

**COMM 1315.W02 – Public Speaking (Web-based)  
Fall 2021  
Course Syllabus**

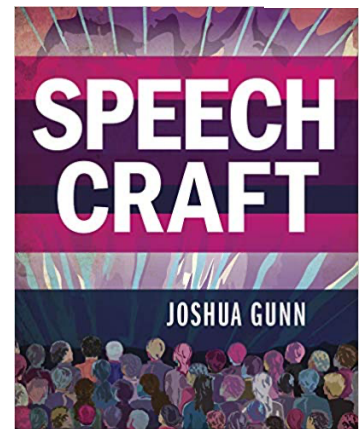
<b>Professor:</b>	Joseph Velasco, Ph.D.
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment & Tues, Wed, Thurs @ 1-3pm
<b>Office Location:</b>	FAB 206B; Online Classroom via Blackboard Collaborate
<b>Telephone:</b>	432-837-8370
<b>Email Address:</b>	jvelasco@sulross.edu
<b>Class Schedule:</b>	TBA
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Blackboard-hosted Online Instruction
<b>Required Text:</b>	Gunn, J. (2018). <i>Speech craft</i> . Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
<b>Required Equipment &amp; Software:</b>	Internet connection; computer with webcam & microphone; Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint (available free to SRSU students via <b>Office 365</b> )

Resource

- Bookstore
- Graduate Student
- Human Resources
- Library
- Lobo looko
- Lobo Pass
- Office 365**
- SGA
- Student Publication
- VoIP Control Panel

**Introduction**

Over the span of recorded history, public speaking has been valued for its ability to help humans affect each other in numerous ways, including teaching, persuading, celebrating, entertaining, and more. Whether it is in a courtroom in Alpine, in the public assembly (the Ekklesia) in Athens, around a campfire in Botswana, in a locker room in Odessa, on the tundra of Bethel, Alaska, or a living room in New Zealand, across every culture of the world, public speaking helps people make an impact. This course is designed to unlock the science and art of public speaking, building on nearly 2,500 years of philosophy, practice, and research.



In addition, this course is designed to compel you to enter the discipline of Communication Studies – a discipline that moves way beyond public speaking to consider the many ways that humans communicate. Regardless of your decision to enroll in more communication courses, this course will provide you with solid foundation of speaking, writing, and research skills to benefit you throughout your college experience and for the rest of your life.

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 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.

**2021-2022 Core Assessment (Critical Thinking):**

In addition to other outcomes listed here, I will also be promoting the following in this class:

**Critical Thinking:** Students will develop critical thinking skills to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

**Section II. Student Learning Objectives**

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.

**Section III. Marketable Skills**

This course offers you the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Informative and Persuasive Speaking
- Audience-centered Writing
- Critical Analysis
- Research
- Effective Message Construction Using Technology

**Section IV. Course Requirements, Assignments, and Grading**

Assignment	Points Possible	Grading Scale
Exam One	50	A = 895-1000
Exam Two	50	B = 795-894
Peer Evaluation (Informative)	50	C = 695-794
Peer Evaluation (Persuasive)	50	D = 595-694
Interview Speech	25	F = < 595
Oral Reading	50	
Impromptu Speech	25	
Informative Speech	150	
Informative Speech Outline	100	
Persuasive Speech	300	
Persuasive Speech Outline	100	
Final Exam	50	
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	

**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. All exams will be done through Blackboard.

**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 outside of class for an audience of at least one of your peers. This can be done through MS Teams or our Online Classroom. While one student listens and evaluates, the other will fill out a peer evaluation form. Each/both of you will take turns practicing, being the captive audience, and writing feedback on a peer evaluation form. You will send your evaluation to your peer and they will share their evaluation of you. Submit your evaluation through Blackboard Assignments.

**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 will introduce yourself to the class on Zoom by responding to the following prompts:

1. What's your name?
2. Where are you from?
3. What do you do for fun?
4. What is your major?
5. What is your biggest fear?
6. Who/what inspires you?
7. What was your most embarrassing moment?

**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. Points will be deducted for reading from a screen or a textbook.

**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, I will likely assign you a topic, and you will 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. Presentations will be made through our Online Classroom. Your presentation must include your face being visible while you are speaking.

**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 five credible sources. Presentations will be made through our Online Classroom. Your presentation must include your face being visible while you are speaking.

**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**

**Basic Class Expectations:** It is expected that you spend at least a few hours each week to complete the course readings and assignments. Since this is an online course, it is also expected that you have reliable

internet service and that you check your university email at least once a day. It is also recommended that you set up course notifications in Blackboard to receive a text alert when I post announcements, grades, or other course-related items. See instructions in Blackboard.

**Online Classroom Demeanor:** Communication issues tend to be emotionally charged. It is highly unlikely in a class this size that everyone will share your personal values, beliefs, and opinions. Believe it or not, this is a good thing! The presentation of varying perspectives will help all of us to learn. This can be accomplished if ideas, beliefs, and opinions are presented in a respectful way. I will be expecting all students to follow basic ground rules for online discussion. These are included at the end of the syllabus

**Academic Integrity.** Intellectual development requires hard work. Academic dishonesty severely interferes with this development and reduces the value of college degrees. Presenting the ideas or work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, doing someone else's work, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of dishonest academic conduct. As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at: <https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/>

**Late Work:** All of the assignments for the entire course will be posted and available as soon as the course is open. It is expected that all assignments are completed by the stated deadlines. Please plan your time carefully. If something does come up, prompt and clear communication will facilitate an accommodating response.

## **Section VI. Notes on University Programs and Policies**

**ADA.** SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

**SRSU Distance Education Statement:** Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. **Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course,** as outlined on the SRSU website.

**Technical Support.** SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.  
Email: [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)

**SRSU Library Services.** The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu](http://library.sulross.edu). Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email ([srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto:srsulibrary@sulross.edu)), or phone (432-837-8123).

Course Calendar  
(This calendar is subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Due or To Do:
One	Aug 23- Aug 27	Course Introduction Student Introductions Building Confidence	Chapter 1	Interview Speech in Bb Classroom, 8/26 @9 1-3pm? Doodle poll pending
Two	Aug 30- Sept 3	Listening & the Ethics of Speech Audience Analysis	Chapter 2 Chapter 3	
Three	Sept 6- Sept 10	<i>Labor Day – No Class!</i> Informative Speaking Topic & Purpose Selection Oral Reading	Chapter 14 Chapter 4	Oral Reading TBA
Four	Sept 13- Sept 17	Researching Your Speech Topic <i>Video Lecture on Research &amp; Library Resources</i> <b>Exam 1</b>	Chapter 5	<b>Exam 1</b>
Five	Sept 20- Sept 24	Supporting Materials & Reasoning Organizing & Outlining Your Speech Transitions, Introductions, & Conclusions	Chapter 6 Chapter 7 Chapter 8	
Six	Sept 27- Oct 1	Style & Language Style & Delivery Presentation Aids	Chapter 9 Chapter 10 Chapter 11	
Seven	Oct 4- Oct 8	<b>Exam 2</b> Informative Peer Evaluation Informative Speeches		<b>Exam 2</b> Review Exam 2 Online Classroom
Eight	Oct 11- Oct 15	Informative Speeches Informative Speeches		Online Classroom Online Classroom
Nine	Oct 18- Oct 22	Informative Speeches		Online Classroom
Ten	Oct 25- Oct 29	Informative Speeches Informative Speeches Informative Speeches		Online Classroom Online Classroom Online Classroom
Eleven	Nov 1- Nov 5	The Persuasive Speech Making Arguments	Chapter 15 Chapter 16	
Twelve	Nov 8- Nov 12	Impromptu Speeches Impromptu Speeches Persuasive Peer Evaluation		Online Classroom Online Classroom Peer Evaluation
Thirteen	Nov 15- Nov 19	Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches Persuasive Speeches		Online Classroom Online Classroom Online Classroom
Fourteen	Nov 22- Nov 26	Persuasive Speeches Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class! Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class!		Online Classroom
Fifteen	Nov 29-30 Dec 2 Dec 3	Speaking for Social Change DEAD DAY – No Classes TBA	Chapter 19	
Sixteen	TBA	<b>Final Exam - TBA</b>		<b>Final Exam</b>