COMM 1315.023 -- Public Speaking  
Spring 2015-- MWF 10:00AM - 10:50AM OCNR 131

Instructor of Record: Jeremy Sirio  
Office: Bay Hall 3rd Floor (TBA)  
Office Hours: Please schedule appointment.  
Email: jeremy.sirio@tamucc.edu

Course Description: This class is designed to teach you the principles of research, organization, composition and effective delivery of speeches for various purposes and occasions. Focus will be on speaking to audiences in face-to-face as well as from a distance through the use of computer-mediated technology. There is also a teamwork component built into the course; therefore, you will be assigned to a group for the purpose of developing a group presentation.

Student Learning Objectives:
1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
2. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
3. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through oral communication.
4. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through visual communication.
5. Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team.
6. Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal.
7. Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

Required Book/Access Code:  

To purchase just the access code or the access code and ebook, sign into the Blackboard course shell, click on Syllabus (link to left in BB) and then the Chapter 1 homework assignment. Follow the prompts for purchase. You can do a two week trial for free, but be sure to purchase prior to the end of the two weeks or all Connect Lucas homework and exams scores will be lost. WARNING: Going directly to the Connect Lucas site versus using the links in Blackboard will cause your grades not to sync with the online, Blackboard Gradebook. If this happens, you will receive a ZERO on all assignments in which directions were not followed, so be sure to access Connect Lucas assignments/exams through the Blackboard links only.

To order the access code, ebook AND a hard bound book (loose leaf), please go to the following link: Note: this option will be a little more expensive with shipping and you will have to use the trial version until it arrives. This option is also available in the university bookstore (on campus).

**Blackboard:** Password protected web site that students use for communication as it relates to this course. In addition, students will gain access to all assignments, exams, the grade book and resource materials for the course.

**Gaining Access to Blackboard…**
Learning to use Blackboard will be vital to your success in this course. Within your Blackboard shell you will find:
1. Syllabus
2. Assignments
3. Connect Lucas Exams
4. Connect Lucas Homework
5. Quizzes
6. Gradebook
7. Private Email (BB Messages and Email)
8. Public Communication (Discussion Forum).

Go to: `https://bb9.tamucc.edu/`
You will see…
Username:
Password:
Username is first initial and last name (plus # for some people)
Password is whatever you established
*Same as computer labs and wireless access, which is different from Islander Email

IT Help Desk (361) 825-2825.
`http://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html`

Should see course as a blue link… click on it to enter COMM 1315 Public Speaking

**CONNECT LUCAS PROBLEMS:** If you have ANY Connect Lucas problems, you are to call the Connect Lucas helpdesk, first (before contacting me). When you call Connect Lucas, be sure to get AND KEEP your case # related to the specific problem. IF you contact me for assistance, please be ready to provide the case #. IF you do not have a case #, you will be asked to contact the Connect Lucas helpdesk for that information. The number can be found under the syllabus link inside of BB.

**BLACKBOARD PROBLEMS:** If you have ANY Blackboard problems, please call the Blackboard helpdesk, first (before contacting me). When you call the helpdesk, be sure to get AND KEEP your case # related to the specific problem. IF you contact me for assistance, please be ready to provide the case #. IF you do not have a case #, you will be asked to contact the helpdesk for that information. The number can be found under the syllabus link inside of BB.

**WARNING:** UNLESS there is some type of medical documentation indicating why an online assignment could not be completed by the deadline, the online assignments WILL NOT be reset.
Deadlines are given at the beginning of the semester, so please put them on your calendar for planning purposes.

**COURSE POLICIES:** If you have ANY Blackboard problems, please call the Blackboard helpdesk, first (before contacting me). When you call the helpdesk, be sure to get AND KEEP your case # related to the specific problem. IF you contact me for assistance, please be ready to provide the case#. IF you do not have a case #, you will be asked to contact the helpdesk for that information. The number can be found under the syllabus link inside of BB.

**ATTENDANCE/TARDINESS:** Attendance is crucial to success in this class! There is so much in regards to Public Speaking that has to be experienced and not just read or lecture upon. I understand that life happens though, and sometimes students have no choice but to miss class. Students can have up to 3 absences before they affect the final grade, with each absence above the count of 3 netting in a point loss from the final grade. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will be considered absent.

**LATE WORK AND MAKE-UP EXAMS:** If a personal issue arrives that you feel may keep you from making the deadline for any assignments, please be proactive and communicate with me before the deadline has passed. It is a lot easier to help students when they take the initiative, rather than waiting until things gone awry. While most individual speeches can be made up (with a 10% penalty for an unexcused absence), some speeches in class (such as the Persuasive Group Speech) can NOT be made up. All online components cannot be made up past deadline without excuse or reason before the deadline is met.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** There may be opportunities throughout the semester to earn extra credit. Keep up with announcements both on Blackboard and in class to stay up to date with such opportunities.

**CELL PHONE/ELECTRONIC DEVICE USAGE:** I don’t mind the use of media in class, especially if it relates to the topic of discussion. However, I will not tolerate if media is being used as a distraction, as that not only affects the student utilizing the media, but the surrounding students as well. Media will not be permitted during speeches.

If you absolutely have to use media, I have no issue with you briefly stepping out and taking care of business outside of the classroom. Just avoid being a distraction while stepping out and re-entering the classroom.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Values</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Preparation Materials --</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment One</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Outline (10 pts)</td>
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<td>Past, Present, Future Speech</td>
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<td>Index Cards (15 pts)</td>
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<td>Assignment Two</td>
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<td>1. Outline (10 pts)</td>
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<td>Informative Speech</td>
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<td>Assignment Three</td>
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<td>1. Outline (10 pts)</td>
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<td>Group Persuasive Speech</td>
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<td>Assignments 1-3.</td>
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<td>Mini-Speeches/Lecture Quizzes</td>
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<td>Assigned Textbook Reading Exams</td>
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<td>5 Exams</td>
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Note: if a student does not turn in a bibliography with the group informative AND/OR persuasive speech, he/she will receive a zero on the assignment. Lack of a bibliography = plagiarism.

There are 1000 points possible, broken down as follows:
A = 900-1000
B = 800-899
C = 700-799
D = 600-699
F = 599 or fewer
To average your grade up to any given point in the semester…
1. Add what you COULD have earned up to that point
2. Add what you have actually earned up to that point
3. Divide what you COULD have earned INTO what you actually earned you will have your current average in the course.

Policy for Late Assignments:
Speeches/Assignments presented and/or handed in late will be lowered one letter grade per day that it is late.

Timing. Learning to complete a speech in an allotted amount of time is an important skill for all public speakers to develop. The only way to know the length of your speech is to rehearse it. So rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse– for the sake of timing and a polished delivery. Note also that a speech which falls short of the lower limit does not fully meet the assignment. Going over your time limit reflects a poorly developed specific purpose.

Time Limit on Speeches:
For every minute that the student goes over the allotted time, it will be 1 percent off his/her speech grade. For example, if the time limit is 5 to 10 minutes and the speaker speaks for 12 minutes and receives a grade of 80% on the performance, then his/her actual grade would be a = 78% (2 min. over = 2% off).

For every minute that the speech is under time, it is 5 percent off the final speech grade (lack of speech development and/or practice.)

Topic Selection: Each speaking assignment is intended to facilitate your understanding of the speech design process, while allowing you to develop your delivery style. Your general purpose is either to inform or persuade your audience about a specific topic. Although you have a great deal of freedom in regard to topic selection, you must be sure to relate your topic to the audience (in this case your classmates). In addition, be sure that your topic is one that can be covered in the allotted time. We will discuss the above requirements in more detail throughout the semester/term.

Research and Preparation. Few things are more uncomfortable than giving a speech that is not adequately prepared. Do your homework. You should use outside sources, such as publications (books, academic journals, credible magazines and newspapers, government reports, etc.) and also interviews. When you make claims (which you will, particularly in the persuasive speech), then you must offer evidence to back them up. You simply must do research in order to understand your audience and prepare the content of the speech.

Use of the Internet for research. Internet sources are permitted for speeches. However, use of the Internet for research can lead to sloppy research that borders on plagiarism. The Internet is a great tool, but remember that you are responsible, so seek out credible information (not just the first thing you see) and evaluate this information.
Academic Etiquette:
Universities must maintain standards of academic etiquette in order to create an atmosphere conducive to learning. Everyone in the classroom is expected to demonstrate courtesy to one another and the Instructor, both in public and private forums.

Netiquette:
Please go to the following link to ensure that you are not breaking any of the netiquette rules as this will hurt your grade. In an extreme form, it could cause a student to be removed from the course (this includes any type of flaming remarks).

http://edtech2.boisestate.edu/frankm/573/netiquette.html

*Whether face to face or online, with instructor or other classmates, students who are unable to abide by the general rules of academic etiquette and normal civility will be removed from the class.

Plagiarism -- Any student found to be plagiarizing in any form will receive a zero on that assignment with the possibility of failing the course.

Conscious Plagiarism: This is outright copying from a published source, buying a prepared paper or speech, using someone else’s paper or speech, or having someone rewrite a rough draft. The student who does this is completely conscious of his or her theft. Usually the student who resorts to conscious plagiarism is doing so as an act of desperation in order to salvage a grade. He or she is to be pitied, but the consequences are the same. That student has performed an act of conscious theft.

Unconscious Plagiarism: This is an accident, generally the result of ignorance. The person who unconsciously plagiarizes usually does not fully understand how to summarize or how to insert material from his or her sources into the paper or speech. Another type of plagiarism is more complex. It occurs when the writer or speaker presents, as his own, the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of ideas, the arrangement of material, the pattern of thought of someone else, even though he expresses it in his own words. The language may be his, but he is presenting it as the work of his brain, and taking credit for the work of another’s brain.

Citing Sources. It is just as important to cite sources correctly as it is to utilize them appropriately. While providing lengthy citations can be cumbersome in a speech, you still need to tell the audience where you obtained information, quotes, etc. that are not your own. This is important for your credibility as a speaker, but it is also important for me to know that you are not plagiarizing others’ material. Remember, failing to cite source material when using ideas, facts, etc. that are not your own counts as plagiarism.

Note: It is the student’s responsibility to read the information about plagiarism in the text to be sure that he/she is clear on exactly what constitutes plagiarism. Ignorance is no excuse! Any student found to be cheating or plagiarizing may receive a zero on that
particular exam or in-class activity with the possibility of failing the course.

**Statement of Civility:**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Disabilities Accommodations:**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Statement of Academic Continuity:**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Academic Advising:**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeals:**
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
Dropping a Class:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10th, 2015, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Tentative Course Calendar (Things could easily change, so it is important that you keep with announcements both here on Blackboard and in class.)

Wednesday, January 21 – Syllabus/Orientation
Friday, January 23 – Communication Anxiety
Monday, January 26 – Meet a Friend Activity
Wednesday, January 28 – YouTube Mini-Speech (Day 1)
Friday, January 30 – YouTube Mini-Speech (Day 2)
Monday, February 2 – Organizing the Speech
Wednesday, February 4 – Visual Aspects of Delivery
Friday, February 6 – “Ah” Game
Monday, February 9 – Past, Present, & Future Speech (Day 1)
Wednesday, February 11 – Past, Present, & Future Speech (Day 2)
Friday, February 13 – Past, Present, & Future Speech (Day 3)
Monday, February 16 – Past, Present, & Future Speech (Day 4)
Wednesday, February 18 – Past, Present, & Future Speech (Day 5)
Friday, February 20 – Speaking to Inform
Monday, February 23 – Patterns of Organization
Wednesday, February 25 – Birthday Speech (Day 1)
Friday, February 27 – Birthday Speech (Day 2)
Monday, March 2 – Audience Analysis/Topic Selection
Wednesday, March 4 – Verbal/Vocal Aspects of Delivery
Friday, March 6 – Survey Day
Monday, March 9 – MLK Speech Analysis
Wednesday, March 11 – KONY 2012 Speech Analysis
Friday, March 13 – Special Occasion Speech
March 16-20 – Spring Break
Monday, March 23 – Informative Speech Assistance
Wednesday, March 25 – Informative Speech (Day 1)
Friday, March 27 – Informative Speech (Day 2)
Monday, March 30 – Informative Speech (Day 3)
Wednesday, April 1 – Informative Speech (Day 4)
Friday, April 3 – Informative Speech (Day 5)
Monday, April 6 – Small Group Communication
Wednesday, April 8 – Persuasion
Friday, April 10 – Survey Day, Last day to drop a class
Monday, April 13 – Manuscript/Interview Speech
Wednesday, April 15 – Manuscript/Interview Speech
Friday, April 17 – Group Meeting
Monday, April 20 – “Dollar” Mini-speech
Wednesday, April 22 – Group Contracts
Friday, April 24 – Group Meeting
Monday, April 27 – Group Activity
Wednesday, April 29 – Group Meeting
Friday, May 1 – Group Meeting
Monday, May 4 – Group Persuasive Speech (Day 1)
Tuesday, May 5 – Last day of classes
Wednesday, May 6 – Reading Day
May 11-13 – Final Exam (Group Persuasive Speech Day 2, Make-up Speeches)
May 14-15 – Grading days