

**Com173 – Public Speaking Syllabus CRN 31047**  
**Three Rivers Community College, Fall Semester - 2014**  
**Tue/Thu 4:00-5:15pm**

**Instructor:** Kevin Amenta  
**Email:** [kamenta@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:kamenta@trcc.commnet.edu)  
**Office Hours:** Tue, Thu & Fri 12-1pm in C-136 and by appointment

**Textbook:** Public Speaking: Strategies for success by Zarefsky, 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

**Course Overview/ Learning Objectives:** Public Speaking introduces students to the principles and basic skills of effective speech communication. Students will research, compose, and deliver speeches of increasing complexity and sophistication. The course familiarizes students with the strategies and techniques of successful informative and persuasive public speaking so students gain an understanding of how communication happens and how people participate in public discourses. The course also exposes students to the rhetorical dimensions of many types of public speech and teaches them to be more critical listeners who can respond rhetorically to complex issues and ideas.

**Performance Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate, describe, and apply an understanding of the relevant principles of speech communication, reasoning, and argumentation.
2. Critically evaluate examples of public discourse.
3. Demonstrate the acquisition of skills in public speaking and argumentation within several speech structures and contexts.
4. Demonstrate an ethical and effective use of academic research.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of the relationship of speech communication to society.

**Instructional Methods:** Lecture, Writing and delivering of student speeches. Students will observe, critique, and demonstrate learned material, both independently and in groups. Research will occur in the context of written course assignments, in preparation for classroom discussion and in support of group projects. All research will require the use of the library and the Internet.

**Methods of Evaluation and Grading Policies:**

5% - Narrative Speech	20% - Persuasive Speech
5% - Ceremonial Speech	5% - Motivational Speech
10% - Debate	10% - 10 Homework Assignments
10% - Informative Speech #1	5% - Classroom Activities
10% - Informative Speech #2	20% - Quizzes & Final Exam

**\*\*No texting, use of cell phones or emailing will be tolerated during class time. If your phone rings in class, this will result in -1 point from your overall grade\*\***

**Attendance Policy:** AS THIS IS A COLLEGE COURSE, STUDENTS CANNOT MAKE UP QUIZZES, CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS, HOMEWORK, THE DEBATE or the SPEECHES. ALL WORK IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENTED ACCORDING TO THE CLASS CALENDAR (or earlier). AFTER THE ASSIGNED CLASS FINISHES THE GRADE BECOMES A ZERO.

\*\*\*THERE ARE NO ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES FOR MISSING ASSIGNMENTS OR NOT ATTENDING CLASS.

**Incompletes** – I traditionally do not give Incompletes. They are only assigned when there are extenuating circumstances such as illness that prevent the student from completing the coursework on time. Incompletes must be approved by the Academic Dean.

**Withdrawal Policy:** If you intend to withdraw, you must do so at the Registrar's Office by the college deadline. Non-punitive "W" grades are assigned to withdrawal requests. An instructor's signature is required after the deadline has passed. No withdrawals are permitted after the last class preceding the final exam. Students who do not officially withdraw, but simply stop attending classes, run the risk of receiving an "F" grade for the course.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** Information about class cancellation due to the weather can be found by Calling (860) 886-0177 or go online to: [www.trcc.commnet.edu](http://www.trcc.commnet.edu). If the instructor has to cancel class a note will be placed on Blackboard on the course home page.

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failing (F) grade on the assignment for the first infraction and, should it occur a second time, an automatic failing (F) grade for the course.

Digication:

All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digication that uses the college template. Through this electronic tool students will have the opportunity to monitor their own growth in college-wide learning. The student will keep his/her learning portfolio and may continue to use the Digication account after graduation. A Three Rivers General Education Assessment Team will select and review random works to improve the college experience for all. Student work reviewed for assessment purposes will not include names and all student work will remain private and anonymous for college improvement purposes. Students will have the ability to integrate learning from the classroom, college, and life in general, which will provide additional learning opportunities. If desired, students will have the option to create multiple portfolios.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a TRCC Disability Service Provider (DSP) in Room A-119 as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

Matt Liscum (860) 383-5240	Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751
Physical Disabilities	Learning Disabilities
Sensory Disabilities	ADD/ADHD
Medical Disabilities	Autism Spectrum
Mental Health Disabilities	

**Use of Support Services:** The Writing Center/TASC is located in Room C117 (next to the Library). (860) 892-5713 or (860) 892-5769. [TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:TRWritingcenter@trcc.commnet.edu).  
Online tutoring: <http://www.etutoring.org/>

*\*\* The instructor may change the syllabus, the order of topics and/or the content of the assignments to meet the needs of the class at any point in time.*