Course Description

Comm 204: Public Speaking focuses on the theory and practice of public speaking, with an emphasis on developing competence in a variety of real world speaking formats. Students will prepare and give speeches and presentations on a variety topics. Special attention will be paid to overcoming public speaking anxiety.

Course goals include:
- Acquiring a sense of confidence in one’s public speaking abilities;
- Mastering the principles of strong public speaking, including composition, style, audience analysis, persuasion, and ethics;
- Developing the ability to analyze and critique public speaking practice as a tool for teaching others and developing one’s own abilities.

Required Readings

For this class we will employ a FREE textbook available online at http://publicspeakingproject.org/psvirtualtext.html. This textbook was prepared by The Public Speaking Project, an idealistic group of public speaking teachers and scholars. This textbook does not have the high production values of a textbook from a traditional publisher, but I could not justify asking you to spend $75-$125 or more for the same content in a shiny package!

All other course content will be available on Blackboard, and most are easy to find with a quick Google search. Along with course readings you will often be assigned videos or audio recordings of speeches and presentations, so if you plan on working at the library or in public a pair of headphones might be a good thing to keep handy. All assignments are listed on the day they are to be completed, and must be completed before class. Material covered in readings and speeches assigned as homework will not generally be reviewed in class, and in-class participation and course assignments will assume knowledge of assigned material.
Assignments

Assignments must be original work and cannot have been used in previous courses. Completion of all assignments is required to pass the course. Greater detail on specific assignments within these categories will be provided as they are required.

Grade Breakdown

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<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>Stupid Human Tricks</td>
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<td>10%</td>
<td>Informative Speech</td>
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<td>5%</td>
<td>Commencement Speech Analysis</td>
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<td>Persuasive Speech</td>
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<td>Speech Analysis Portfolio</td>
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<td>Visual Aid Assignment</td>
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<td>Self-Agrandizing Anecdote</td>
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<td>Peer Speech Responses</td>
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Most assignments will require you to give a speech to the class AND to turn in a video recording of you giving your speech prior to your class presentation. A phone video is perfectly fine as long as the audio is passable, but if you don’t have access to a video recording device please let me know. All speeches will be accompanied by a short written component unique to that assignment.

Participation

Developing the skill of public speaking absolutely requires active and continual application as well as firm understanding of the theory behind the practice. As such, class participation is a VITAL part of this course. You will be expected to participate actively every class period. Absence from class prevents participation, so students are limited to no more than 2 ABSENCES before it impacts their grade. Almost every class will also include in-class exercises, and failure to complete those exercises will obviously negatively impact your grade.
Assignments and Readings

Part I: Composition and Terror

January 13 Introduction to Public Speaking: A Whole New World of Horror

January 15 The Elements of Public Speaking: The Five Canons
   Assignment: Public Speaking Project Textbook (PSP) Chapter 1

January 20 Thinking into Speaking
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 6, 15
   Stupid Human Tricks Assigned

January 22 Outlining and Planning
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 8

January 27 Stupid Human Tricks
   Assignment: None
   Stupid Human Tricks DUE

January 29 Research and Working with Evidence
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 7
   Informative Speech Assigned

February 3 Thesis and Structure
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 9; Thomas Jefferson, “The Declaration of Independence;” Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions”

February 5 Text to Speech
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 12
February 10 Informative Speeches
   Assignment: None
   **Informative Speeches DUE**

February 12 Informative Speeches
   Assignment: None

**Part II: Analyzing your Audience**

February 17 Basics of Audience Analysis
   Assignment: PSP Chapter 5, 16
   **Speech Analysis Assigned**
   **Persuasive Speech Assigned**

February 19 Analyzing Values and Context
   Assignment: Read Jonathan Swift “A Modest Proposal;” Watch Martin Luther King “I have a Dream”

February 24 Tough Room....
   Assignment: Read Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I a Woman;” Watch and Read William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* Act III, Scene II

February 26 Commencement Speech Case Studies
   Assignment: None
   **Commencement Speech Analysis DUE**
   **Speech Analysis Portfolio Assigned**

March 3 Articulating “Me”
   Assignment: Watch Barack Obama’s 2004 Democratic National Convention Address; Mary Fisher “A Whisper of AIDS (Part 1 & 2)”
March 5 Persuasion and Inspiration

Readings: Watch Ronald Reagan—Speech on the Challenger Disaster; Richard Nixon—“Checkers” Speech

March 10 Persuasive Speeches

Assignment: None

**Persuasive Speeches Due**

March 12 Persuasive Speeches

Assignment: None

**March 16—March 21 SPRING BREAK!**

**Part III: Developing Poise and Style**

March 24 Working Blue

Assignment: Read Clarence Darrow “A Plea for Mercy;” Watch Stephen Colbert—2006 White House Correspondents Dinner

March 26 Navigating Visual Aids

Assignments: PSP Chapter 10, 13

**Visual Aid Assignment**

March 31 Diction, Volume, and Tone

Assignment: Tig Notaro “Taylor Dane;” Tony Robbins “Why We Do What We Do;” Winston Churchill “Fight on the Beaches;” Julian Treasure “How to Speak so that People Want to Listen”
April 2 Types of Style

Assignment: Excerpt from Martin Luther King “I have been to the Mountaintop;” Winston Churchill “Blood, Toil, Tears, and Sweat;” Infinite Solutions “How to Increase your WiFi Signal”

**Self-Aggrandizing Anecdote Assigned**

**Visual Aid Assignment Due**

April 7 Analyzing Style

Assignment: Three versions of Patrick Henry’s “Give me Liberty or Give me Death”

April 9 How to Physically Exist

Assignment: Watch Bad Public Speaking Example 1 & 4; Amy Cuddy “Your Body Language Shapes Who You Are”

April 14 Integrating Text, Speech, and Movement

Assignment: Watch Sir Kevin Robinson—School Kills Creativity

April 16 Special Topics: Copia, or How to Pull it Out of Your Amplification

Assignment: See Blackboard for reading, viewing, and ASSIGNMENT!

April 21 Special Topics: Kairos: FIRST CONTACT!

Assignment: See Blackboard

April 23 Special Topics: Sharing the Stage

Assignment: None, work on your anecdotes!

April 28 Self-Aggrandizing Anecdotes

Assignment: None

**Self-Aggrandizing Anecdote DUE**
April 30 Self-Agrandizing Anecdotes

Assignment: None!

Speech Analysis Portfolio Due ???