This is an blended online course.  
Most textbook content will be delivered via Blackboard.  
It is your responsibility to complete and submit all assignments by the deadlines.

**Important note on course communication and personal responsibility:**

Welcome to Public Speaking! I am thrilled to have you in my class and I look forward to growing and learning with you this semester. Your questions and comments are very important to me. For record-keeping purposes, please contact me regarding class business via the Blackboard message function only. I will respond to your messages in a timely manner. Please use email only in case of emergency, or if the Blackboard system is down.

Because you are a problem-solving, critical-thinking, college student, please consult the syllabus, Blackboard, or your fellow classmates for course information before contacting me with a question. I am always happy to help, but you will likely find your answer more quickly among the other resources available to you.

Many students in this class intend to make an A, and will work very hard to do so throughout the semester. This is a wonderful goal and I am here to help you achieve it! However, if your intention is to ace this course, then I strongly advise you to start actively working toward this goal TODAY! Read the chapters, earn A’s on your reading quizzes, turn in your assignments on time, participate in the online discussions, and perform well on your speeches. It’s that simple!

A’s are achieved by consistently exceeding the expectations of the course. A’s are not achieved by frantically visiting me at the end of the semester because you failed to read the material, didn’t provide visual aids, fell short of the time limit on your speeches, and are now explaining to me that you “really need an A in this class!”

Finally, I realize life happens, and that circumstances out of our control can skew our planned schedules. However, Sunday night messages with excuses about why you can’t submit a speech on Monday are weak! You are not weak! You have enrolled in a mostly-online, 5-week summer class. Be prepared to work hard and to submit your assignments on time.

We are going to have a wonderful semester together, and I look forward to working with you and helping you achieve your academic goals! To succeed in this course, please be prepared, think ahead, and conduct yourself with professionalism on all of your assignments!
Professor Kellie Smith  
kellie.smith@tamucc.edu

Office: Bay Hall 223C  
Phone: 825-5750  
Hours: TBD

Please contact me via the Blackboard message function.


TO EARN ASSIGNMENT CREDIT, YOU MUST ENTER McGRAW HILL ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH BLACKBOARD!

Course Description: This course is a blended (face to face and online), in-depth study of the art of public speaking and the tools employed by the speaker to build his/her craft. Basic public speaking techniques and terminology will be emphasized.

Student Learning Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students who conscientiously perform their work will be able to:

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; and
7. Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

COURSE GRADE CALCULATION

1. Online Discussions (50 points): Each Unit will require students to post a reply to a specific discussion forum. For each assignment, students will (a) post a thoughtful, relevant, and astute response to the provided discussion prompt and (b) reply to the posts of three other students. All discussion posts are due by the respective Unit Deadline. No late posts will be accepted.

2. Homework and Reading Quizzes (100 points): Online homework and reading quizzes will be assigned during the semester for all (Personal, Informative, and Persuasive Speech Units). Each reading quiz will cover several chapters of text! All reading quizzes are due by the respective Unit Deadline. No late quizzes will be accepted.

3. Mini Speeches (50 points): Mini Speeches are 1-5 minute practice speeches that students must present in class. Mini speeches are completion points. You cannot make up mini speeches.

4. Final Exam (200): A final exam will be given at the end of the semester and will be worth 200 points. Format of the exam will be multiple choice, and will cover the key terms and concepts discussed in the Connect Lucas access site. Students are responsible for reading the text and keeping up with the reading assignments through the semester, as reading quizzes will be also calculated in to the final grade.

5. Graded Major Speeches (600 points): Students will deliver three major graded speeches during the semester:

   Personal Speech -200 points  
   Informative Speech -200 points  
   Persuasive Speech -200 points
ALL MAJOR SPEECHES WILL REQUIRE AVISUAL MEDIA ACCOMPANIMENT. You will need to arrange a place to present each of these speeches so that the camera captures your PowerPoint or Prezi slides. In addition to the quality of your speech attributing to your speech grade, you must provide a quality presentation which will contribute to the overall score.

ALL SPEECHES WILL REQUIRE AN APA-FORMATTED BIBLIOGRAPHY and OUTLINE (The outline and bibliography must be turned in as attachments to your discussion thread when you post your speech video. For a bibliography guide, visit: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/05/ and read all guides for reference lists.

Here are the steps for your graded speeches:

1. Prepare your speech and visual aids (Power Point, Prezi, etc.)
2. Practice your speech and time yourself to stay within time limits!
3. Upload your power point slides, outline, and bibliography to appropriate discussion board for that speech. The title of the new thread should just be your name.
4. Check your power point link, because this will be used to load your speech before you present in class! Check your technology and always have a backup!

ATTENDANCE POLICY: The course material of this blended course is fast-paced and condensed - and it is imperative that you log in, complete your assignments on time, and do not get behind. A speech schedule will be set at the beginning of the semester and adhered to throughout the duration of the course. Late and/ or make up speeches will not be accepted online unless you have a documented excuse or a doctor’s note. **Speeches not submitted by the deadline will result in a ZERO and will make it very difficult for you to pass the class.**

ONLINE ETIQUETTE: For a complete overview of Netiquette, visit: http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html

**Academic Honesty:** Students unaware of the university’s statement on academic honesty should review it in the Undergraduate Catalog or Student Handbook. Examples of academic dishonesty and plagiarism are using someone else’s ideas and not giving them credit; presenting a paper that is not originally yours; handing in assignments that are not originally yours; presenting facts or lifting ideas from sources without crediting the source; presenting falsified opinions and figures; and cheating on an exam. If you are uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism or dishonesty, please ask your professor. Students who violate the code of honesty in this class will receive a “0” on the assignment. Any student receiving more than one “0” for academic dishonesty or plagiarism will fail the course and may be expelled. Note: All violations of academic dishonesty are reported to the college dean and the Office of Student Affairs who maintains documentation of such offenses for at least 5 years.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**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 PROCESS:** 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, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.