

COM 173-81: *Public Speaking*

(Summer, 2007)

Site: Sub-Base Groton, Room 328

Time: MW 6:00-8:30 P.M.

Instructor: Mr. Stephen Curtis

Phone: (860) 546-0513

E-mail: stephen.curtis@worldnet.att.net

Course Description: Students will learn the fundamentals of speech communication. They will learn to deliver, discuss, and respond to presentations of increasing complexity. Emphasis will be placed on organization, analysis, and elements of speech delivery, including effective verbal and non-verbal aspects of communication.

Course Goals:

- (1) Compose and deliver several primary types of speeches of increasing length and complexity (Introduction, Entertaining, Informative, Motivational, and Persuasive Speeches), representing an increasing development of critical thinking skills and delivery sophistication.
- (2) Develop, research, and compose speech outlines according to formal outlining techniques.
- (3) Analyze, recognize, and incorporate the appropriate, formal argument models and patterns of logic for each given speech.
- (4) Devise, compose, and utilize appropriate *speaking notes* to facilitate and enhance the delivery of speeches.
- (5) Utilize both verbal and nonverbal strategies to effectively communicate with audience during speech presentations.
- (6) Understand the importance of audience analysis and demonstrate an ability to be aware of and utilize audience feedback during speech presentations.
- (7) Document information obtained through research using MLA format.
- (8) Analyze and provide productive, useful, and constructive critique of peer speech presentations

Text: *Public Speaking for College & Career* by Hamilton Gregory; 8th Edition (2008); McGraw-Hill.

Course Evaluation:

- 75%: Class Presentations
 - 10%: Special Speeches
 - 20%: Informative Speeches
 - 20%: Persuasive Speeches
 - 25%: Wild Card Speech
- 10%: In-Class/Homework Exercises
- 15%: Attendance/Participation

Class Attendance: Simply stated, I expect you to attend each class meeting. Because speeches shall be graded based on the material that is covered in the class, missing classes means that one is less able to ascertain the guidelines for the next speech.

Also, please note that this class begins sharply at six o'clock. The instructor shall take attendance at this time. Tardiness to the class shall result in a third of an absence. In other words, three late arrivals shall equal an absence and shall be reflected in the final attendance/participation grade.

Late Assignments: Assignments are to be turned in and speeches presented on the days that they are assigned. Late assignments or presentations will not be accepted; not being prepared or not being present for a presentation will result in forfeiture of the right to do that speech, except under extreme extenuating circumstances. It is the student's responsibility to contact me via phone or e-mail **before** the class assignment/presentation is due to explain any such situations.

Students with Special Needs: Any student who possesses a documented disability or who has special academic/physical needs should privately address this with the instructor and also consult with a counselor at Three Rivers Community College so that those needs may be properly addresses.

Tentative Class Discussion Schedule:

6/4: Introduction to Class; Chapter 1: Introduction to Public Speaking; Introductory Speeches

6/6: Chapters 2 + 5: Controlling Nervousness; Selecting a Topic

6/11: Chapters 4 + 18: Reaching the Audience; Special Types of Speeches (Choose Topic)

6/13: Special Speeches

6/18: Chapter 15: Speaking to Inform

6/20: Chapters 10, 11, + 12: Body; Introductions and Conclusions; Outlining

6/25: Chapters 6 + 7: Finding Information; Using Information Wisely and Ethically

6/27: Informative Speeches (Part I)

7/2: Chapters 16 +17: Persuasive Speeches; Persuasive Strategies

7/9: Chapters 8, 9, +13: Supporting Ideas; Visual Aids; Wording the Speech

7/16: Persuasive Speeches (Part I)

7/18: Persuasive Speeches (Part II)

7/23: Chapter 14: Delivering the Speech

7/25: Semester Review

7/30: Wild Card Speeches