

Course Syllabus

**SPCH 1315 (3:3:0)
ONLINE**

Public Speaking

Communication Department

Division of Arts and Sciences

Levelland

South Plains College

FALL 2025

Janine Fox

Course Syllabus
SPCH 1315 Public Speaking

Instructor Information: *Janine Fox*

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Office hours:

Tuesday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Wednesday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Friday 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

* This syllabus is a tool, not a legal contract. College and department policies are firm, but the professor reserves the right to modify, supplement, or make changes as need arises. *

Department: Communication Department

Discipline: Communication Studies

Credit: 3 hours lecture *This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement in Speech*

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Available Formats: conventional, hybrid, online and ITV

Campus: Levelland, Reese, Lubbock Center and Plainview

Inclusive Access Digital Textbook:

From Entry Level to Executive: All Communication Counts, Janine Fox & Kelley Finley
 with **Top Hat** access

Supplies:

1. Text/ Access code for Top Hat
2. Notebook(s) and pen/pencil/highlighter
3. White 3x5 notecards
4. Access to a computer, webcam, microphone, and high-speed internet for online work.

Course Description: Research, composition, organization, and delivery of speeches for various purposes and occasions with emphasis on listener analysis and informative and persuasive techniques. (Performance based.)

KEEP IN MIND; the content of the class is distributed online and through your reading. However, we **require** online public meetings to give speeches. Attendance for this course is critical to your success. If you have any concerns about self-paced online work OR our online meetings, you should consider an alternate section. Read the attendance policy for details.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication.
2. Apply elements of audience analysis.
3. Demonstrate ethical speaking/listening skills by analyzing speeches for evidence/logic.
4. Research/develop/deliver speeches w/ good verbal/nonverbal techniques.
5. Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting.
6. Identify how culture, ethnicity and gender influence communication.
7. Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g. narrative, informative or persuasive).

Technical Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer
- High speed internet access
- SPC E-mail
- Microsoft Office
- Adobe Reader (download from Adobe.com)
- Flash Player (download from Adobe Flashplayer)
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching and listening to course content)
- Web camera and microphone (for video conferencing/speeches)
- A USB headset with microphone or headphones (for video conferencing)
- All software needs to be updated on computer or laptop

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following

- Microsoft Word or word processor that can save Word compatible files (.doc)
- Using email for communication, attaching documents
- Internet search engines and browsers
- Recording and uploading video files.

No access to technology will not be tolerated as an excuse for not submitting assignments.

- The ability to download video files, or to stream files.

Course Purpose: The Public Speaking course explores and applies the basic principles of effective communication and offers the student practical instruction on how to speak and listen effectively in public across different cultures and audiences.

Course Requirements:

1. You will be tested on class lecture/discussion materials on scheduled exams.
2. To take thorough notes, study all lecture material, informational handouts, and assigned readings, and work/prepare in a language understood by instructor and class (English).
3. To actively participate in class discussions and group activities.
4. To show maturity/professionalism in preparation of assignments and in classroom behavior. (*Disruptive/inappropriate behavior may result in being dropped from class.*)
5. To show courteousness to fellow classmates/speakers.
6. To communicate with instructor when assistance is needed regarding class assignments.

7. To appropriately cite information obtained from other sources. Cases of plagiarism will be treated as will any case of academic dishonesty, with at least a failing grade for the assignment or examination.
8. To initiate withdrawal from the course if absences/ missed work become excessive.

Academic Honesty: It is my expectation and the institution's that appropriate citation and documentation is given for materials and information obtained from other sources. Cases of plagiarism will be treated, as will any case of academic dishonesty, with *at least* a failing grade for the assignment/examination. See the ***SPC Student Handbook*** for more information.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

Other South Plains College policies concerning Disabilities, Non-discrimination, Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations, CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation), Intellectual Exchange, Campus Concealed Carry, COVID-19, and AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be found here: [Syllabus Statements](#).

Prof. Fox on Classroom Diversity: Great value is placed on freedom of expression; however certain topics are considered overdone or cliché. These topics will NOT be approved for presentations, so it is important to discuss topic selection for each speech. Some topics may be controversial, so open and honest dialogue will be allowed. Keep in mind that each person has a valuable opinion and our goal is to present sound, reasonable examples and NOT to harass or berate. If we follow these simple rules, no person should be offended, even if they disagree. If you feel there has been some offense made, it is your responsibility to bring it to my attention, in private, as soon as possible.

Contacting your Instructor: It is important you develop a network of your peers that will allow you to get specific information more quickly. That being said, I am available for you to contact me if you have questions or concerns about your progress in this class etc. You may do that by phone if necessary, but email is preferred. I DO NOT RESPOND TO MESSAGES IN BLACKBOARD.

You will find my information on this syllabus or the directory at:

<http://www2.southplainscollege.edu/information-for/employees/employee-directory>

Assessment and Grading:

This department supports university policies of academic excellence as noted in the student handbook. Interpretation of grades should be considered within the university framework: A=excellent, B=good; C=average; D=inferior; and F=failure.

Grades will be calculated based on the amount of points students earn, interpreted as:

A=900-1000, B=800-899, C=700-799, D=600-699, F=599 and below.

Major Speech Assignments (40%):		Points Earned:
Introductory Presentation	100	_____
Informative Presentation	100	_____
Persuasive Presentation	100	_____
Special Occasion Presentation	100	_____

Exams & Daily Grades (60%):					
Exam 1	100				_____
Exam 2	100				_____
Final Exam	100				_____
Chapter Reading Quizzes	135				_____
Pre-Test	15				_____
Goal Setting Worksheet	10				_____
PRCA	10				_____
Group Project	50				_____
Conflict Management Activity	10				_____
Outlines (3 @ 10 points each)	30	_____	_____	_____	_____
Peer Evals. (2 @ 10 points each)	20	_____	_____	_____	_____
Self Evals. (2 @ 10 points each)	20	_____	_____	_____	_____

Points Possible: **1000** Your Total: _____

Graded Assignment Brief Descriptions:

- Exams (2 @100 points each) and Final (100 points):** Three examinations will be given in order to assess the students' grasp of the material covered in class. Two of the exams will be given during the course of the semester; the Final will be given at the end of the semester and is due Finals Week. FINAL EXAMS MAY NOT BE TAKEN EARLY OR LATE.
- Presentations (400 points):** Several of the most common types of presentations will be required of students. Students will be graded on their mastery of basic speaking principles and criteria given in class. Students will also be graded on their preparation for their presentations, and ability to communicate professionally in an online environment.
- Daily Grades, Activities, and Evaluations (300 points total):** This is a highly interactive class that will involve a number of supporting activities. Students are expected to not only engage themselves in online content, but to actively participate. Chapter Reading Quizzes will be required for each assigned reading (9 quizzes worth 15 points each, 135 points total). You will be expected to complete an outline for the Informative, Persuasive, and Special Occasion speeches (10 points each, 30 points total). You may earn points for multiple activities online (45 points total) as chosen by the instructor. You will also complete both a Self-Evaluation and a Peer-Evaluation for the Informative and Persuasive speeches (10 points each, 40 points total). Finally, you will also be given a group project (50 points total). These assignments will be online using your Top Hat and Acclaim access. Your syllabus contains the grade sheet above to help you keep track of your progress in the course.

BLACKBOARD USE IS LIMITED FOR THIS CLASS. You will be able to see important information, grades, weekly folders etc. in Blackboard as consistent with other SPC courses, but it is easiest to work in Top Hat or the Top Hat app. The due dates will ONLY be posted on your syllabus calendar and in Top Hat and your most accurate gradebook will be in Top Hat also. In addition, I do not accept emailed assignments unless instructed to do so when assigned and do not check message in Blackboard. Please email me directly at jfox@southplainscollege.edu.

Attendance and Tardy Policy:

Please make sure you have read and understand your Student Handbook for SPC policies. For this course, all students enrolled are expected to login to your platform and check SPC email regularly, AND be on time, and remain until dismissed for online meetings. Roll will be taken at each meeting. If a student is/going to be tardy, he/she must communicate with the instructor.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course. Otherwise, students will be assigned their earned letter grade at the end of the course. Course averages will be updated twice each week, and guidance will be provided throughout the term to help students decide whether they need to drop the class or not. For more information regarding drops/withdrawals, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/admission-aid/apply/schedulechanges.php>.

Make-Up Policy: Generally, late/make-up work is NOT accepted. All work has a deadline and deadlines must be met even if the student is absent. When an unavoidable reason for an absence arises, such as illness, family death, emergency, official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, I **may** permit the student to make up work. This is especially important for presentation days. If for any reason you miss a speech **you can make up 1 speech as determined by your instructor for a 20-point deduction.** *Because our meeting times are strictly scheduled, there is only ONE opportunity to make-up a missed speech for an EXCUSED absence.* The instructor determines the date/time, provided on your schedule. Students should communicate with the instructor to confirm a make-up is allowed. Each student will be dealt with on an individual basis. If a student must be absent, they should advise the instructor beforehand if possible and if the student is representing the college, they should have a signed permit from a coach or sponsor. In all cases, it is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the instructor In addition, late work may not receive full credit.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication Skills** – to include effective written, oral, aural and visual communication
- **Critical Thinking Skills** – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- **Teamwork Skills** – to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making
- **Social Responsibility** – to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

- Communication Process
- Verbal/Vocal Codes
- Nonverbal Codes
- Listening/Evaluation
- Informative and Persuasive Speaking
- Special Occasion Speaking
- Small Group Presentations

Fall 2025 SPCH 1315 ONLINE Course Schedule			Weekly Readings
Week	Date - TUES	Weekly "To Do" List	DUE (By 9AM each Tuesday) FOR:
1	26-Aug	Get E-Text, Get Signed in! Begin Pretest AND Goal Setting Worksheet	Live Meeting Sign-ups: go to 'Links for Meeting Sign-up' folder on TopHat LIVE MEETINGS: go to 'LIVE SPEECHMEETING LINK' page for access
2	2-Sep	*Sign-up for Live Meeting Time* (found in the 'Links for Meeting Sign-up' folder on TopHat)	
3 LIVE MEETING	9-Sep	LIVE Meetings tonight! (on TopHat, go to 'LIVE SPEECH LINK' page for access) Practice Using Technology/ Course Q&A Begin Intro Speech Assignment & PRCA Assignment	Pre-Test and Goal Setting Worksheet DUE TODAY! (both found in the 'Book Information' folder on TopHat)
4	16-Sep	Read CH's 1 and 2 *Sign-up for Live Meeting Time*	PRCA DUE TODAY! (found in CH 1 on TopHat)
5 LIVE MEETING	23-Sep	LIVE Speeches tonight! Read CH's 3 and 4	Reading Quizzes (CH 1, 2) DUE TODAY!
6	30-Sep	Read CH 5 Begin Informative Speech Assignment	Reading Quizzes (CH 3, 4) DUE TODAY!
7	7-Oct	Take Exam 1	Reading Quiz (CH 5) DUE TODAY!
8	14-Oct	Read CH's 6 and 7	Exam 1 DUE TODAY! (in 'Speech Assignments' folder on Top Hat)
9	21-Oct	*Sign-up for Live Meeting Time*	Reading Quizzes (CH 6, 7) DUE TODAY! (in 'Speech Assignments' folder on TopHat)
10 LIVE MEETING	28-Oct	LIVE Speeches Tonight! Read CH's 8 and 10 Begin Group Assignment Begin Conflict Management Style Assignment	Informative Speech Outlines DUE TODAY!
11	4-Nov	Begin Persuasive Assignment	Reading Quizzes (CH 8, 10) DUE TODAY! Informative Peer/Self Evaluations DUE TODAY! Conflict Management Assignment DUE TODAY! (found in TopHat CH 10)
12	11-Nov	*Sign-up for Live Meeting Time*	Group Assignment DUE TODAY! (found in TopHat CH 10)
13 LIVE MEETING	18-Nov	LIVE Speeches Tonight! Begin Special Occasion Assignment	Persuasive Outlines DUE TODAY! (in 'Speech Assignments' folder on TopHat)
14	25-Nov	Take Exam 2 *Sign-up for Live Meeting Time* (IF NEEDED)	Persuasive Peer/Self Evaluations DUE TODAY! (in 'Speech Assignments' folder on TopHat)
15	2-Dec	LIVE Make-up Speeches Tonight! (IF NEEDED) Begin FINAL EXAM	Exam 2 DUE TODAY! Special Occasion Speech & Outlines DUE TODAY!
16 FINALS WEEK	9-Dec	Final Grades Reported This Week	Final Exam DUE Tuesday 12/9 by 9 AM