

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
COMM 1315- W01 Public Speaking**

FALL 2024 Asynchronous (no set meeting time) Via BLACKBOARD Office Hours: Mon/Wed 1:00 – 3:00 pm All other times by appointment Office: FAB 106	Marjorie Scott Assoc. Prof. of Comm. and Theatre Chair, Dept. of Visual and Performing Arts p. 432.837.8039 mscott3@sulross.edu
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Required Text: SPEECH CRAFT by Joshua Gunn
Publisher: Bedford/St. Martin's; Second edition (October 1, 2020)
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I **highly** recommend the Kindle version of this text. It's far less expensive than the physical book, you'll get it instantly, and you can read it on your phone or tablet.

Introduction

Fear of public speaking affects approximately fifteen million Americans, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Other surveys place public speaking on the top ten list of most common fears or phobias, along with heights, spiders, flying, dogs, claustrophobia, and snakes. By some estimates, more than 52% of people globally experience fear or anxiety when asked to speak in front of a group.

Maybe you're one of them.

Even if you're not, this course is intended to give you the skills to speak (and think) clearly, to help manage any public-speaking anxiety you may experience, and to organize your thoughts and ideas into different kinds of speeches.

Because this is an asynchronous, web-based class, you will be submitting your written work on Blackboard and your speeches via digital recording. If you don't have a phone or laptop which records video, and can't borrow one, please contact me ASAP at mscott3@sulross.edu so I may help get access for you. However, I need some lead time. PLEASE don't wait until the night before a speech is due to let me know you need help with technology – I won't be able to help you on short notice.

Section I. Course Requirements, Assignments, and Grading

Assignment Name	Points Possible	GRADING SCALE
Interview Assignment	50	A: 1000-900
Oral Reading Assignment	50	B: 899-800
Wedding Toast	100	C: 799-700
Reading Quizzes (3)	150	D: 699-600
Informative Speech (Video)	100	
Informative Speech Outline	100	
Persuasive Speech (Video)	200	
Persuasive Speech Outline	100	
Peer Evaluation	100	
Total Points Possible	1000	

Reading Quizzes. There will be three reading quizzes this term. Quizzes cover assigned reading and lecture material. The exams will include a mix of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer items. Due dates of quizzes are published in the calendar section of this syllabus.

Interview Assignment. You will pair up with a classmate and find a time to interview one another using the interview template assigned by the instructor (see Blackboard under Assignments tab). Due **Wednesday, September 4 at 10:00 pm.**

Oral Reading. Choose a **2-3-minute piece of writing that is meaningful to you** in some way. It can be a poem, song lyric, speech or part of a speech, excerpt from a religious text, etc. You will familiarize yourself with this piece of writing (you do not need to memorize it), and you will film yourself reading it aloud. Submit your video file to Blackboard by **Wednesday, September 11 at 10:00 pm.**

This exercise is intended to help you practice the craft of speaking aloud. Imagine you are sharing the written piece with an audience (the camera). Make sure to enunciate and use appropriate volume. Make sure you are well-lit (natural light is good if possible) and consider your appearance. You need not dress up in formal attire, but consider how you are presenting yourself, including clothing and hairstyle.

Wedding Toast. Special events, like weddings, are spaces we’ve all experienced (or will experience). And you will likely be asked to give a wedding toast at some point in your life; perhaps you already have. For this assignment you will write a deliver (on video) a wedding toast to someone in your life. Choose a family member or friend and imagine he/she is getting married. Write a 3-5-minute wedding toast to the happy couple and film yourself delivering the speech as though you were delivering it at the wedding reception. Submit your written speech and video file to Blackboard by **Friday, September 20 at 10:00 pm.**

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. Video files and written outlines due to Blackboard by **Wednesday, October 23 at 10:00 pm.**

Peer Evaluation. You will evaluate a peer on his/her persuasive speech. Pairs assigned by instructor. Peer evaluation **due Tuesday, December 3 at 10:00 pm.**

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 5 minutes, but no longer than 8. Assignment details on Blackboard. **Due Monday, December 9 at 10:00 pm.**

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. Late assignments 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.

RESOURCES

ADA

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. Any student who because of a disability, may require special arrangements to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. If an accommodation is needed, students must present their accommodation letter, obtained from Accessibility Services, as soon as possible. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received. Counseling and Accessibility Services is in Ferguson Hall, Suite 112. You can make an appointment by calling Mary Schwartz Grisham at 432-837-8203 or via email mschwartz@sulross.edu. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

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: <https://library.sulross.edu>

Off-campus access requires your Lobo ID 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 at 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

- Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within Blackboard and selecting the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

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

COURSE CALENDAR

The dates and topics on the following calendar are subject to change at instructor's discretion.

WEEK/DATES	TOPICS THIS WEEK	READINGS DUE THIS WEEK	ASSIGNMENTS DUE THIS WEEK
WEEK ONE Aug 26 - 30	Welcome! Review the syllabus and introduce yourself!	Read the syllabus and acquire a copy of the required textbook entitled <u>Speech Craft</u> by Joshua Gunn.	Order textbook Introduction assignment due Fri, Aug 30 by 10:00 pm on Blackboard
WEEK TWO Sept 2 - 6	Listening and Ethics	Speech Craft, Chapter 1: Building Confidence Speech Craft, Chapter 2: Listening and Ethics	Interview a classmate (pairs assigned by instructor) by Wed, Sept 4 at 10:00 pm. Listening for Meaning Exercise due Fri, Sept 6 by 10:00 pm
WEEK THREE Sept 9 - 13	Practice Speaking and The Audience!	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 3: Audience Analysis <u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 13: Celebratory Speaking	Oral Reading video assignment due Wed, Sept 11 by 10:00 pm
WEEK FOUR Sept 16 – 20	Choosing a Speech Topic and Purpose	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 4: Choosing a Speech Topic	Quiz #1 on Chapters 1-3 & 13 due Wed, Sept 18 by 10:00 pm Wedding toast video file due Fri, Sept 20 by 10:00 pm
WEEK FIVE Sept 23 – 27	Informative Speaking!	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 14: Informative Speaking	Choose 3 potential informative speech topics and submit by due Wed, Sept 25 by 10:00 pm. Write each potential topic as a complete sentence. Decide on an informative speech topic due Fri, Sept 27 by 10 pm
WEEK SIX Sept 30 – Oct 4	Research!	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 5: Researching Your Speech Topic	Specific Purpose and Central Idea Statement due Wed, Oct 2 by 10:00 pm

			Gathering Information worksheet due on Blackboard by Fri, Oct 4 at 10:00 pm
WEEK SEVEN Oct 7 - 11	Supporting Materials and Outlining	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 6: Supporting Materials <u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 7: Outlining	Quiz #2 on chapters 4 -6 & 14 due Wed, Oct 9 by 10:00 pm
WEEK EIGHT Oct 14 – 18	Organizing your Speech!	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 8: Introductions, Transitions, & Conclusions	Submit a draft of your speech outline (with Works Cited page) by Wed, Oct 16 at 10:00 pm
WEEK NINE Oct 21 – 25	Informative Speech due MIDTERM		Informative speech video file <u>and</u> completed written outline due Wed, Oct 23 by 10:00 pm.
WEEK TEN Oct 28 – Nov 1		<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 9: Style and Language	
WEEK ELEVEN Nov 4 - 8	Speech Delivery	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 10: Style and Delivery	Quiz #3 on chapters 7 - 9 & 14 due Thurs, Nov 7 by 10:00 pm
WEEK TWELVE Nov 11 - 15	Persuasive Speaking	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 15: Persuasive Speaking	Submit 3 possible topics for persuasive speech due Wed, Nov 13 by 10:00 pm Select persuasive speech topic due Fri, Nov 15 at 10:00 pm
WEEK THIRTEEN Nov 18 - 22		<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 11: Presentation Aids	Draft of persuasive speech outline due Wed, Nov 20 by 10:00 pm Opposing Argument Assignment due Fri, Nov 22 at 10:00 pm
WEEK FOURTEEN	Arguing Effectively	<u>Speech Craft</u> , Chapter 16: Making Arguments	Thanksgiving Break (Wed-Fri).

Nov 25 – 29			Work on your persuasive speech Mon and Tues.
WEEK FIFTEEN Dec 2 - 6		N/A	Peer Evaluation Assignment due Tues, Dec 3 by 10:00 pm (upload video file to BB) Practice your speech!
WEEK SIXTEEN Dec 9 – 11 (Finals week)	Submit persuasive speech and outline by 12 noon on Monday, Dec 9 by 10:00 pm	N/A	Submit persuasive speech video file and written outline by Monday, Dec 9 at 10:00 pm