

CMST 131H (Class #2617)
Speech Communication Fundamentals - Honors
MWF 1:00-1:50 PM THMA 113

Instructor: Dr. Steven R. Brydon

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Office hours: Mondays 11:00-12:15, 2:00-3:00; Wednesdays 2:00-3:45; and Fridays 2:00-3:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES:

Catalog Description: Effective oral communication. Introduction to human communication theory. Practice in gathering, organizing, and presenting material, with special emphases on evidence, reasoning, analysis, and argument. Oral advocacy of ideas with a focus on critical thinking. Open to Honors students only.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will effectively evaluate content for oral presentations by:
 - a. Researching sufficient types and sources of content.
 - b. Selecting relevant and appropriate content for a specific purpose and audience.
 - c. Using content ethically by orally citing sources.

2. Students will effectively organize content used in oral presentations by:
 - a. Clearly identifying the thesis of the presentation.
 - b. Demonstrating the connection between the content and the thesis.
 - c. Presenting the content in a logical and meaningful order.
 - d. Demonstrating creativity in the development of content through the use of themes, metaphors, larger organizational principles, etc.

3. Students will effectively deliver oral presentations by:
 - a. Employing a style of delivery appropriate to the context.
 - b. Demonstrating confidence with selected style of delivery.
 - c. Utilizing nonverbal channels to enhance delivery (e.g., eye contact, facial expression, gesture, body movement, paralinguistic cues).
 - d. Demonstrating responsiveness to audience as necessary (i.e., adjust language, provide clarification, etc.)

4. Students will demonstrate effective listening skills by:
 - a. Accurately summarizing speaker content (or main ideas) as an audience member.
 - b. Providing constructive feedback for the speaker as an audience member.
 - c. Providing relevant contributions (i.e., information, opinion, and/or argument) in various settings (i.e., group discussion, meeting, public forum).

5. Students will demonstrate understanding of how contextual factors (psychological, social, and/or cultural) influence effective communication in dyadic and group contexts.
 - a. Students will identify contextual factors relevant to effective oral presentations in a specific context.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Brydon, S. R. & Scott, M. D. (2008) *Between one and many: The art and science of public speaking* (6th ed.). McGraw-Hill.

Blank VHS videotape for recording your speeches.

CMST 131H Course Packet (available at bookstore)

MAJOR SPEECH ACTIVITIES:

In this course, there will be five graded oral communication activities designed to expose you to a variety of different speaking situations and purposes. These activities are briefly listed here and are explained in more detail in the Course Packet. Unless otherwise indicated, all your speeches should be delivered extemporaneously, with minimal notes.

Storytelling speech (50 points)—In a brief 3-4 minute speech, you will tell a story. This may be about an event that has helped shape your life, something you have heard or read about, or a story designed to illustrate a moral.

Informative speech (100 points)—In a 6-8 minute speech, you will teach your classmates about some process or subject that will be useful and meaningful to them. Significance of the topic will be important in assigning a grade. Presentational aids, outside research (at least four sources) and an outline are required.

Non-controversial persuasive speech (100 points)—In a 6-8 minute speech, you will seek to brand, reinforce, and/or inoculate your audience about a topic, which, although persuasive, is relatively uncontroversial. For example, you might encourage the use of more environmentally friendly practices. Outside research (at least four sources) and an outline are required.

Controversial persuasive speech (150 points)—In an 8-10 minute speech address a controversial topic on which a significant portion of your audience holds an opposing view. This speech should be a two-sided presentation. Research the opposing views on the topic and incorporate refutation of those views in your speech. The use of quantitative reasoning (such as statistics) is required for this speech. Outside research (at least four sources) and an outline are required.

Award presentation/acknowledgement—(75 points) Students will give and receive awards in pairs, which will be based on a drawing of names. Each student will be both an award presenter and an award recipient. You will not necessarily be paired with the same person for both roles. Students will perform this speech in pairs—one person presents the award; one receives the award. The presenter should speak from 3-4 minutes, the recipient 1-2 minutes. Presentation is worth 50 points, acceptance is worth 25.

Signups: On the date indicated in the class schedule, you will sign up for a “group” that will determine most of your speaking days. Speaking order will be rotated, so that the group that speaks first on one assignment will move to a later date on the next, and so on. This will help equalize the disadvantages of going early and avoid the disruption of signing up every few weeks for the next round. Check your calendar before sign up day, since you are committing to speaking dates for the entire semester. Signups for awards/acceptance speeches will be done later in the semester.

A note on time limits: It is important for you to learn to speak within time limits. Significantly overtime or under time speeches will result in a deduction from the points awarded to your speech.

Videotaping of Speeches: Most of your speeches during the semester will be videotaped. Seeing yourself as others see you is a key to improvement. For each of your videotaped speeches, you must bring your videotape cued to the point where your last speech ended. After videotaping several speeches you will write a 3-4-page paper of self-evaluation (worth 50 points) due at the time indicated in the attached schedule. You are responsible to ensure that your previous speeches are not erased. If you do not have access to the equipment to view your tape, use the non-print media equipment in the library.

WRITTEN WORK:

- 1. Speech Outlines** Complete sentence outlines are due for each major presentation (informative and both persuasives). Outlines are an integral part of the speech preparation process; they are due on the day you speak. Details of the outline requirements are provided in the text in Chapter 9 and the Course Packet, and they will also be discussed further in class. All sources used in the speech must be listed in the References section of the outline and cited using APA style. In addition, sources should be cited orally in the presentation and parenthetically in the outline proper. Outlines must be turned in through Vista to Turnitin.com.
- 2. Critiques of Classmates' Speeches** Written and (as time allows) oral critiques will be provided to all speakers by both the instructor and members of the class. Your participation, both orally and in writing, in helping your classmates is important and will be considered in evaluating your class participation grade for the semester.
- 3. The Self-Evaluation Paper** See “Videotaping of Speeches,” above. This paper is based on your review of the videotapes of your speeches as well as the feedback you received from classmates and the instructor. Details are provided in the class packet.
- 4. Examinations:** During the semester, there will be three examinations covering class lectures and discussions, textbook reading, and any supplementary materials assigned. These exams may involve multiple-choice and/or essay questions. Further details will be announced in class. The final will be a take-home exam.

Note that high quality of written work is expected. Papers will be graded on thoroughness and quality of treatment of their subject, writing style, and mechanics. Deductions will be made for

writing assignments marred by mechanical errors (spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.). Late papers will be penalized 10% per weekday late--if they are accepted at all (there is no guarantee that they will be).

ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance is crucial. I will be presenting material not found in your readings, there will be activities and discussions to help you interact with the communication concepts studied, and since this class involves both speaking and listening, you must be in class to participate. Also, your classmates need your presence to provide an audience and to give feedback. Therefore, attendance and participation are an important component of the class grade (10% or 100 points possible out of 1000). More than three absences will result in a loss of 10 points from your final course grade for every additional absence (even if these deductions add up to more than 100 points). The only exception to this policy is for verified medical reasons or emergencies, or for official University functions (such as participation in sports). Students who attend regularly but who have no or minimal participation in the class should expect no more than a “C” on this portion of their course grade.

Please note that, as part of both class attendance and the speech assignments, students must be prepared to speak on the scheduled day. Failure to do so can severely impact the course schedule. Students may switch with one another, if both students agree and if the instructor is informed. If you do not speak on the day you are scheduled, there is no guarantee that you can be rescheduled--and if, at the instructor’s discretion, you are able to give your speech at a later time, the speech will be penalized a minimum of one letter grade.

GRADES

Grades for this course will be based on the following point values:

Storytelling speech	50
Informative speech	100
Non-controversial persuasive speech	100
Controversial persuasive speech	150
Award presentation	50
Award acknowledgement	25
Outlines (3 @ 25 points each)	75
Self-evaluation paper	50
Exams (3 @ 100)	300
Class participation & attendance	<u>100 pts.</u>
	1000 pts

A “C” grade on a speech or paper indicates average performance; the speech or paper conforms to the assignment, is within the time or page limits, evidences organization, and is not marred by excessive disfluencies or faults in delivery or presentation. A “B” grade on a speech or paper indicates significantly better than average work; an “A” grade denotes a superior speech or

paper. Grades of “D” or “F” are below average and significantly below average respectively, deficient or totally lacking in some of the factors required for the “C” speech or paper. Final grading will be based on the following scale:

A	930-1,000
A-	900-929
B+	870-899
B	830-869
B-	800-829
C+	770-799
C	730-769
C-	700-729 (note: Students with less than C- must repeat the class for general education credit)
D+	670-699
D	600-669
F	0-599

EXTRA CREDIT: THE ROOKIE TOURNAMENT. 25 points of extra-credit may be earned in this class by enrolling (and participating) in CMST 133, “Speech & Debate Practicum.” CMST 133 requires you to commit a designated Saturday (April 25) during the semester to participating in a tournament for rookie speakers in either informative or persuasive speaking. You may also compete in impromptu speaking. Such participation also earns you an additional unit of CR/NCR college credit. It’s an excellent opportunity to practice and improve your speaking. Additional information about this opportunity will be given in class.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. If you have any disability-related needs in terms of taking exams or other accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services (University Center, 898-5959) to obtain appropriate documentation. Afterwards, please come to my office within the first two weeks of class to identify and discuss your needs, so that I may make any necessary arrangements.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in failure in this course. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating on exams, submitting as your own work a paper written by someone else, and presenting as your own a speech presented or created by someone else. Ignorance of what academic dishonesty is will not serve as a defense. Protect yourself and be informed! Carefully read the University Catalog regarding Academic Honesty. Please discuss this with me if you have any questions about what this may involve. As a guard against plagiarism, speech outlines must be turned in to Turnitin.com through Vista.

ADDS AND DROPS

You may *drop* this course without restriction or penalty and without instructor approval during the first *two weeks* of the semester using the portal. *Adding* the course will be done during the first two weeks by using the Change of Program (COP) form (available at

<http://em.csuchico.edu/sro/Forms/COPForm.pdf>). During the third and fourth week of classes COP forms are needed to drop and will require my signature. After the end of the fourth week of the semester, all COP forms to add or drop will require a *serious and compelling reason* (see *University Catalog*) and the department chair and dean of the college must also sign.

Do not assume that you will be automatically dropped for not attending class. It is your responsibility to make a commitment to dropping or staying in class by the end of the second week or **you risk getting a failing grade in the class.**

Incompletes will not be given. I am retiring at the end of this semester, so it will not be possible to make up an incomplete. Should you face serious and compelling reasons that prevent your completing the class; you should seek a withdrawal from the class. **The fact of your continued enrollment in this course is prima facie evidence of your agreement to the policies and conditions set forth in this syllabus.**

FINAL EXAM

The final exam time scheduled for this class is **Wednesday, May 20, from 2-3:50 p.m.** It will be used for completing the last round of speeches, as well as for collecting take-home exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE: These are tentative dates and may be subject to change.

Read/view assignments for the dates listed.

Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
1/26-30	Introduction to class	Read B&S Chap. 1 Practical Speaking, View segment 1.1	Read B&S Chap. 2 Your 1st speeches, View segments 2.1 & 2.2, speech signups
2/2-6	Read B&S Chap. 3 Speech Anxiety, view segment 3.1	Read B& S Chap. 4 Ethics	Read B&S Chap. 5 Listening
2/9-13	Storytelling speeches Groups A & B	Storytelling speeches Groups C & D	Storytelling speeches Groups E & F
2/16-20	Read B&S Chap. 6 Adapting to Audiences	Read B& S Chap. 7 Research	Read B&S Chap. 8 Supporting your message
2/23-27	Read B&S Chap. 9 Organization, view segment 9.1	Read B&S Chap. 10 Language	EXAM 1, Chaps. 1-10
3/2-6	Read B& S Chap. 13 Informative speaking, view segments 13.1 & 13.2	Read B&S Chap. 11 Nonverbal Comm. View segment 11.1	Read B&S Chap. 12 Visual aids, view segment 12.1
3/9-13	Informative speeches Group C	Informative speeches Group D	Informative speeches Group E
3/16-20	Spring Break		
3/23-27	Informative speeches Group F	Informative speeches Group A	Informative speeches Group B
3/30-4/3	Read B&S Chap. 14 Persuasion, view segment 14.1	Read B&S Chap. 15 Crit. Thinking, view segment 15.1	EXAM 2, Chaps. 11-15
4/6-10	Non-controversial Persuasives Group D	Non-controversial Persuasives Group E	Non-controversial Persuasives Group F
4/13-17	Non-controversial Persuasives Group A	Non-controversial Persuasives Group B	Non-controversial Persuasives Group C
4/20-24	Prepare for next speeches Turn in self- evaluation papers	Controversial Persuasives Group E	Controversial Persuasives Group F
4/27-5/1	Controversial Persuasives Group A	Controversial Persuasives Group B	Controversial Persuasives Group C
5/4-8	Controversial Persuasives D	Read B & S, Chap. 16 Everyday speaking	Prepare for award speeches
5/11-15	Award speeches	Award speeches	Award speeches
5/20-Final Exam 2:00-3:50		Turn in take-home final, finish award speeches	

