Comm. 1315 Public Speaking Syllabus
Fall 2016.W02 (Online)

**Instructor:** Esther Pais  
**Office Hours:** Virtual office hours to be explained later  
**Email Address:** esther.pais@tamucc.edu

**GOALS**  
The goal of this course is to make you a better public speaker. We will begin with the basic fundamental principles of public speaking and continue with the different types of speeches. When completing this course you will have been exposed to all of the important elements needed to prepare and give a good speech.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**  
**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.

**TEXT**  

**Access code required for Connect!!!** You may purchase a used textbook or an ebook, however you will be required to purchase the access code needed to use Connect online. Make sure that you activate your code through blackboard otherwise your grades on Connect will not transfer to Blackboard. Please wait till I send you information after class starts via blackboard announcement regarding how to activate.

**POLICIES**

**Speech Dates:** If you do not upload your speeches within the due dates you will receive an automatic zero for that speech. **Do not wait until the last moment as technological or internet access issues will not be a valid excuse for late speeches. I do not accept late work!!!!**

Please note: I understand that emergencies will arise; however few exceptions if any will be made and documentation will be required for those exceptions. Email me beforehand about any problems that you are having. If I make an exception a two-letter grade deduction penalty will most likely apply at my discretion.
All speeches must be uploaded on Connect using Speech Capture. More on this will be explained later on Blackboard

**Your major speeches (informative, persuasive, demonstration) will require an audience. It will be your responsibility to find minimally 3 people to have in your audience for these speeches.** They must be 16 or older. Also, it is imperative that you introduce them within a few seconds of your recording and before your speech begins. The introduction of your audience will not count toward your speech time requirements. While recording your speech you must partially show your audience during your speech as they watch and listen to you (refer to picture below more information will be found on blackboard).

![Image of a person giving a speech in front of a stack of seated people.](image)

**In addition I need to see the majority of your body as you present while still being able to hear you and see your eye contact with your audience.** Make sure that there is no other noise in the room during your recording such as TV, music, pets, children, loud environmental sounds that could be disruptive, etc. Do not make any cuts or edits to any of your videos since your speeches should be presented in one take and not cut and pasted to appear as one take. Please pay attention to the quality of your video. Dark, low quality, hard to hear, or blurry videos will be severely penalized.

**Penalties:**
Not having minimally 3 audience members 16 years or older will give you an automatic ZERO. No exceptions! This is a public speaking course and having an audience is required. Plan accordingly. No excuses will be accepted. (Example: they flaked at the last moment, my boyfriend had to work so I only have 2 people, I live alone, I am out of town and I don’t know anyone, my mom won’t listen to my speech, etc.) Please figure it out. Do not text me, call me, or email me about your failure to find 3 people. You have the due dates for your speeches so do
plan ahead. Don’t wait until the final day late at night and think that because your friends didn’t show up I will make an exception—I won’t. If this is going to be a problem for you I would encourage you to drop this course now. Last thing on that, the audience must be looking at you and listening to while you give your speech. You need to have their attention.

- Having children in the frame at anytime for any length of time 15 points off
- Distractions in the frame of any kind such as animals going in and out of frame, people walking around, the TV on (watching a show/movie) behind you even if muted 15 points off
- Background noise such as TV or radio, loud fans, or loud a/c vents etc in the background 10 points off (if it so loud that I can’t understand you the penalty will increase)
- Taking a video that is too far or too dark to see your facial expressions 20 points off
- A video that has the volume too low or is too hard to hear you clearly 20 points off
- A video that doesn’t follow the proper angle for recording your speech 20 points off
- Speeches that are too short will receive 10 points off for every 30 second interval up to the minimum time requirement.
- Miming to a pre-recorded audio file of yourself will result in a ZERO!!!
- If I have forgotten any I will let you know before each main speech.

Please note: Mini speeches will not require an audience and can be recorded from about the waist up.

Assignments: All assignments due must be typed. I will not accept handwritten assignments.

Exams: You will receive an automatic zero if you do not take the exams or quizzes on their due dates so pay attention to due dates on your calendar.

Announcements: It is imperative that you promptly read all announcements that are sent out. It is the only way that you will stay current and informed of any potential changes in due dates, assignment additions and/or clarifications of assignments. You are responsible for those changes after the announcement is sent. Failure to read the announcements promptly could result in lower grades or even zeros for missed assignments. Read the announcements; it is how I communicate with you!!!

Skype: You are expected to meet with me on Skype for a “face-to-face” meeting. Our meetings will be short and will be by appointment. Stay tuned to the announcements for those meeting days. You will be allowed to choose your time from a set of open days and times that I appoint.

Participation: You are expected to participate in this class. This means that when an assignment calls for you to peer evaluate your classmates, or for you to give feedback to their discussions on the discussion forum you will do so. This will include all Skype meetings. Remember this is all part of where your participation grade comes from. Please do your part.
Discussion Forum Questions: I will provide a series of questions. Your answers should address all of the questions and you should expand on them. This is your opportunity to tell me and your classmates about your thoughts on said questions. If you turn in just a few sentences do not expect full credit. I expect to see thoughtful consideration on each. You are expected to comment on your classmates discussion responses as well so plan to be active on the discussion boards.

Also there will be a thread called “Post Your Course Questions Here” please look for it. The goal for this thread is to have students ask questions to be answered, by me or by your peers. So if you have a question about something please go to the discussion forum on blackboard and post your question there first. This way I don’t have to answer the same questions for dozens of students I can simply answer it once and all your classmates will have access to the question and answers. There are no dumb questions.

Some assignments may be worth just a minimal amounts of points; however those assignments add up. Each semester I see students miss a letter grade because they thought those 10 point assignments wouldn’t be worth the effort so they continuously missed them. Don’t let that be you.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

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.

Grade Appeals*
Students who feel they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the 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.
(http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:** Students are expected to “demonstrate a high level of maturity, self-direction and ability to manage their own affairs” and to “conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.)” You must properly cite ideas that were not originally your own as stated in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Catalog. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated!**

**GRADING**

**Assignment Values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informative Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasive Speech</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-speeches</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30</td>
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There will be 1000 possible points.
A=900-1000
B=800-899
C=700-799
D=600-699
F=500 or fewer

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**Informative Speech**

All topics are to be pre-approved for this speech. The purpose of this speech is to inform the audience about a culture or co-culture that you are interested in. Make sure that you develop and organized the speech in a way that will be both informative and interesting. If you choose a topic that you know something about it will usually help your delivery. For this speech you are required to have three cited sources in your complete outline. The time limit for this speech is 5-6 minutes.

**Persuasive Speech**

All topics are to be pre-approved for this speech. In this speech your goal will be to persuade your audience. Choose a topic that you have strong feelings about related to your field of study or your life long professional goals. This will help you to give a more compelling persuasive
speech. Make sure that you use appropriate language, appropriate appeals of emotion as well as sound reasoning for you persuasive speech. This speech will require five cited sources in your complete outline and has a time limit of 5-6 minutes.

**Demonstration Speech**

All topics are to be pre-approved for this speech. In this speech you will present a step-by-step demonstration of how something is done. Choose something that you do well. When choosing a topic make sure that it can be explained and demonstrated easily and clearly. Choosing a topic that is too complicated will affect your ability to give a good speech in the time limit you have. This speech will require an outline, but no sources are required. The time limit is 4-5 minutes.

**Mini Speeches:** These short speeches do not require an audience and will be on different topics. Please refer to your calendar for due dates.

A detailed explanation of each speech will be addressed online before the speech is due. Also note that time limits on speeches may change and will be announced before the speeches are due as need be. Please be warned that it is imperative that speech limits be followed as short speeches or speeches longer than the speech time requirement has stiff penalties more on this will be addressed later. Also realize that anyone reading their speech and or speaking from a manuscript will be severely penalized. The purpose of this course is to speak extemporaneously.

**Fall 2016 Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Assignments, Speeches, &amp; Exams</th>
<th>Located</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/26/16</td>
<td>Read Announcement to find 1st Assignment</td>
<td>BB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8/30 Discussion Topic 1</td>
<td>BB (Discussion Forum)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/1 Mini Speech: Introduce Yourself</td>
<td>Upload on Connect</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/6 Info Speech Topic Due for Approval</td>
<td>BB (Wikis)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/8 Specific Purpose &amp; Central Idea Due</td>
<td>Submit on BB</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/13 Connect Assignment</td>
<td>Connect</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/15 Complete Informative Speech Outline</td>
<td>Submit on BB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/20 Discussion Topic 2</td>
<td>BB (Discussion Forum)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9/22 Exam 1 (Chapters 1-6 excluding chapter 4)</td>
<td>Connect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9/26--10/29  Informative Speeches  Upload on Connect
10/3  Discussion Topic 3  BB (Discussion Forum)
10/11  Mini Speech: Convince Us  Upload on Connect
10/13  Persuasive Speech Topic Due for Approval  BB (Wikis)
10/17  Connect Assignment  Connect
10/23  Discussion Topic 4  BB (Discussion Forum)
10/24 - 10/27  Persuasive Speeches  Upload on Connect
11/2  Exam 2 (Chapters 9-14 excluding chapter 11)  Connect
11/9  Discussion Topic 5  BB (Discussion Forum)
11/15  Mini Speech: Award Acceptance Speech  Upload on Connect
11/17  Demonstration Speech Topics Due for Approval  BB (Wikis)
11/22  Connect Assignment  Connect
11/28 - 12/1  Demonstration Speeches  Upload on Connect
12/6  Final EXAM (Chapters 16 & 17 only)  Connect

If any changes need to be made to this calendar I will let you know via an announcement on Blackboard.