

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
COMM 1315 Public Speaking**

Section 002
Fall 2021
T/TH 9:30-10:45
BAB 305

Bret Scott, Assoc. Professor
Office: FAB 208
432/837-8794
bscott@sulross.edu
M/W 12:15-1pm, walk-in basis
All others by appointment – email me.

Required Text: SPEECH CRAFT by Joshua Gunn
Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; Second edition (October 1, 2020)
ISBN-10: 1319201563
ISBN-13: 978-1319201562

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. By studying the processes of communication and applying communication theory and principles to diverse real-life situations, you will have an opportunity to practice and analyze communication skills in various contexts.

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 further acclimate you to the world of communicating with others. Your selection, when read, must not exceed three minutes and must be at least one minute in length.

Impromptu Speech. There are three different types of public speaking: 1) extemporaneous, 2) manuscript, and 3) impromptu. Impromptu speeches involve little or no preparation. For this

speech, you will likely choose a topic from a hat 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

LATE PAPERS

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. Late papers will lose a letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

If you discover, *a week or more in advance*, that you have multiple deadlines converging on the same day, you may request a change in deadline. Such a change may be granted at the instructor's discretion. Once the deadline has passed, it's too late to ask for exceptions. Manage your time and deadlines wisely.

TARDINESS / ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is 10% of your grade. That's the difference between an "A" and a "B"...or an "F" and a "D."

TARDINESS

Class BEGINS EXACTLY AT THE APPOINTED TIME. It is your responsibility to be prepared to begin BEFORE the class starts.

Three instances of tardiness is equivalent to one absence. See below for the class absence policy.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF CLASS* – ON THE HOUR. **PLAN ACCORDINGLY. ON-TIME is EARLY!**

*Exceptions will be made only for those with classes located in RAS whose end time makes on-time arrival impossible.

Punctuality is essential in this business. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.

Section IV. Course Objectives

After completing this course, you will be able to

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

Communication Program Student Learning Outcomes

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.

Communication Program
Marketable Skills

1. Informative and Persuasive Speaking
2. Audience-centered Writing
3. Critical Analysis
4. Research
5. Effective Message Construction Using Technology

THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE
AT THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION

DATE	TOPIC	CHPT	ACTIVITY
8/24	INTRO TO COURSE / SYLLABUS REVIEW	N/A	INTRODUCTIONS
8/26			Interview Speech
8/31	Perception, self, and communication	1	
9/2	Language and Meaning	2 & 3	
9/9			ORAL READING
9/14	Nonverbal Communication	4	
9/16	EXAM ONE		
9/21	Listening and Critical Thinking	5	Review Exam One
9/23	Informative Presentations BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENT – CLASS DOESN'T MEET	14	
9/28	Informative Presentations	14	
9/30	Topic Selection and Audience	10	
10/5	Source Credibility and Evidence	11	
10/7	Organizing your presentation	12	
10/12	Delivery and Visual Resources	13	
10/14	EXAM TWO		
10/19	More on Delivery		Review Exam Two
10/21			Peer Evaluation
10/26			Peer Evaluation
10/28	RESEARCH DAY – Class does not meet.		
11/2			Informative Speeches
11/9			Informative Speeches
11/11	NO CLASS – VETERAN'S DAY		
11/16	The Persuasive Speech	15	
11/18	The Persuasive Speech	15	
11/23	RESEARCH DAY – Class does not meet	15	
11/24-26	THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS. EAT TO THE POINT OF PAIN, AND BE THANKFUL FOR IT.		
11/30	Persuasive Speeches		Persuasive Speeches

12/6	MONDAY 8AM-10AM FINAL EXAM 8AM FINAL EXAM 8AM FINAL EXAM 8AM	8AM	
-------------	---	------------	--