR OUTLINE. A MANUSCRIPT or OUTLINE IS REQUIRED & ALL PRESENTATIONS ARE TO BE EXTEMPORANEOUSLY DELIVERED. IF THERE IS ANY ADDED OR OMITTED CONTENT TO YOUR SCRIPT OR OUTLINE, IF ITS HEAVILY READ OFF, IT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF POINTS

DON’T ADD, DON’T SUBTRACT, PRESENT WHAT YOU WROTE ON YOUR SCRIPT OR OUTLINE
INFORMATIVE & PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION: You are required to complete BOTH presentations. This is not an option of picking one of the two. Both the Informative and the Persuasive presentations have the same requirements. You will present an Informative Presentation that provides the audience with new information on a creative, timely topic of interest. For the Persuasive Presentation you will attempt to persuade your audience on a topic of your choosing. These respective presentations require different topics for each assignment. Topics cannot be similar. Informative and Persuasive presentations have an identifiable introduction, body, and conclusion in a specific outline format that will be covered during our time together. Both presentations must be (5-8 minutes) in speaking time, a final outline with a reference page is also required. At least one visual aid (Power point, Prezi, Canvas) is required with at least six (6) slides, title slide will NOT count as one of the six (6) presentation slides. Five (5) sources of information are required and must be identified on the reference page in APA 7th edition format. However, if you borrow ideas, content, paraphrase or otherwise grab information that is not your original content, please cite your sources and include them in your reference page.

In addition, those five (5) sources are required to be orally cited using direct quotations during your presentation and within your presentation outline. For example: According to Marvin Jones of the Denver Post, he states, “due to the legalization of marijuana in the state of Colorado, state revenues from taxes, licenses and fees surpassed $1 billion dollars” (Jones, 2019).

Your 5 orally cited sources must be documented in full APA format within presentation outline with full in-text citations in APA format. As for the research component of these two presentations, please include a variety of resources, books, journals, and online resources and present them in APA style in the reference page.

3 audience questions are required. The 3 audience questions must be open ended questions. Yes or no or raise your hands (Show of hands) questions will not receive credit for the audience question requirement. These are questions that YOU ask your audience.

POP CULTURE PRESENTATION: This is a fun presentation. Pop Culture includes but is not limited to music, fashion, books, literature, movies, documentaries, TV, rituals, or cultural phenomena. First, choose two points of interest in Pop Culture, for example: music, and TV, or film and fashion. Please have 3 different subcategories. For example, under TV you may have The Golden Girls and Game of Thrones and under Music you have Childish Gambino. In this example you have 3 different subcategories, 2 TV shows and 1 music artist, Get it?

A second example:

**Music**  
-Lady Gaga  
-Luke Combs  

**Film**  
-Harry Potter Series

Music and Film are the two different categories in Pop Culture categories. Lady Gaga, Luke Combs, and Harry Potter are 3 different Pop culture subcategories.

I can’t explain it any easier than that.

At the very minimum you must speak about 3 different Pop Culture subcategories. Your job is to tell us about why you find it interesting, what you like about it, why is it inspiring to you, how does that pop culture phenomenon influence you, how were you introduced to it, so on and so forth. We will discuss presentation talking points during the Pop Culture lecture and assignment review in class. This presentation must be (4-5 minutes) in total speaking time. You must also turn in a presentation transcript, with an APA title page, 3 required documented sources in APA formatted reference page. One (1) of the sources is required to be orally cited within your presentation. For ex, Darren Porter, Chief Editor of Entertainment Weekly stated, “although the Star Trek TV series have ultimately proven to be more
successful in comparing to Star Wars TV shows, the Star Wars films is still king in the box office” (Porter, 2017). Make sure the one verbal citation source is a source that talks about the cultural relevance and impact that your Pop Culture item has had on its genre/art/movement, etc., etc., etc. Your one verbal citation cannot be a famous lyric from a song, a famous phrase from a TV show or a famous phrase from a movie.

Your one orally cited source must be documented in full APA format within presentation script with full in text citation in APA format. The typed document must be in full APA format, with an APA title page, written content in essay format, and a reference page. You can earn extra credit for the Pop Culture presentation by wearing any item of clothing that has to do with your Pop Culture items that are included in your speech (Pins and stickers don’t count). As a final reminder, this presentation needs to be written in a speech transcript format. It needs to be written out word for word in essay format, with an identifiable intro, body, and conclusion.

POP CULTURE CRITIQUE/ANALYSIS PRESENTATION: If you truly love something, you must critique it. This presentation and paper will be the opposite of the other Pop Culture Presentation. First, read the assigned ‘Raymond Williams: The Analysis of Culture’. In this short read, Mr. Williams breaks down how culture has been historically observed, critiqued and how culture, popular culture establishes general and generational perspectives.

For this assignment, you will write about two (2) cultural objects, fads, film, TV, music, etc., etc., etc. It can be a thing you eat, drink, buy, listen, watch, popular devices, and trends. There are many topics to choose from, the ones above are an example only. If you’re not entirely sure what you have chosen in a cultural artifact is good to write about, please talk to me about it.

The easiest way to think about this assignment is this: Pick two (2) cultural objects, trends, and many possible topics (a kind of food, Instagram “influencers” ethics and misrepresentation of products, a genre of movie, a consumer product like the iPad, an idea like the “American Dream”, consumerism and debt, an institution like high school, college, or the Army) and then make a case for why it might deserve a critique or analysis. Think about how your 2 pop culture items can be objectively analyzed and critiqued by using the writing prompts I will provide for you.

Paper and presentation summary and objectives: One pop culture pick must be written with the idea of recognizing its merit, the second pop culture pick must be written with the idea of fault finding. Analyze and critique both pop culture picks and tell us how you personally benefit and stray away from the behaviors, concept or ideas in the pop culture items you have chosen. Look and critique both pop culture artifacts find the good and bad in them. How they affect society, what kind of influences do these artifacts have?

This presentation must be (4-5 minutes) in total speaking time. You must also turn in a presentation transcript, with an APA title page, 3 required documented sources in APA formatted reference page. One (1) of the sources is required to be orally cited within your presentation. For ex, Kristen Price, Entertainment reporter for Rolling Stone states, “the film industry seems to be driven by percentages on Rotten Tomatoes by ‘film critics’ who could never write a screenplay much less take themselves less seriously and simply laugh and enjoy their times at the movies” (Price, 2020). Make sure the one verbal citation source is a source that backs up your claims when it comes to critiquing and analyzing your pop culture picks. Your one verbal citation cannot be a famous lyric from a song, a famous phrase from a TV show or a famous phrase from a movie.

COMMON GROUND/COUNTERPOINT PRESENTATION: This is a short presentation (3-4 minutes speaking time). This presentation will be based on a topic to be decided on during the review of this assignment. You will learn of your topic the day of. This presentation allows you to take any stance you like, whether you personally agree or disagree.
with your assigned topic. Use humor, satire, critical observations, exaggerations, sarcasm, comedic roast style approaches, cultural critiques, and build common ground when writing and delivering this presentation. The goal of this presentation is to have fun with an obscure, unknown and “random” topic. Topics for this presentation range from fun topics around food, sports, pets, and other socially and culturally relevant topics. There are a few serious topics on the list, but they are few and far between. This presentation needs to be written in a speech transcript format. It needs to be written out word for word in essay format, with an identifiable intro, body, and conclusion.

PRESENTATION TOPICS: These assessments will be broken down into 4 parts throughout the term. These assessments are when you submit your presentation topics to me. Specifically, they focus on the Informative, Persuasive and both Pop Culture presentation topics. TOPICS ARE FINAL. CHOOSE WISELY.

If a student is not prepared with their topic, there will be a loss of 5 points. Please be ready.

To receive full credit for these assessments, you must be in class to submit your topics. If topics are not submitted during class, the assignment will be scored as a zero. This means, if your topics are emailed, full credit will not be awarded.

Assessments are broken down in the following way:

Pop Culture Presentation Topics- 10 points
Pop Culture Critique/Analysis Presentation Topics-10 points
Informative Topic - 15 points
Persuasive Topic- 15 points =50 points

EXAMS: You will have one exam, a final exam, that’s it. Questions will be drawn from the textbook and class lectures. Your final exam will be EITHER be uploaded to Blackboard Home Page, will be given as take-home exam or we can opt for an in class impromptu presentation as a final exam. You will be given enough time to complete the exam, if you do not complete the exam within the given time frame, you will not receive credit for the exam, and it will be scored as a zero. On rare occasions due to class conduct, the final exam will be given in class during our final exam meeting. Our final exam meeting is on Wednesday, May 8th, 10:00 am - 12:45 pm.

EXTRA CREDIT: I will be happy to offer extra credit to anyone who is willing to rap along to some of my favorite Hip Hop songs. You can pick one song from the following list:

-Notorious B.I.G. “Ten Crack Commandments”
-Notorious B.I.G. “Big Poppa”
-Dr. Dre “Nuthin’ But a G Thang”
-Nas “One Love”
-Mobb Deep “Survival of the Fittest”
-Mobb Deep “Quiet Storm” Remix
-Mobb Deep “Give Up the Goods”
-Kendrick Lamar “Duckworth”
-MF Doom “Vomitspit”
-Raekwon “Ice Cream”