



SPCH-1315-00311
Public Speaking | FALL 2025
Online Course

Instructor Information: Dr. Maria Starling, mstarling@com.edu, contact via COM email.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

Student hours and location: Students meet online by appointment only.

Course Material:

Textbook: A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking 7th Edition
Authors: Dan O' Hair, Hannah Rubenstein, Rob Stewart
ISBN: 978-1-319-10278-4

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Course Description: This course is designed to improve your ability to communicate effectively with an audience. The method for improving your public speaking will be a combination+ of theory, critical analysis, and practice centered on the following core concepts: Research; Organization; Development; Argumentation; and Delivery. By examining and engaging in relevant discussion of the speeches of others, you will begin to see what does and does not work in each speech situation and apply that knowledge in your own work.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula

Grading:

This course is a points-based course; the number earned points determines the semester grade.

1. Points will not be 'rounded up' to the next percentage grade higher; the exact number of points earned determines the final grade in the course.
2. **Participation:** Grades are determined by peer interaction, feedback, and constructive involvement in discussion assignments.

3. The following scale is used to determine the final course grade:

POINTS	LETTER GRADE	PERCENTAGE
1500-1350	A	(100%-90%)
1349-1200	B	(89.9%-80%)
1199-1050	C	(79.9%-70%)
1049-900	D	(69.9%-60%)
899-Below	F	(59.9%-0%)

Informative Speech-This is a speech in which you educate your audience. Like a classroom lecture or a news report, this speech should be designed to provide information that is newsworthy, interesting, and important for your audience. If the topic is controversial, the speech should provide balance by offering information from both sides of the issue. The instructional focus of this assignment is research, development, and organization.

Speech Critiques-Students will critique historical as well as current speeches based upon information learned throughout the course. Success relies not on informative or persuasive elements but in the speaker's ability to craft words and images that capture the occasion.

Discussion Board Rubric

Students are required to participate in discussion assignments to share and hear thoughts on topic from the different perspectives each classmate brings to class.

Minimum Posting Length Requirement=200-25 words (1-1 ½ paragraphs)

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12pt.

Category	Description
Comprehension	Explain key concepts and illustrate understanding of material by providing examples and personal perspective/experiences.
Connections	Integrate learned concepts by making connections to personal experience or previous understanding. Include requested items per assignment specifics.

Writing	Write clear and concise responses with no errors related to organization, grammar, format, and APA citations.
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Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is vital to success in college courses. Poor attendance will adversely affect performance and grades. Students are required to log in and participate in weekly assignments (Quizzes, Application posts, etc.).

Late Work: Is not accepted unless prior approval is provided by the instructor. Quizzes and discussion forum/board assignments: as this is an online course, there is no excuse for assignments to be late as the assignments are due 11:59 PM Sundays. Therefore, quizzes and/or discussion forum posts are not accepted late. Technology issues, including problems with D2L, are NOT excuses for work to be late.

Communication Policy: Students are expected to check the Course Announcements and college assigned student email DAILY (M-F) for course communications. The College provides a free, official email account to all students to ensure efficient and secure communications between you and the College. Students will be required to use their college-issued email address to communicate with their instructors and all other college personnel, so it is easy to distinguish a student's email from spam. The college expects that students will utilize their college email addresses to send and receive communications with college personnel and will read email on a frequent and consistent basis. I check emails throughout the day and I will make an attempt to respond to emails as I receive them throughout the day (M-F, 9am-4pm) as my schedule permits; Outside those hours (especially on weekends), I will try to respond and If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, you can assume I did not receive your email so I recommend trying again. Do NOT email assignments to the professor; work must be submitted via D2L.

* Core Objective	Critical Thinking Skills: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.	Activities Strong Agree/Disagree Activity In-Class Debate/Speech Critiques	Assessments Persuasive Speech
	Communication-Written: effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas	Class Discussions Research Lecture D2L Tutorial	Research Paper
	Communication-Oral: effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas	Oral Presentations	Informative/Persuasive/Special Occasion Speeches
	Communication-Visual: effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas	Visual Aid Discussion Nonverbal Behavior activities Instructor modeling	PPT Presentations/TED Talk/Oral Presentations
	Empirical and Quantitative Skills: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.	N/A	N/A
	Teamwork: to include the ability to consider different point of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared goal.	Person-to-Person Group Com. Lectures Social Project	Group Project
	Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.	N/A	N/A
	Personal Responsibility: to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.	Ethics Reading Group Presentation Audience Analysis Act.	Persuasive Speech

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Brian Anderson, Humanities Chair, banderson@com.edu or 409-933-8186.

SPCH 1315: Public Speaking FALL 2025			
All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Sunday of each week. *** Unless noted via syllabus			
Week	Chapter Readings	Assignments	Due Dates
1 08/18-08/24	Chapters 1-3	Watch: https://bit.ly/3M3vAuv https://bit.ly/3PXAt9R Do: 1. Self-Introduction (Power Point) 2. Syllabus Quiz 3. Discussion Board (Managing Anxiety)	08/24
2 08/25-08/31	Chapters 4-7	Watch: https://bit.ly/3M4qPkt Do: 1. Listening Discussion Board 2. Quiz #1 (1-5)	08/31
3 09/01-09/07	Chapters 8-10	Watch: https://bit.ly/46vSPpc Do: 1. Quiz #2 (6-10) 2. Isaac Lidsky Discussion Board	09/07
4 09/08-09/14	Chapters 11-13	Watch: N/A Do: 1. Post Informative Speech Topic 2. Personal Speech Evaluation	09/14
5 09/15-09/21	Chapters 14-15, 22	Watch: N/A Do: 1. Quiz #3 (11-15, 22) 2. Informative Speech Presentation Due	09/21
6 09/22-09/28	Chapters 16-18	Watch: Do: 1. Quiz #4 (16-20) 2. Course Activity (TBA)	09/28
7 09/29-10/05	Chapters 19-20	Watch: N/A Special Occasion Speech (See Weekly Module) Do: 1. Speech Evaluation 2. Persuasive Speech Assignment	10/05
8 10/05-10/08	Chapters 23-25	Do: 1. Final Exam	10/08

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Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty

completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.