



COMM 110 Essentials of Public Presentations (3 credits) Course Syllabus

Description:

In this course students learn how to deliver effective oral presentations for various audiences and occasions. Students practice ethical listening skills as preparation for engaged citizenship. This course is required to fulfill Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal 1: Communication.

This course meets MN Transfer Curriculum Goal 1:

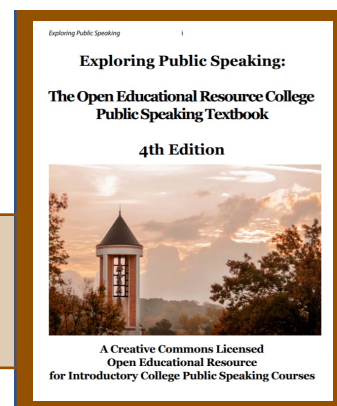
To develop writers and speakers who use the English language effectively and who read, write, speak and listen critically. As a base, all students should complete introductory communication requirements early in their collegiate studies. Writing competency is an ongoing process to be reinforced through writing-intensive courses and writing across the curriculum. Speaking and listening skills need reinforcement through multiple opportunities for interpersonal communication, public speaking, and discussion.

Student Learning Outcomes: After completing this course students will be able to...

1. Demonstrate the speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, and presentation.
2. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view.
3. Adapt public speaking strategies for specific audiences by
 - Crafting messages for persuasive and informative contexts
 - Employing effective language usage/style
 - Employing effective nonverbal delivery
 - Incorporating effective presentation aids
4. Construct and employ logical and coherent arguments.
5. Practice ethical listening to evaluate and respond to oral presentations.
6. Engage in communication for ethically engaged citizenship for social justice, diversity, and inclusion.

Text and Supplies:

Required: Exploring Public Speaking,
<https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/411> (Open Educational Resource)



Course Assignments and Requirements:

You must complete four (4) speaking assignments to pass the course. One of the presentations must utilize at least one effective visual aid. Visual aids are recognized as supporting material much like testimonies, statistics, examples, etc. used to support a sub-point in the speech.

1. A 4 to 6 minute informative speech (Demonstration or "how to" topics are not allowed.)
2. A 4 to 6 minute public narrative speech
3. A 4 to 6 minute persuasive speech
4. A 4 to 6 minute presentation that is a revised and improved version of one of the previous speeches. The revisions should be based on feedback received on the first attempt as well as self-reflection.

Each speech will also have these additional guidelines:

1. **Outlines and preparation materials:** You will submit a typed, complete sentence outline for the informative and persuasive speeches. For the public narrative speech, you will complete an alternative preparation document assigned by the instructor.
2. **Research and resources:**
 - a. Oral citations: You will orally cite a minimum of four sources.
 - b. Works cited: You will submit a typed works cited page formatted in the MLA style prior to delivering the speech.
3. **Speaking notes:** All presentations will be delivered extemporaneously from limited notes. If you use notes, you must use 3x5 note cards, written on one side only. You may use no more than three (3) note cards.
4. **Lecterns:** You may not use a lectern or podium for the required speeches.

In addition to the four required speeches, you will also complete other learning activities (including the evaluation of speakers) to improve your communication skills.

Grading Policies:

Your work will be evaluated using clearly explained expectations and grading rubrics for each assignment. Your presentation assignments will make up at least 50% of your final grade for the course.

Grade	Percentage	Description
A	100-90	Exceeds standards
B	89-80	Meets all standards
C	79-70	Meets most standards
D	69-60	Meets some standards
F	59-0	Does not meet standards

Attendance Policy:

This class will be taught from a perspective that providing feedback and constructive criticism to fellow classmates is as important as the required performance activities themselves. Since participation in these activities is dependent upon regular attendance, attendance is expected.

Student Assistance and Disability Accommodations:

If you have a disability or life challenges that may make it difficult for you to succeed in this course, please talk with your professor who can refer you to the appropriate agency. Providing documentation ensures that your professor can work with you to create the best situation for your learning. Communication pertaining to such disorders will be treated as confidential in keeping with the guidelines of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association. Lots of barriers to learning occur, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, depression, difficulty concentrating, and trauma. These situations may interfere your ability to participate in daily activities, including your academics. SMSU Counseling and Testing Services has mental health professionals who provide free counseling services.

Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is counter-productive because it does not allow students to demonstrate course competencies. Unethical practices will be addressed by the professor in accordance with the SMSU Academic Honesty Policy.

Respect and Inclusion:

The SMSU Communication Studies Program is firmly committed to co-creating an environment of equality and inclusion for the diverse members of the SMSU student body. According to the SMSU Student Handbook, diversity refers to many characteristics including, but not limited to “race, sex, color, creed, religion, age, national origin, disability, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.” While everyone’s experiences vary, all members of our class are expected to treat one another with respect at all times. We recognize discrimination may be direct, indirect, systemic, or individual. All members of our class must commit to supporting and understanding one another to create an environment of acceptance and safety for all members to flourish in their class participation.

Assessment:

Course materials and assignments may be used for assessment of SMSU, Communication Studies Program and Liberal Education Program student learning objectives. Student artifacts will be used anonymously.