



SPCH-1315-00412
Public Speaking
Fall 2025
Online Course

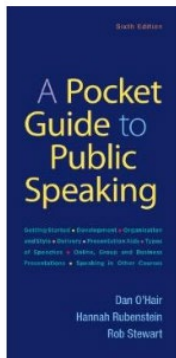
Instructor Information: Professor Myon Morgan, mmorgan18@com.edu,

Office hours and location (Online): Online Instruction, Meet by appointment only, Email Responses on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Required Textbook/Materials:

The textbook listed below is required for this course. "A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking" (6th edition) by Dan O'hair, Hannah Rubenstein, and Rob Stewart (MacMillan Education). The Pages required for readings will be provided to you.

ISBN: 978-319102784



Course Description:

SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking introduces students to the foundations and transformative power of oral communication. In this course, students will learn how to organize ideas, adapt messages to diverse audiences, and deliver clear, confident, and compelling speeches. Through a hands-on, performance-based approach, students will practice informative, persuasive, narrative, demonstrative, ceremonial, and motivational speaking. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, cultural awareness, ethical communication, and effective use of verbal and nonverbal delivery.

This course is designed to help students find their voice, shape their message, and elevate their confidence in academic, professional, and real-world settings.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

SPCH 1315 Public Speaking

Course description: Application of communication theory and practice to the public speaking context, with emphasis on audience analysis, speaker delivery, ethics of communication, cultural diversity, and speech organizational techniques to develop students' speaking abilities, as well as ability to effectively evaluate oral presentations.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication.
2. Apply elements of audience analysis.
3. Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations for evidence and logic.
4. Research, develop and deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques.
5. Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting speeches.
6. Identify how culture, ethnicity and gender influence communication.
7. Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g. narrative, informative or persuasive).

Course requirements: (including description of any special projects or assignments)

To successfully complete **SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking**, students are expected to engage in a variety of assignments and activities that develop their speaking, critical thinking, listening, and writing skills. This course follows a performance-based model, where consistent practice and reflection are essential for growth.

Required Assignments:

1. Weekly Major Speeches (10 Total)

Students will prepare and deliver 10 unique speeches across the course, each targeting a different speaking mode and skillset:

- Icebreaker Speech
- Passion Pitch (Persuasive)
- Personal Narrative
- Informative Community Topic
- Devil’s Advocate Debate
- Demonstration Speech
- Culture/Identity Speech
- Ceremonial Commencement Speech
- Advanced Persuasive Speech
- Final Motivational Speech

2. Weekly Reflections & Journals

Short written responses will accompany each speaking assignment. These are designed to help students reflect on their performance, explore their voice, and connect class concepts to personal experiences.

3. Peer Feedback Participation

Students will complete peer review rubrics, offering constructive feedback to classmates using guidelines discussed in class. This will help develop critical listening and evaluation skills.

4. Vocabulary and Concept Quizzes

Students will complete short quizzes to reinforce key public speaking terminology, rhetorical strategies, delivery techniques, and communication models.

5. Final Self-Assessment Project

At the end of the course, students will complete a comprehensive self-assessment reflecting on their growth, challenges, and performance throughout the term.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: (methods of evaluation to be employed to include a variety of means to evaluate student performance)

Students will be evaluated through a variety of methods designed to assess performance, preparation, growth, and mastery of course objectives. Grades will be based on the following components:

Category	Weight	Description
Major Speaking Assignments (10)	50%	Each student will complete 10 speeches, ranging from icebreakers and narratives to persuasive, cultural, and motivational speeches. Speeches are graded using rubrics assessing organization, delivery, audience adaptation, content, and creativity.
Written Reflections / Voice Journals	15%	Weekly written assignments where students explore their growth, challenges, and understanding of public speaking principles. These reflections support voice development and confidence building.
Peer Feedback & Listening Rubrics	10%	Students will complete peer evaluations after each speaking assignment to enhance listening and critique skills. Participation and thoughtfulness are key grading factors.
Quizzes & Public Speaking Vocabulary Checks	10%	Periodic quizzes will assess knowledge of course terms, rhetorical concepts, and speaking techniques. These short assessments reinforce academic understanding of public speaking theory.
Final Motivational Speech & Self-Assessment	15%	In the final week, students will deliver a motivational speech and complete a detailed self-assessment reflecting on their progress and personal voice as a speaker.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:

Late Work:

Late assignments will be accepted up to **5 calendar days** after the original due date and are subject to a **10% deduction per day** late. After 5 days, the assignment will receive a grade of zero unless prior arrangements have been made due to an emergency.

Make-Up Speeches:

Because this is a performance-based course, **speeches must be delivered on schedule**. Students who miss a scheduled speech due to a documented emergency must contact the instructor **within 48 hours** to arrange a make-up. Make-up speeches may be delivered privately via video or during an alternate time if approved.

Extra Credit:

Extra credit is not guaranteed and is not a substitute for missing work. However, students may have the opportunity to earn bonus points by:

- Attending approved speaking workshops or campus events and submitting a reflection
- Completing optional enrichment prompts or bonus journal entries
- Participating in feedback panels or peer support activities

Note: All extra credit opportunities are announced in advance and must be completed by the deadline specified. No extra credit will be offered at the end of the semester to raise a final grade.

Attendance Policy:

This is a fully online course. While there are no scheduled class meetings, **consistent weekly participation is required** to remain in good standing.

Attendance is measured by:

- Submitting weekly assignments and speeches by the deadline
- Engaging in discussion boards or peer feedback activities
- Logging into the course regularly to check for updates and announcements

Failure to complete **two or more consecutive weekly assignments** without communication may result in being assigned an **FN grade** (Failure due to Non-Attendance), per College of the Mainland policy.

Students are responsible for maintaining regular engagement. If personal or medical issues arise, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor **in advance** (when possible) or within 48 hours of any missed work.

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.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action as outlined by College of the Mainland policies.

Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

- **Plagiarism:** Presenting someone else's words, ideas, or structure as your own without proper citation
- **Fabrication:** Making up sources, citations, or speech content
- **Collusion:** Unauthorized collaboration on graded assignments
- **Cheating:** Using unauthorized aids or materials during quizzes or submitting work not completed by the student

In a public speaking course, this also includes:

- Delivering speeches written by others
- Reusing speeches from outside sources without credit
- Copying peer content for reflection journals or speech outlines

Consequences of academic dishonesty:

- First offense: Grade of zero on the assignment and written warning
- Second offense: Automatic failure of the course (grade of F) and referral to the college's academic integrity officer

All incidents will be documented and reported according to institutional procedures.

Remember: Integrity in your words and ideas is foundational to effective, ethical public speaking.

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 Brian Anderson, Department Chair for the Humanities Department at (409) 933-8186 or banderson@com.edu.

Course Duration: October 21 – December 13, 2025

All assignments due Sundays at 11:59 PM unless otherwise noted

(Calendar subject to adjustment with notice.)

Week	Dates	Weekly Focus	Major Assignments Due
Week 1	Oct 21 – Oct 27	 <i>Finding Your Voice</i> – Intro to Public Speaking, Overcoming Fear, Ethos/Pathos/Logos	Icebreaker Speech + Reflection
Week 2	Oct 28 – Nov 3	 <i>Persuasion Basics</i> – Audience Analysis, Emotional Appeals, Passion	Passion Pitch Speech + Peer Feedback
Week 3	Nov 4 – Nov 10	 <i>Storytelling Power</i> – Narrative Structure, Hero’s Journey, Delivery	Personal Narrative Speech + Voice Journal
Week 4	Nov 11 – Nov 17	 <i>Informative Speaking</i> – Clarity, Visual Aids, Community Topics	Informative Speech + Quiz #1
Week 5	Nov 18 – Nov 24	 <i>Arguments & Reasoning</i> – Logical Fallacies, Devil’s Advocate	Devil’s Advocate Speech + Reflection
Week 6	Nov 25 – Dec 1	 <i>Demonstration & Instruction</i> – Step-by-Step Teaching, Visuals	Demonstration Speech + Peer Feedback
Week 7	Dec 2 – Dec 8	 <i>Culture & Communication</i> – Intercultural Awareness, Identity Speeches	Culture Speech + Reflection + Quiz #2
Week 8	Dec 9 – Dec 15	 <i>Ceremonial & Inspirational</i> – Final Presentations & Closing	Commencement Speech + Final Self-Assessment
Bonus Week 9 <i>(Optional)</i>	–	 <i>Advanced Persuasion</i> – Problem–Cause–Solution	Advanced Persuasive Speech (Extra Credit)
Bonus Week 10 <i>(Optional)</i>	–	 <i>Motivational Speaking</i> – Inspire & Elevate	Motivational Speech (Extra Credit)

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

Email: mmorgan18@com.edu

Location: Online

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.