

COMM 1311.001 – Introduction to Speech Communication
FALL 2018
Course Syllabus

Professor: Joseph Velasco, Ph.D.
Office Hours: M-Th 2-2:50 p.m, *or by appointment*
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Class Schedule: 9 a.m. - 9:50 a.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Classroom Location: MAB 302
Required Text: Pearson, J., Nelson, P., Titsworth, S., & Harter, L. (2013). *Human communication* (5th ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Always bring applicable reading material to class with you.

Introduction

Communication is largely unavoidable in our everyday lives. Generally, humans send and receive messages both verbally and nonverbally every day. As humans, it is practically impossible for us to not communicate. Understanding human communication can be useful to everyone no matter what field they intend to study. The knowledge and skills you acquire in this course have the potential for developing and assisting you in numerous ways. Throughout this course you may become a more critical receiver of messages, you may gain insight on how to improve your relationships, you may become a better citizen, and you may increase your confidence.



This course is designed to introduce you to the major areas and skills of the broad discipline of communication. As your instructor, I will assist you in increasing your knowledge about and skills in employing verbal and nonverbal messages in a variety of settings (i.e., intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, and public contexts).

UNDECIDED or UNSURE about YOUR MAJOR?

Communication may be for you! Though public speaking represents a small fraction of the academic discipline of Communication Studies or the many related fields; hopefully, this class opens you up to what might be the most versatile and marketable majors around.

For those of you who decide not to enroll in any further communication courses, this course will provide you with a good foundation in basic concepts and skills of this essential social science. For those of you who will take advanced courses in Communication and possibly begin a major in Communication, this course will provide the essential foundation for more advanced and specialized study.

Section I. Course Requirements, Assignments, and Grading

Assignment	Points Possible	Grading Scale
Exam One	50	A: 1000-900
Exam Two	50	B: 899-800
Peer Evaluation (informative)	50	C: 799-700
Peer Evaluation (persuasive)	50	D: 699-600
Interview Speech	25	F: 599-0
Oral Reading	50	
Impromptu Speech	25	
Informative Speech	150	
Informative Speech Outline	100	
Persuasive Speech	300	
Persuasive Speech Outline	100	
Final Exam	50	
Possible Points	1000	

Exams. There will be two exams in this course. Exams cover assigned reading and lecture material. The exams likely will include a mix of matching, multiple-choice, and short-answer items.

Peer Evaluation. It is my view that people often improve their public speaking skills when given appropriate and immediate feedback. You will find that the most important feedback (in life) is from that of your audience. Before you present both your informative and persuasive speeches, you will have the opportunity to practice your speech during class for an audience of around two other students. While one student listens to you and provides eye contact, the other will fill out a peer evaluation form. Each of you will take turns practicing, being the captive audience, and writing feedback on a peer evaluation form.

Interview Speech. One important function of this course is to build your confidence when speaking publicly. This speech is designed to build your confidence by giving you an opportunity to practice in front of an audience; however, you won't be alone. For this assignment, you and a partner will interview each other according to a set of questions that I will give you to guide your interview. The two of you will then be able to go to the front of the room together and introduce each other.

Oral Reading. You will need to select a piece of literature, poem, sonnet, song (within reason), or a selection from a speech. What I am looking for is for you to bring something to read in front of the class. The purpose of this assignment is to acclimate you further to the world of public speaking. Your selection, when read, must not exceed three minutes, **cannot be read from a screen**, cannot be read from a textbook for any of your classes, and must be at least one minute in length.

Impromptu Speech. There are four different modes of public speaking: 1) extemporaneous, 2) manuscript, 3) memorized, and 4) impromptu. Impromptu speeches involve little or no

preparation. For this speech, you will likely choose a topic from a hat (or an Ultimate disc) and have about 5 minutes or less to prepare. Your speech must be persuasive.

Informative Speech. This will be your first of two major speeches. For this speech your specific purpose will be to inform the audience on a particular topic. You will be required to speak for at least 4 minutes, but no longer than 7. For every 30 seconds you speak over 7:30 minutes (e.g., I give a 30-second pad on the back end), I will deduct 10 points from your grade. For every 30 seconds you go under 4 minutes, I will deduct 10 points from your grade. This rule applies to both major speeches. You are required to verbally cite a minimum of three credible sources.

Persuasive Speech. This will be your second and final major speech. For this speech your specific purpose will be to persuade the audience on a particular topic. You will be required to speak for at least 4 minutes, but no longer than 7. You are required to verbally cite a minimum of 5 credible sources.

Final Exam. The final exam is quasi-comprehensive. It will largely cover the chapters not tested for in the previous exams; however, it will also cover chapters throughout the semester.

Section II. Policies

Attendance. I expect you to be in class. You are responsible for everything that goes on, including announcements, lecture material, assignments, and modifications to the course schedule – *this includes required reading in subsequent class meetings*. Arrange with someone in the class wherein you will notify each other of relevant items in the event that one of you must be absent. Having more than two unexcused absences may result in a lower grade.

Classroom Demeanor. I expect the environment during class meetings to be conducive to learning. I have little tolerance for students talking among themselves when they should be listening to someone else speak. I understand that some comments pertain to class material; I encourage you to share these comments with the class as a whole. Also, I would rather that cell phones, pagers, etc. **not** disrupt class – make sure your communications technology is **shut down** when class begins.

Academic Integrity. I expect and assume that as students you conduct yourselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Sul Ross State University reserves the right, through due process, to place on probation, suspend or expel any student who violates academic integrity and regulations by *plagiarism, classroom misdemeanor, or academic dishonesty*. Plagiarism includes doing and/or taking credit for someone else's work, presenting the ideas and work of others as your own, and not citing your sources if you utilize the ideas of others. Classroom misdemeanor includes cheating, allowing others to cheat, and interfering with others' ability to succeed in the course. Academic dishonesty includes procuring examination materials illegally, doing unauthorized group work, and handing in your own work for which you have already received academic credit (see Student Handbook, p. 39-40).

Grading. Different assignments require different grading procedures. Exams and quizzes are not curved.

Late Work. *You are responsible for handing in assignments when they are due.* If you miss a due date, you will be given full credit *only* if the assignment was missed because of a University-excused absence – which includes hospitalization or a *serious* medical condition, a family or personal *emergency*, or a University-sponsored activity. In order to be able to make up the assignment, you must notify me beforehand *and* have supporting documentation from a relevant authority that the situation or event occurred.

Section III. Notes on University Programs and Policies

ADA. It is Sul Ross State University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning challenge, please contact the ADA Coordinator in the Counseling office in Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is PO Box C-122, Alpine, TX 79832. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu

Section IV. Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to:

1. To understand and demonstrate writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. To understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. To understand and appropriately apply modes of expression (i.e. descriptive, expository, narrative, scientific, and self-expressive) in written, visual, and oral communication.
4. To participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
5. To understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. To develop the ability to research and write a documented paper and/or to give an oral presentation.

Section V. Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to meet one or more of the student learning outcomes applied to all Communication majors:

SLO 1: Students will be able to analyze communication content for argument, including identification of major elements, such as claim, warrants, and data.

SLO 2: Students will be able to effectively construct messages appropriate to audience, purpose, and context; including electronic media technologies.

SLO 3: Students will be able to apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts to the analysis of communication situations.

Course Calendar

(This calendar is subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due or To Do:
One	Aug 27 Aug 29 Aug 31	Course Introduction Student Introductions Intro to Human Communication	Chapter 1	Interview Speech
Two	Sept 3 Sept 5 Sept 7	<i>Labor Day – No Class!</i> Perception, Self, & Communication (Continued)	Chapter 2 Chapter 2	
Three	Sept 10 Sept 12 Sept 14	Language & Meaning (Continued) Oral Reading	Chapter 3 Chapter 3	Oral Reading
Four	Sept 17 Sept 19 Sept 21	Listening & Critical Thinking Exam 1 Informative Presentations	Chapter 5 Chapter 14	Exam 1
Five	Sept 24 Sept 26 Sept 28	(Continued) Topic Selection & Audience Source Credibility & Evidence	Chapter 14 Chapter 10 Chapter 11	
Six	Oct 1 Oct 3 Oct 5	<i>Library Workshop – Arrive Early</i> <i>Library Workshop – Arrive Early</i> Organizing Your Presentation	Chapter 12	
Seven	Oct 8 Oct 10 Oct 12	(Continued) Delivery & Visual Resources Exam 2	Chapter 12 Chapter 13	Exam 2
Eight	Oct 15 Oct 17 Oct 19	More on Delivery Peer Evaluation Informative Speeches		Review Exam 2 Peer Evaluation Informative Speeches
Nine	Oct 22 Oct 24 Oct 26	Informative Speeches Informative Speeches Research/Practice Day!		Informative Speeches Informative Speeches
Ten	Oct 29 Oct 31 Nov 2	Informative Speeches Informative Speeches Informative Speeches		Informative Speeches Informative Speeches Informative Speeches
Eleven	Nov 5 Nov 7 Nov 9	The Persuasive Speech (Continued) (Continued)	Chapter 15 Chapter 15 Chapter 15	
Twelve	Nov 12 Nov 14 Nov 16	Impromptu Speeches Impromptu Speeches Peer Evaluation		Impromptu Speeches Impromptu Speeches Peer Evaluation
Thirteen	Nov 19 Nov 21 Nov 23	Persuasive Speeches Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class! Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class!		Persuasive Speeches
Fourteen	Nov 26 Nov 28 Nov 30	Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches		Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches
Fifteen	Dec 3 Dec 5	Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches		Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches
Sixteen	Dec. 11	Final Exam - 8:00-10:00am		Final Exam