

CMST 1315: Fundamentals of Public Speaking

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Course Goals and Objectives: The major aim of this course is to make you a more effective professional communicator, analytical thinker, and critical listener. Throughout the semester you will study the principles of effective communication, practice applying these principles in a variety of assignments, and critique the performances of other speakers. These assignments and exercises will work at developing your speaking abilities, organizational and preparation techniques, as well as the capacity to effectively appraise your audience, appreciate diverse backgrounds, and ethically apply communication practices. By the end of the semester, you should be able to plan and prepare professional informative, persuasive, and team extemporaneous presentations. Major skills include:

1. Critical Thinking: Construct and articulate logical arguments to justify sound conclusions.
2. Comprehending a basic level of understanding about public speaking theory and the foundational models of communication.
3. Communication: Communicate and interpret ideas effectively through written, oral, and visual/technological means.
4. Teamwork: Coordinate and utilize team strategies to accomplish a given task through effective problem solving, leadership styles, cohesive interactions, and negotiation of team roles in order to work effectively toward a shared goal.
5. Personal Responsibility: Incorporate ethical decision making, proper and justified research to support an idea, compelling organization, and appropriate reasoning free of fallacies within formal presentations. Students will also demonstrate their personal responsibility through classroom interactions and engagement/listening during others' presentations.
6. Displaying and mastering content, structure, style, and delivery skills in the presentation of informative, persuasive, and other messages to effectively impact a given (and thoroughly analyzed) audience.

Expectations and Course Structure: This course is an interactive where notes and information will be presented during each class meeting. Student contributions will be expected so please come to class ready to participate in the creation of our collective knowledge. Feel free to ask questions, answer questions, share insights, and engage in the material during activities.

Course Website: We will be using **Canvas**. Necessary texts that are not part of your book, as well as any other course documents that may be of use to you throughout the semester, will be uploaded on Canvas. Canvas will also be used as a communication tool. All assignments must be uploaded into Canvas.

Required Texts: Stephen E. Lucas, *The Art of Public Speaking*, 13th edition. New York: McGraw Hill, 2020. Available at **NO COST** on this link: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/uttyler/detail.action?docID=6328469> **Please save the textbook to your desktop for easy access.**

Numeric Value of Grades

A (90-100)= 4.0

B (80-89)= 3.0

C (70-79)= 2.0

D (60-69)= 1.0

F (below 60)= 0

For each graded assignment, students will receive a numerical grade. At the end of the semester, grades will be calculated, and final grades will be awarded as noted on the chart (page 1).

Course Evaluation: The final grade will be based on the following criteria:

Speech Starters	10%
Informative Speech	10%
Analysis of Controversy	10%
Persuasive Speech	15%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Final Exam	15%
Miscellaneous assignments	15%
Attendance/Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

Presentation dates will be given with adequate time for preparation. For each presentation you will turn in an outline in advance of your presentation. Outline formatting will be thoroughly discussed in class and several examples will be given. You are responsible for delivering your speech on the day(s) assigned to you. Students who fail to deliver speeches on their assigned day will not have the opportunity to give it at a later date unless arranged prior to the speech day. **You MUST come to class prepared with the possibility that technology will fail you and be prepared to present anyway.** When visual aids are a part of the presentation, You MUST also come to class with your visual aid uploaded on a flash drive to put your presentation on the main computer at the beginning of class. **Making up speeches are limited to emergencies involving unforeseeable and potentially life-threatening injuries and are wholly subject to instructor authorization.**

Your speeches will be presented in an extemporaneous style. (*You will not write your entire speech or memorize it.*) By thoroughly researching your topic, organizing that material in an appropriate manner, and practicing your presentation, you will develop and master your oral, visual, technological, nonverbal, and written communication skills. By taking these steps and consequently presenting in front of the class, you will put to the test your newly-found understanding of delivery skills, organizational and structure skills, and the ability to create an argument in either an informative or persuasive manner. You will also build your ability to critically think through arguments, collaborate, and coordinate with your peers, and demonstrate your comprehension of theory and foundational models of communication. In addition to these course goals, it is *my* goal that by the end of the semester you feel more comfortable in front of an audience, know how to be a professional and functioning adult in our society, and be an ethical human.

Participation: Throughout the semester, you will be asked to partake in discussion and contribute to class. Please be ready, having read the course materials for that class period, with your own thoughts, questions, or insight. This type of participation is key in a small class like this; different points of views will also allow the class to understand the material better.

Attendance: Attendance is necessary in this class. However, you will be given THREE (3) “FREE” days to miss with no penalty for your absence(s). For each absence thereafter, the Participation/Attendance part of your grade will drop one letter grade (from 100, to a 90, to an 80, and so on.) If a student misses eight (8) course meetings or more (unexcused), the student will fail the class. If you know you will be missing class due to religious observance, athletics, or competitions, you must inform me **no later than** two class meetings in advance of the day you will miss. If you are unexpectedly going to miss class or be late, especially on an assignment day, you must let me know via email BEFORE the class begins to be considered for an assignment extension (which is an *extremely rare* occurrence).

If you are absent from class, it is *your* responsibility to determine what was missed and to hand in any work or to do any readings that were announced during your absence. If you need assistance because of university-related absences (e.g., debate, sports, etc.), contact me before the missed class. This goes for any personal-related absences as well. It is always better to communicate with me when there is a problem than to not. I invite you to communicate with me if any extenuating circumstances arise (e.g., if Wifi/Internet has gone out; if your computer crashes; if your childcare situation has been disrupted).

Arriving late to class twice will count as one unexcused absence. Leaving the class early is not permitted without prior permission and will count as an unexcused absence. If you need to leave the class for an emergency, please do so with minimal distraction to others—this needs to be a rare and extraordinary occurrence. Permission will not be given to leave early or arrive late on a regular basis (e.g. because of work, classes, etc.)

Elasticity Clause: I reserve the right to modify the existing course calendar and assignments. If changes must be made, I will notify students as soon as possible.

Classroom Civility: People and ideas must be treated with respect. Please avoid disruptive behavior that makes it difficult to accomplish our mutual objectives.

Changes to the schedule: Changes may be made at my discretion and if circumstances require. I will do my best to notify you via email, in class, and with a hard copy of the changes. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced. Readings must be completed for the day they are assigned on the course schedule. Lectures are intended to complement the readings.

Course Communication: You MUST read emails and announcements from me. These will be sent through Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with how things will be carried out throughout the semester. If you do not read emails/announcements from me, that is NOT an excuse for missed assignments, classes, or so on. Also, PLEASE—no personal emails. Use your uttyler.edu email for all correspondence with me.

Email is my preferred form of contact. Allow a 48-hour window for a response, although I will try to answer within 24 hours. If a message is sent after 4 p.m. on any given day, I cannot guarantee a response before 9 a.m. the following business day. Emails about assignments will not be responded to after 9 p.m. and are not guaranteed after 2 p.m. the night before the assignment is due.

Laptop and Technology Policy: Please commit to using your laptop for class-related work only. I do reserve the right to ask you to put away all technology at any time during class. Unless otherwise indicated, I do not grant permission for any portion of the course to be video recorded except your own speeches.

College-Worthy Work is Expected: Not only does this mean that you are expected to turn in college-level work, but that it also must be presented appropriately. This means that you adhere to the format given during class, unless otherwise noted on Canvas by the instructor. If you are unsure what college-worthy work means, feel free to discuss

with the instructor. College-worthy work also means your behavior in this class. It is 100% your responsibility to follow due dates given, as the instructor may or may not remind you that something is due on a certain date. It is also 100% your responsibility to reach out to the instructor if you are unsure about something, need additional help, would like to further understand lecture/reading material, or would like to discuss how everything connects within the course. I am HAPPY to help you, as we are all here to ensure that you are learning and understanding (not just for the sake of a grade!). So, please feel free to reach out and ask for what you need to help you succeed.

Late Assignments & Make-up Work: Assignments should be turned in on the day they are due. However, there are unforeseen circumstances that may occasionally arise. Assignment make-ups will be allowed only in extreme emergency situations. Work-related events do not qualify as an extreme emergency. The course schedule and due dates are set well in advance and students have access to this information; thus, plan accordingly. The student must take the initiative to contact the professor for permission to do a make- up an assignment within two days of missing the due date. After this point, if the professor does not hear from the student, they will not be allowed to make up the assignment and will have earned zero points.

Guide to Uploading Video in Canvas Studio:

Here is a guide for students on how to turn in a Canvas Studio video to an assignment - <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Studio/How-do-I-submit-Canvas-Studio-media-as-a-File-Upload-assignment/ta-p/1677>

Guide on how to upload videos to Studio - <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Studio/How-do-I-upload-media-files-in-my-Canvas-Studio-account/ta-p/1705>

General Classroom Infractions

- All electronic devices must be silenced or turned off before class begins.
- Cell phone use, ear buds, headphones and other electronic devices are not welcome in the classroom.
- Working on unrelated material, copying, or writing on someone else's notes during class is prohibited.
- Private comments, jokes, nudges, pokes, texts, or written notes between students are a major disruption.
- Inattention, sleeping, or the appearance of sleeping (as decided solely by the professor) is prohibited.
- Disruptions such as closing books, zipping bags, or packing up before being dismissed are not welcome.

Consequences: Attendance/Participation grade dropped. Further infractions will result in your permanent dismissal from class. Also, I reserve the right to permanently assign seats to counter disruptive behavior.

Major Course Infractions

*Disrespectful or uncivil conduct of any form, either online or in the classroom. This includes arguing within the class setting (or on Canvas) with your instructor or anyone.

- *We can discuss your behavior later in my office, but arguing with me during class only worsens your offense.*
- *If you ever find yourself being sent out of class, gather your things and quietly leave. Be aware that, from the moment the infraction started, everything you are saying and doing will be written in a report to the Dean.*
- *While you have the right to your own opinion, inflammatory language is unacceptable.*

Academic dishonesty is prohibited in any form.

Plagiarism

Academic Honesty: The core values of The University of Texas at Tyler are integrity, optimism, curiosity, accountability, leadership, initiative, and development. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values.

All students must adhere to the UT- Tyler Honor Code (“Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor accept the actions of those who do”). Furthermore, students must complete their work with academic integrity outlined at <http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php>. All students are expected to maintain absolute honesty and integrity in academic work undertaken at The University. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is **not** a reasonable explanation for a violation.

Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be pursued to the fullest extent allowed by University policies and procedures. Adding another student’s name to an attendance roster when he or she is not in class is academic dishonesty.

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to (Sec. 8-802 of the *Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs*)

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit; taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

- “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- All written work may be subject to review by the most recent detection software available.

The “Common Knowledge” Clause: Material does not have to be cited if it is common knowledge—that is, knowledge that most American high school graduates already know. (E.g. Humans once painted in caves. Berlin is the capital of Germany, etc.)

The “10% Rule”: As a general rule, a college assignment is considered an original work only if the vast majority of text is original. Generally, no more than 10% of a work can be someone else’s words, regardless of proper quotes or citation.

Mistakes & Accidents: The possibility that the student mistakenly or accidentally committed plagiarism will not be taken into consideration for written work, but will be taken into consideration for oral presentations

Appeal to Ignorance: A student’s claim to ignorance with concern to policy will never be treated as a valid justification of plagiarism.

Collaboration: Students are not permitted to collaborate on an essay, discussion post, most written assignments, quiz, or test. If collaboration is acceptable, you will be given very clear permission.

Disciplinary Action for Plagiarism: Per departmental policy, the first offense of plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Any additional acts of plagiarism will result in an F for the course and possible disciplinary action by the Dean (e.g. expulsion).

University Policies and Information

Withdrawing from Class - Students are allowed to withdraw(drop) from this course through the University's Withdrawal Portal. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the [Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule \(Links to an external site.\)](#). CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the [Office of International Programs \(Links to an external site.\)](#) before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms.

Final Exam Policy: Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members are required to maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy: If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average for a student.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to complete all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or to NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.