<u>**Public Speaking - Syllabus**</u>   <u>**COMM 1315 / Fall 2023**</u>
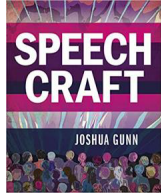**Online Classroom Via Blackboard**
Instructor: Stuart Standly   Email: stuart.standly@sulross.edu
Office Hours: Always Available Via Email

<u>Textbook is Required</u>
Gunn, J. (2018). Speech craft. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

<u>Required Equipment & Software</u>
Internet connection; computer with webcam & microphone; Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint (available free to SRSU students via Office 365)

<u>Course Description</u>
Throughout time 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, a public assembly, a campfire, a boardroom, a locker room, on the football field, or even the Oval Office; across every culture of the world, public speaking helps people make an impact. This course is designed to provide you the skill set to confidently express your message using effective public speaking methods.

<u>Course Objectives</u>
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, expositive, 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.

<u>2022-2023 Core Assessment (Personal Responsibility)</u>
In addition to other outcomes listed here, I will also be promoting the following in this class:
<u>Personal Responsibility:</u> Students will develop principles of personal responsibility for living in a diverse world; to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional and global communities.

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

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.

Student needs
Americans with Disabilities Act
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 Mary Schwartze Grisham, 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"). The office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and their mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.
Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received.

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. 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), or phone (432-837-8123).

Online Support Desk
SRSU now has a Blackboard support desk for all students. If you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. You can contact the support desk:

By calling 888-837-6055

Via email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard

Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

SRSU Distance Education

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Academic Integrity

Sul Ross State University has a Code of Academic Integrity, which prohibits, among other things, cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers or portions of papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, forging signatures, and using unauthorized study aids (including old quizzes and exams). This class abides by that code.

Grading System

This class uses an accumulative points system. There is no averaging of the assignment results. There is no dropping the lowest score. It is a simple accumulation of points, the more points you earn the better your grade. The syllabus tells you the value of each assignment and the target ranges for the semester grades. This allows the student to follow their grade point total and calculate exactly how many points are needed to score the desired grade.

Point Value per Assignment

100 points - Get to Know You Speech
100 points - Oral Reading
500 points - 10 Chapter Homework – PDF - 10 assignments @50pts each
100 points - Exam #1
100 points - Exam #2
100 points - Informative Information Packet – 4 assignments @25pts each
150 points - Informative Speech
100 points - Persuasive Information Packet – 4 assignments @25pts each
150 points - Persuasive Speech
150 points - Impromptu Speech
100 points - Final Exam

Total Points - 1650

A = 1350-1500 points
B = 1200-1349 points
C = 1050-1199 points
D = 900-1049   points
F = 899 & below

Late Work
There is a penalty for turning in work late. The later the work turned in, the larger the penalty.

Extra Credit
Extra credit work is not necessary, as there are already enough points within the normal assignments to exceed the required total for the maximum grade.

Pitch Vantage
PitchVantage is a speech simulator (with a simulated environment and audience) that records video and audio of your practice sessions so that you can watch and hear yourself. The cloud-based software also automatically analyzes the tone of your voice, your pauses, your pace, and several other delivery elements, provides both real-time and instant follow-up feedback to help you identify weak points in your delivery, and makes suggestions on how you can improve them. The best way to use this tool is to practice, pay close attention to the feedback, review your videos, and apply the feedback in your next practice. To improve your speech delivery, you must practice anyway; you might as well do so using a tool that gives you feedback about how to improve. This interactive approach has shown to more rapidly and dramatically improve your skills than practicing without feedback.

How to register: look for a registration link in Blackboard under your course section.

If you run into any issues, please check the support website for solutions or reach out directly to PitchVantage at support@pitchvantage.com.

Homework
Each Chapter section will have a pdf homework assignment that needs to be completed. This is designed to help you process and retain as much of the chapter information as possible.

Exams
Exams will include assigned reading and homework material. They will likely include a mix of matching, multiple-choice, and short-answer items. All exams will be done through Blackboard.

Get to Know You Speech
This assignment has two very important objectives. The first objective of this assignment is to get you familiar with the PitchVantage software program we will be using throughout this class. The second objective of this assignment is to build your confidence when speaking publicly. Building your confidence begins with an opportunity to practice and by using a topic you should know something about … yourself. Using the PitchVantage tool and an easy topic, let's get started.
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. The purpose of this assignment is to continue to build your confidence and comfort levels when speaking. 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. Presentations will be made through PitchVantage. Your presentation must include your face being visible while you are speaking.

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 PitchVantage. Your presentation must include your face being visible while you are speaking.

Persuasive Speech

This will be your second and 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 three credible sources. Presentations will be made through PitchVantage. Your presentation must include your face being visible while you are speaking.

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 assign you a topic. Your speech must be persuasive. Presentations will be made through PitchVantage.

ALL SPEECHES MUST BE COMPLETED AND DELIVERED TO PASS THE CLASS. ONE MISSED SPEECH PRESENTATION WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC FAILING SEMSTER GRADE.

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Public Speaking
Assignment Due Dates

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Section 1 Goals
August 28 – September 3
Week 1

Read **Syllabus**
Register for **PitchVantage**

September 4 - September 10
Week 2

Assignment - **Get to Know You Speech** - Presentation will be made through PitchVantage

September 11 - September 17
Week 3

Read **Chapter 1** and complete PDF homework.
Read **Chapter 2** and complete PDF homework.

EVERYTHING is due by September 16, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.

Section 2 Goals
September 18 – September 24
Week 4

Read **Chapter 3** and complete the PDF homework.
Read **Chapter 9** and complete the PDF homework.

September 25 – October 1
Week 5

Read **Chapter 10** and complete the PDF homework.
Exam #1

October 2 – October 8
Week 6

Assignment - **Oral Reading -** Presentation will be made through PitchVantage

EVERYTHING is due by October 6, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.

Section 3 Goals

October 9 – October 15
Week 7

Read **Chapter 4** and complete the PDF homework.
Read **Chapter 5** and complete the PDF homework.

October 16 – October 22
Week 8

Read **Chapter 6** and complete the PDF homework.
Read **Chapter 7** and complete the PDF homework.
Read **Chapter 8** and complete the PDF homework.

October 23 – November 5
Week 9 Week 10

Assignment - **Informative Speech** - Presentation will be made through PitchVantage

EVERYTHING is due by November 3, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.

Section 4 Goals

November 6 - November 12
Week 11

Exam #2

November 13 – December 3
Week 12 Week 13 Week 14

Assignment - **Persuasive Speech** - Presentation will be made through PitchVantage

EVERYTHING is due by December 1, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.

Section 5 Goals

December 4 – December 13
Week 15 Week 16

Assignment - **Impromptu Speech -** Presentation will be made through PitchVantage

Impromptu Speech is due by **December 5, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.**

Final Exam – Via Blackboard – Due December 12, BEFORE 12:00 midnight.