



RANGER COLLEGE
RANGER, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC SPEAKING

SPCH 1315

3 credit hours

Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR:

Corey S. Blais, M.A.

INSTRUCTOR: Corey Blais
EMAIL: cblais@rangercollege.edu
OFFICE: William J. & Sharon B. Campion Welcome Center – Registrar’s Office
PHONE: 254-267-7069
HOURS: Mon/Wed: 8a-5p. Tue/Thurs: 8:00am-10:40a/1p-5p. Fri: 8a-1p

I. Texas Core Curriculum Statement of Purpose

Through the Texas Core Curriculum, students will gain a foundation of knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, develop principles of personal and social responsibility for living in a diverse world, and advance intellectual and practical skills that are essential for all learning.

II. Course Description

1315 – Public Speaking (3-0) 23.1304.53 12

A systematic study of the basic principles of effective oral communication. Provides experience in public speaking and listener analysis. Emphasis is placed on speech construction for extemporaneous speaking. Credit 3 semester hours.

III. Required Background or Prerequisite

No prerequisite is required for this course.

IV. Required Textbook and Course Materials

Textbook: Lucas, S.E. (2014) *The art of public speaking* (12th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill Education. ISBN: 978-0073523910

Technology: You will need a computer, access to the Internet, Microsoft Office (and knowledge of how to operate Word and PowerPoint). You will also need a way to video record your speeches (i.e., a digital camcorder, or a cell phone/iPhone/iPad/smartphone/tablet with video capability).

Other Materials: Other materials will be provided by the instructor as needed.

V. Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. The course involves the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

VI. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication.
- Apply elements of audience analysis.
- Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations for evidence and logic.
- Research, develop, and deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques.
- Identify how culture, ethnicity, and gender influence communication.
- Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g., narrative, informative, or persuasive).

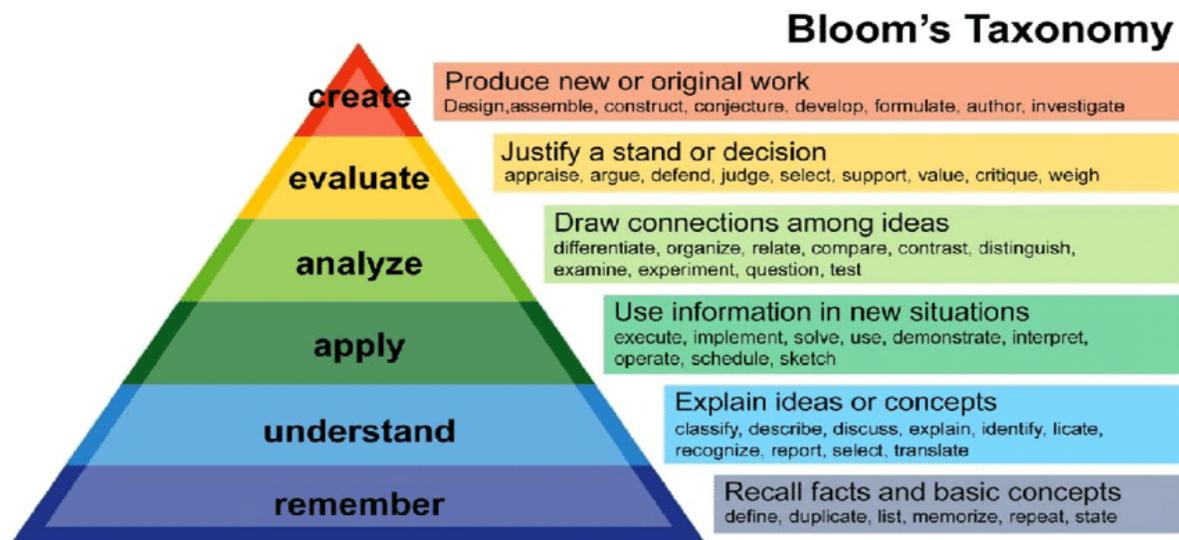
VII. Core Objectives

This course meets the following four of the six Core Objectives established by Texas:

- ☒ **Critical Thinking Skills (CT)** – Creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis; evaluation and synthesis of information
- ☒ **Communication Skills (COM)** – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- ☒ **Teamwork (TW)** – The ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- ☒ **Personal Responsibility (PR)** – The ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

VIII. Methods of Instruction

Instruction will include lecture, group discussion, group work, and audio-visual materials.



IX. Methods of Assessment

You will be assessed in five ways:

1. Classwork (in-class participation, group work, blitz-quizzes)
2. Homework (speech outlines, speech analysis, self-critiques)
3. Mid-term Exam
4. Final Exam
5. Your speeches (this is the heaviest weight of your assessments)

Assessment Chart

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Grade
Classwork (TW, PR, CT)	150 (10 per week)	15%
Homework (PR, CT, COM)	150 (10 per week)	15%
Mid-term Exam (CT, PR)	100	10%
Final Exam (CT, PR)	250	25%
Speeches: two minor, three major (COM, CT)	--	--
Speech 1 (minor)	40	4%
Speech 2 (minor)	60	6%
Speech 3 (major)	100	10%
Speech 4 (major)	150	15%
Combined Total of Speech Assignments	350	35%
Total possible points throughout the course	1000	100%

Grading Scale

A = 900 – 1000	B = 800 – 899	C = 700 – 799	D = 600 – 699	F = Below 600
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X. Course/Classroom Policies

Due to FERPA regulations, any emails from you **MUST** be from your Ranger College email address. I will not discuss details with you through your private email account.

It is expected that you will be in class regularly. Your attendance is considered essential for your academic success. Please be in class on time. Excessive tardiness (6) may be considered as absences. Excessive unexcused absences (6) may result in you being failing the course. *It is **your** responsibility to inform the instructor of excused absences (don't only rely on your coach for this).* The only excused absences are those approved by the Dean to be an authorized college activity. Absences (other than those related to college events) will only be excused if you provide a doctor's note, jury summons, or a funeral note.

Any student who is disruptive to the class will be dismissed from the class, and could be dismissed from the course. Any use of unauthorized notes (cheat sheets, electronic devices, etc.) during an exam or copying from another student's exam will receive a grade of zero (0) for the exam and be subject to disciplinary action. Actions of student misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Academic Dishonesty

The class discusses ethics in public speaking. We will cover this subject in great detail. All of the sources used in writing and speaking assignments must be cited. When students use material and ideas from other sources, they must acknowledge the source. Not doing this is called plagiarism. Simply put, plagiarism is using the ideas or expressions (verbal or written) of another without giving proper credit. *American College Dictionary* defines plagiarism as, “Copying or imitating the language, ideas, and thoughts of another and passing off the same as one’s original work.” This includes oral or written use of quotations without a citation, extensive paraphrasing of others’ ideas without a citation, or using the outline of another person’s work without a citation. Failure to cite a source either orally or on paper can result in a grade of zero (0) for the assignment that is plagiarized. Plagiarism is a serious matter and can result in dismissal from this class and even overall dismissal from Ranger College. Do NOT plagiarize. **Cite, cite, CITE your sources!** When in doubt, cite it! The work you do for this class must be your original work, specifically for this class only.

Student Behavior Policy

This is a college-level course that may include some controversial and sometimes sensitive material. You are expected to handle such material as adults. It is expected that you will treat your classmates and any guest speakers with respect. This includes being respectful when someone is speaking on a subject that you personally disagree with. Disrespect to your classmates and guest speakers will not be tolerated. Please put your cell phones AWAY during class. You are not in college to earn a degree in cell phone usage (Ranger College has no such degree). Cell phones can be checked and played with before and after class. Additionally, offensive language of any type is not permitted. Save it for outside of the classroom, please.

Assignments and Homework Policy

- Some homework will be assigned and it is important that assignments be submitted on time. If your assignment is going to be late, then please contact me as soon as possible about it. The key to success with me is to communicate.
- Written assignments are to be completed in a manner that reflects college-level work. While some errors can occur, you are expected to improve as the semester progresses.
- **If you miss your assigned speech day, you will receive a grade of “0” (zero) for all graded components of that speech assignment.**

Late Work Policy

Late work (with the exception of missed speeches, which automatically get a zero), will be accepted, but will receive a 10% deduction for each calendar day it is late. After 10 days, late work will be assigned a grade of zero (0). Exceptions to this policy may be given for students with documented illnesses (means having a doctor’s note), a jury summons, or a funeral note.

XI. Non-Discrimination Statement

Admissions, employment, and program policies of Ranger College are nondiscriminatory in regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

XII. ADA Statement

Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning and/or physical disabilities. Students are responsible for making initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor, Gabe Lewis (glewis@rangercollege.edu). It is advisable to make this contact before or immediately after the semester begins.

XIII. Safety

Occupants of Ranger College buildings are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm activates. Fire alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling in a designated area. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you enter. The nearest exit door may be the door you used when entering the building. Students requiring evacuation assistance should inform the instructor during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instructor's or staff member's instructions. **Do not** re-enter a building unless you are given instructions from the campus security, fire department, local police, or fire prevention services. Your safety matters!

XIV. Course Overview

Since this is a public speaking course, you will be giving four (4) formal speeches throughout the semester. Here are two good tips: (1) Prepare ahead of time. The better prepared you are, the more you will know your topic, and the more confident you will be. (2) Practice, practice, practice. Rehearse your speech with some of your peers. This will help you greatly when it comes time to deliver. You will be allowed to use a 4x6 note card, but don't be overly dependent on your notecard. So again, the two tips. (1) **Prepare**. (2) **Practice**.

Reading Assignments

We have a course textbook, and I assign readings in it for a reason. When you are assigned a reading, it is expected that you will actually do the reading. To help keep you accountable for your reading assignments, every reading assignment is subject to a "blitz-quiz." A blitz-quiz is a short quiz based on the reading assignment. Though it remains my choice as to when these quizzes happen, it is entirely possible to have a blitz-quiz at the beginning of each class following a reading assignment (see course schedule below for further detail).

Speech Assignments

All four of your formal speeches will be extemporaneous speeches. As defined in our textbook, an extemporaneous speech is "a carefully prepared and rehearsed speech that is presented from a brief set of notes," (Lucas, 2015, p. 68). Details for each of these speeches can be found on Blackboard under the appropriate unit. Your formal speeches are within the following areas:

- Speech 1 – A new finding in your area of study.
- Speech 2 – What society needs.
- Speech 3 – Informative speech (this informs the class of something).
- Speech 4 – Persuasive speech (this *persuades* or *calls* the class to action).

Written Assignments

For all of your written assignments, the requirements are as follows: MS Word **format** (or PDF), Times New Roman 12pt font, double-spaced, and 1-inch margins. Also include a **heading** with your name, class number (SPCH-1315-C03) and due date. A template is provided in Blackboard.

Any time you use an external source to help with your speeches or papers, you are required to provide a bibliography or works cited page. APA is preferred, but MLA is also accepted. Use whichever you are comfortable with. Examples of APA and MLA formatted citations can be found in our textbook (Lucas, 2015) on page 135. I also encourage you to visit the following links, and save them for future use outside of this class (this helped me through a Master's degree): https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

Written Assignments (continued)

Speech Outlines – Each speech will require an outline. An example and template are provided for you on Blackboard.

Self-Critiques – Part of the grade for each of your four speeches is to do a self-critique. This means you will have four separate critiques. Each critique is due on Sunday at 11:59pm following your speech day. For example, week 5 is your first speech. Some of you will deliver your speech on Tuesday, others on Thursday. Regardless of your speech day, your self-critique will be due that Sunday at 11:59pm. Submit through Blackboard.

For each of your self-critiques, you will write a minimum of three paragraphs, with 3 to 4 well-developed sentences for each paragraph. A template is provided for you in Blackboard, which includes three areas (paragraphs) to write about:

1. What do you think you did well?
2. What do you think you could have done better?
3. What were some of the biggest takeaways from this assignment?

Extra Credit

Extra Credit assignments are available *if needed*. If you feel you are in need of this, then speak with me to get it arranged. Two options available depending on your circumstance. I have 25 point (*limit of 4*) and 50 point options (*limit of 2*). The maximum amount of extra credit points allowed will be no greater than 100 points. Depending on your individual circumstance, I will work with you to decide what your best course of action will be. Extra credit assignments are only approved on an individual basis. Remember, the key to success with me is to communicate.

XV. Course Outline/Schedule

This course will follow the schedule set by the chart below. The schedule and procedures in this syllabus *are subject to change* if deemed necessary by the instructor. The chart below is the semester’s curriculum outline.

	T/R Date	Content	Assignments
Week 1	1/21/20	Syllabus Day!	Homework: Skim through Ch. 1-4
	1/23/20	Ch. 1 – 4 Discussion	Classwork: Group work. Homework: Read Ch. 5 before 1/28.
Week 2	1/28/20	Ch. 5 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 5) and Group work
	1/30/20	Speech Analysis Video	Classwork: Analysis discussion (groups) Homework: Read Ch. 6 before 2/4.
Week 3	2/4/20	Ch. 6 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 6), discussion Homework: Read Ch. 7 before 2/6.
	2/6/20	Ch. 7 Discussion / Speech prep day in the library	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 7), library research, begin rough drafts of speech 1. Homework: Read Ch. 8 before 2/11.
Week 4	2/11/20	Ch. 8 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 8), discussion Homework: Read Ch. 12 before 2/13.
	2/13/20	Ch. 12 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz quiz (Ch. 8) & group work Homework: FINISH and PRACTICE Speech 1 (practice helps!!)
Week 5	2/18/20	Speech 1, Day 1	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 1 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 13.
	2/20/20	Speech 1, Day 2	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 1 (due by 11:59pm Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 13.
Week 6	2/25/20	Ch. 13 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 13), Group work Homework: Read Ch. 14 before 2/27.
	2/27/20	Ch. 14 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 14), Mid-term Review. Homework: Go through the lecture PowerPoint slides to prep for exam.
Week 7	3/3/20	Mid-Term Exam ONLINE	Covers lectures/discussions from chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, & 14.
	3/5/20	Speech 2 Prep Day	Classwork: view Crews video and do a group reflection. Homework: Enjoy Break, but BE READY for Speech 2 when you come back! We start Speech 2 the day we get back!
3/9/20 – 3/13/20		Spring Break	*No classes all week*
Week 8	3/17/20	Speech 2, Day 1	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 2 (due by 11:59pm Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 9.
	3/19/20	Speech 2, Day 2	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 2 (due by 11:59pm Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 9.

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Course Outline/Schedule (continued)			
	T/R Date	Content	Assignments
Week 9	3/24/20	Chapter 9 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 9), group discussion Homework: Read Ch. 10 before 3/26.
	3/26/20	Chapter 10 Discussion	In class: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 10), watch Kailing video, group analysis of video. Homework: Read Ch. 11 before 3/31.
Week 10	3/31/20	Chapter 11 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 11), group discussion Homework: Read Ch. 15 before 4/2.
	4/2/20	Chapter 15 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 15), prep work for Speech 3, Informative Prep Worksheet. Homework: Be ready to do Speech 3!
Week 11	4/7/20	Speech 3, Day 1	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 3 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 16.
	4/9/20	Speech 3, Day 2	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 3 (due by 11:59pm Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 16.
Week 12	4/14/20	Speech 3, Day 3	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 3 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 16.
	4/16/20	Chapter 16 Discussion	Classwork: Blitz-quiz (Ch. 16), group discussion Homework: Read Ch. 17 & 19.
Week 13	4/21/20	Speech 4, Day 1	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 4 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 17 & 19
	4/23/20	Speech 4, Day 2	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 4 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2) Read Ch. 17 & 19
Week 14	4/28/20	Speech 4, Day 3	Homework: (1) Self-critique of Speech 4 (due by 11:59pm on Sunday). (2)
	4/30/20	Final Exam REVIEW	Homework: Prepare for Final Exam, covering discussions from Ch. 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19
Week 15	5/5 – 5/7	Final Exam	Take your final exam and have a great summer!