



SPCH 1315.104H2
Public Speaking
Fall 2025
2:00 pm to 3:20 pm, Tuesday and Tuesday

Instructor Information: Joseph A. Willis, 432-664-1175, jwillis7@com.edu

Office hours and location: 1:00 pm/2:00 pm, Learning Resource Center. Room 212A

Required Textbook/Materials: The Art of Public Speaking, 13th Edition, Steven Lucas

Course Description: Public Speaking teaches two basic things: One, how to present an effective speech to an audience in various situations and secondly, the ability to understand the communication process as you evaluate speeches that you hear.

Course requirements: Students will take three unit tests that teach the public speaking process. Students will present five speeches of various types to represent the situations in which students may need to do in their professional or personal lives. Students are expected to evaluate the course and will receive extra-credit for doing the evaluations.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Grades will be determined in the following manner: The five grades for the presentations will account for forty-five percent of the final grade. The three tests will account for forty-five percent of the final grade. Attendance will account for ten percent of the final. Extra-credit points will be added to the student's lowest speech or test grade in the course.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Late work is accepted in two situations: Illness of the student or a family member or are absent because of a school sponsored activity or event.

Attendance Policy: Students failing to attend classes could lose up to ten percent of the final grade. Tests and Speeches are done during class so failure to attend class will lead to a poor grade in the class.

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. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication	Basics	Exams that cover the model of communication and provides a foundation for the class.
.identify how culture, ethnicity, and gender affect communication	Critical Thinking	Tribute Speech
Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations	Personal Responsibility	Peer and Self Evaluations
Research, develop and deliver extemporaneous speech with verbal and nonverbal techniques	Speaking Experiences	Informative Speech and Persuasive Speech
Demonstrate effective use of technology in speech making. Build proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches.	Communication	Group Speech and Biography Presentations

Academic Dishonesty: Any student found using any dishonest techniques will receive a zero on the affected assignment. Students are not allowed to use any notes on the examination. Student using others' material for their speeches is not acceptable. Using sources that are not from legitimate sources are not allowed.

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 at 409-933-8186, banderson@com.edu.

Course outline/schedule: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Introductory Speech is the first speech occurs on the first day of class. Students are asked to describe their background, goal for the course, and their past experience as a public speaker.

Speeches are critiqued. Students that complete the three minutes assigned for the speech get a 100 on the assignment. 10-14-25.

Group Speech requires that the students work together to craft a single speech. Students are graded for each stage of the process. The key to success in this speech is to follow the steps for speech making. The goal of the speech is to teach the outline process. 10-21-25

Unit 1 Test is based on Chapters 1-6 in the book. Students should examine the videos in the area of Communication Process, Listening and Evaluation, and Audience Analysis. They should study the review questions in the three areas listed above. Do the Unit 1 Test Review to prepare for the fifty question Matching Test. Completing the review questions and questions will generate the other fifty points on the Test. 10-30-25

Tribute Speech is a 3-5 minute speech in which the speaker describes a person that has served as mentor in their life. Students are expected to use the outline format when presenting the speech. The speech is graded in the following manner: 70 points of the speech for the oral presentation, 10 points for using the correct outline, 10 points for self-evaluation, and 10 points peer evaluations. Students will record the speech on their phones and the instructor will use that video to evaluate the speech. 11-4-25

Unit 2 Test is based on Chapters 7-12 in the book. The Testing process is same as the Unit 1 Test. The areas for the test are Topic Selection, Evidence, and Organization. Students should examine the videos, study the review questions in the areas listed above. They should do the Unit 2 Test Review to prepare for the Matching Test. 11-11-25

Informative Speech a 3-5 minute speech in which the speaker describes a process, explains an idea or provides information. They are not to attempt to persuade the audience in any way. The speech is graded exactly the same way as the Tribute Speech. The teacher will provide oral critique of each speech. 11-13-25

Unit 3 Test is based on Chapters 13-18 in the book. The Testing process is the same as the Unit 1 Test. The areas for the test are Language, Delivery, and Presentation Aids. Students should examine the videos, study the review questions in the areas listed above. They should do the Unit 3 Test Review to prepare for the Matching Test. 11-25-25

Persuasive Speech is a 5-7 minute speech in which the speaker attempts to convince the audience believe or act in a particular way. They should use the same outline format as in the previous speeches. The speech is graded in the same way as the Tribute Speech. The teacher will provide an oral critique of the speech. 12-2-25

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.