

COMM 204 SYLLABUS

Section 20379R

Public Speaking

Tuesday & Thursday, 12:30 pm to 1:50 pm

Fall Semester 2018

Classroom: ASC 231

Professor: Michael Wissot

Office: ASC 333

Cell Phone: (805) 490-2460

Office E-Mail: mwissot@usc.edu

Office Hours: *Only by Appointment*, T & Th, 10a-11am, 2-3pm

Course Description: This class will require an intensive examination of the principles of public speaking, as well as the application of the theory of public discourse to representative speaking situations. Students will be exposed to a wide range of communication theory and vocabulary, and they will be asked to apply these approaches to informative and public speaking. The class will also cover a variety of contemporary topics, tied closely to public policy.

Course Goals:

- To achieve excellence in constructing and delivering informative and persuasive speeches
- To acquire skills in creating and integrating effective visual aids
- To strengthen communicative competence through rhetorical analysis and criticism
- To appreciate strategic challenges and ethical requirements of public speaking

Course Meaning: We will demonstrate the highest attainable work ethic and discover within us that which is superior to circumstance. We will persevere this semester toward the most rewarding pursuit in higher education – the stimulation of thought, emotion, and soul. It is my duty to prepare you, as future leaders of the Free World, to integrate your communication skills into all fields of endeavor. As individuals and as a collective unit, we will dare to be great.

Required Textbook: Osborn, M & Osborn, S. *Public Speaking: Finding Your Voice. 10th ed.* Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson, 2015.

Additional Materials: *Available via e-mail or the university's Blackboard course site*

Preparedness: Class will meet each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the semester. You must complete ALL course requirements in order to earn a grade in this course. You are responsible for all reading assignments as pop quizzes may be given to determine your preparedness for class. You are responsible for giving speeches on the date when you are scheduled. Since your attendance in this course – both as a speaker and listener – is vital, any absences from class will affect your final grade. You are, therefore, required to notify me BEFORE missing class and provide corresponding documentation AFTERWARD. In the event that both of these criteria are satisfied, you will receive “make up” assignments/projects to suffice for time missed from the classroom. Please note that I will record an unexcused absence if you miss any considerable portion of the class period (arriving late, leaving early) without my prior authorization. Late submissions on assignments will result in a 10% grade deduction for every day late. Classroom behavior will be predicated on an environment of mutual respect. Any level of disruptive or threatening student behavior is unacceptable. We are here to learn from each other in a non-threatening environment. You are encouraged to formulate and share opinions with due discretion, as well as be comfortable in practicing communication techniques and delivering formal speeches in a safe environment. However, any behavior that is deemed disrespectful by the instructor will affect your participation points.

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Syllabus (cont.)**

Academic Integrity: The Annenberg School for Communication is committed to upholding the University's academic integrity code as detailed in the SCampus guide. It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code. Any serious violation or pattern of violations of the academic integrity code will result in the student's expulsion from the Communication major or minor. If you have any doubts about what is and is not an academic integrity violation, please check with me immediately. The University presumes that you are familiar with its standards and policies; should you be found to have committed a violation, ignorance of these standards and policies will not be accepted as an excuse.

Plagiarism is defined and interpreted as the act of presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words. It is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Support Systems:

[Student Counseling Services](#) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24/7.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services](#) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

[Sexual Assault Resource Center](#)

Get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources

[Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Compliance](#) – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.

[Bias Assessment Response and Support](#)

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response.

[Office of Disability Services and Programs](#) – (213) 740-0776

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations.

[Student Support and Advocacy](#) – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting success (personal, financial, academic).

[Diversity at USC](#)

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency Information](#)

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) – (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community.

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Use of Technology: Students may only use technology-based products with the expressed written consent of the professor. The use of laptops, mobile phones and all other computer devices during class time is not permitted. Accessing the Internet in any capacity during class time is not permitted. **Any violation of this class policy may result in the loss of ALL participation points for the entire semester, as well as other ramifications under university policy.**

Disability Services: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please have the letter delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. DSP's phone number is (213) 740-0776.

Grading Procedures:

Introduction Speech: Narrative/Values (4-6 minutes)	30 points
Informative Speech: New Information/Finding (6-8 minutes)	60 points
Persuasive Speech: Fact/Value (8-10 minutes)	75 points
Persuasive Speech: Opportunity (6-8 minutes)	EC
Persuasive Speech: Policy (8-10 minutes)	100 points
Term Paper: Rhetorical Analysis	100 points
Participation: In-Class Activities / Group Projects / Attendance	50 points
Midterm Exam	75 points
Final Exam	110 points
TOTAL:	600 POINTS

I expect you to complete all assignments on time. Late work, if accepted, may be penalized substantially. Typically, late submissions will result in 10% grade deduction per day late.

Your final grade will be based on the following scale:

94 - 100 percent = A	74 - 76.9 percent = C
90 - 93.9 percent = A-	70 - 73.9 percent = C-
87 - 89.9 percent = B+	67 - 69.9 percent = D+
84 - 86.9 percent = B	64 - 66.9 percent = D
80 - 83.9 percent = B-	60 - 63.9 percent = D-
77 - 79.9 percent = C+	BELOW 60 percent = F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Week / Date	Topic / Activity	Assignment (Osborn, 2015)
#1 8/21 only	Overview of Course	
	No Class 8/23	
#2 8/28 & 8/30	Foundational Theory	
	Finding Your Voice	Chapter 1
	Communication Apprehension	Chapter 2
	Preparing for the First Presentation	Chapter 3
	Topic selection and purpose of speech	Chapter 6
	Speech Structure & Outlining	Chapter 9
	<p>Assign Speech #1 for Week #3 in which you will deliver an Informative Speech about a classmate, including a specific experience in his/her life and how it reflects on important personal/societal values. Create a formal outline and keyword outline and submit one typed copy of each outline before presenting your speech. You will repeat this exercise for all speeches.</p>	
#3 9/4 & 9/6	Deliver Speech # 1	
	(All type outlines due at beginning of class on the day you present your speech)	
	Evolution of Rhetorical Theory	“Classical Origins of Public Speaking”
	Early Greek Oratory, relation to citizenship	
	Plato’s inquiry into rhetoric: ethical factors	
	Aristotle’s inquiry: philosophical significance	
	Cicero: Reuniting of wisdom and eloquence	
	Impact of democracy on rhetorical theory	
	<p>Assign Speech # 2 for Week # 5 in which you will deliver an Informative Speech about an issue that will expand your audience’s knowledge (with new information).</p>	
#4 9/11 & 9/13	Building Responsible Knowledge	Chapter 7
	Supporting Your Ideas	Chapter 8
	Adapting a speech to Audience & Situation	Chapter 5
	Developing Your Voice, Presentation Types	Chapter 12
	Informative Speaking	Chapter 13

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Course Schedule (cont.)

Week / Date	Topic / Activity	Assignment (Osborn, 2015)
#5 9/18 & 9/20	Deliver Speech # 2 (All type outlines due at beginning of class on the day you present your speech) Review for Midterm Exam	
#6 9/25 only	Midterm Exam on Tuesday, September 25 Covers Chapters 1-3, 5-9, 12-13 in Osborn, plus all lectures and handouts BLUE BOOK REQUIRED (Loss of 10 points without Blue Book) No Class 9/27 Assign Speech #3 for Week #8 in which you will deliver a Persuasive Speech on a question of fact or value.	
#7 10/2 & 10/4	Listening Group Communication Presentation Aids Ceremonial Speaking Workshop on Speech #2 Past Performances	Chapter 4 Appendix A Chapter 10 Chapter 16
#8 10/9 & 10/11	Deliver Speech # 3 (All type outlines due at beginning of class on the day you present your speech) Using Language Effectively	Chapter 11 Assign major term paper: DUE Tuesday, November 20, at beginning of class All papers must follow MLA style. Students who do not use proper citations could be committing plagiarism and receive an “F” grade, plus possible referral to the Ethics Committee. (If you need help with MLA formatting, please show a draft to a faculty member or visit the university’s Writing Center.

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Course Schedule (cont.)**

Week / Date	Topic / Activity	Assignment (Osborn, 2015)
#9 10/16 only	Persuasive Speaking Building Powerful Arguments	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
	No Class 10/18	
	Assign Extra Credit Speech for Week #11 in which you will deliver a Persuasive Speech on a question of opportunity. Commitments DUE 10/25.	
#10 10/23 & 10/25	Rhetorical Criticism: analysis/activities	RN / TB
	Rhetorical Criticism: analysis/activities Review term paper samples and video analysis	RR MJW
#11 10/30 & 11/1	Deliver Extra Credit Speech (All type outlines due at beginning of class on the day you present your speech)	
	Judging Rhetoric	“Evaluating the Rhetorical Act”
	Workshop on Speech #3 Past Performances	
	Assign Speech #4 for Week #13 in which you will deliver a Persuasive Speech on a question of public policy.	
#12 11/6 & 11/8	Review of Public Policy Speeches	
	Persuasive Speechwriting	
#13 11/13 & 11/15	Deliver Speech # 4 (All type outlines due at beginning of class on the day you present your speech)	
	Final Review of Term Paper requirements	

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Course Schedule (cont.)

Week / Date	Topic / Activity	Assignment (Osborn, 2015)
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#14

11/20 only

Analysis/Debate of Public Policy

Legislation TBD

TBD

TERM PAPERS ARE DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS Tuesday, November 20.
LATE PAPERS WILL HAVE 10% DEDUCTED PER DAY LATE.

#15

11/27 & 11/29

Cultural Communication Activity

Final Exam Review Session

November 29 is the last day to submit any late assignments/projects for “excused” absences or deliver “make-up” excused absence speeches.

#16

12/11 only

Final Examination: Tuesday, December 11, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Covers Chapters 4, 10, 11, 14-16 and Appendix A in Osborn, plus all lectures & handouts AND selected materials covered in Test #1

- BLUE BOOK REQUIRED (Loss of 10 points without Blue Book)

The final exam will cover all Osborn material (covered in study guide), lectures, discussion, and handouts. Please do not ask to take the final exam early because university regulations prohibit it.