



COMM 204 Introduction to Public Speaking 4 Units

Fall 2023 – Tuesday/Thursday – 9:30 – 10:50

Section: 20382R

Location: Annenberg 309

Instructor: Stephanie A. Westmyer, Ph.D.

Nicknames: Doc, Professor

Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:00 – 9:00 am and by appointment

Office Hours Location: ANN 333

Contact Info: westmyer@usc.edu reply in less than 36 hours
(office): 213-821-0887

Zoom Office Hour Link: <https://usc.zoom.us/j/94757533105>

Course Description

According to the USC undergraduate catalogue [USC Course Catalog Description](#), COMM 204 Public Speaking is designed to teach you about the theory and practice of effective oral communication; understand the communication process of speaking and listening; research, organize, and present informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches; and use visual aids and presentation technologies. This course fulfills the design and execution of arguments major requirement. Letter grades are assigned to completed work. Various forms of technologies will be used in the class including Blackboard, PowerPoint, videos, and Zoom interviews. The class meets in person. If a unique situation develops, class will meet on Zoom.

Student Learning Outcomes

The objective of the course is to learn and develop core public speaking principles and skills. The course is designed to accomplish five goals by the end of the course:

- Goal 1: Integrate ethos, pathos, and logos into presentations.
- Goal 2: Research and organize information based on different speech structures.
- Goal 3: Present speeches to audiences on informative, persuasive, and special occasion topics.
- Goal 4: Incorporate professional attire and nonverbal communication techniques to compliment the message.
- Goal 5: Enhance presentation delivery through the use of visual aids and technology.

Required Reading

Harris, L. J. (2017). *Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking*. Communication Faculty Books.
1. https://dc.uwm.edu/comm_facbooks/1.

A free digital copy of the book is available at [Digital Textbook](#) or [Stand Up, Speak Out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking](#)

Supplementary Material

American Psychological Association (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Seventh Edition*. American Psychological Association.

Written assignments will follow the APA 7th edition Publication guidelines for source citation and reference pages. Two website resources to use for examples on how to cite sources and create a reference page are listed below:

[Reference Components - APA \(7th edition\) Citation Guide - LibGuides at NWACC Library](#)
<https://www.citationmachine.net/apa>

Creating Learning Community that Honors Differences, Supports Equity and Includes All

The key to our success as a class is to create an environment where every voice is valued, different views are expressed and respected, and each person has a part and purpose in the learning process.

An essential way to celebrate differences, support inclusion, and ensure equity is to create a place and space built on mutual trust, respect, and honor for people. We will work together the first week of class to create classroom etiquette guidelines that we mutually agree use to help create a safe place and space for people to celebrate speaking successes and support each other in potential setbacks on the topics:

- In regard to scooters in the classroom and building, we will:
- When people arrive late when there are guest speakers and graded speeches, we will:
- To build community through discussion, we will:
- When we have a different viewpoint or respectfully disagree with someone, we will:
- To avoid disruptive or disrespectful use of cell phones, we will:
- To create psychological safety and protect privacy, we will:
- On days we give our speeches and are asked to dress up, we will wear:
- On days we give our speeches, we agree not to wear
- If we miss class on speaking dates, we will:
- When we don't turn in assignment when it is due or don't follow directions, we will:

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

USC and Annenberg provide resources to access software programs and technology support services that can help complete class assignments. The Microsoft Office computer program available to us free is needed to complete assignments. Click the link for more information on [Software available to USC Campus](#). Annenberg Digital Lounge also provides programs that may help with assignments. Visit [Annenberg Digital Lounge](#) for information on resources available.

Class information will be posted, and assignments submitted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard and your email inbox regularly for information. The link also provides information on accessing Blackboard, [Blackboard help for students](#). There may be times when we use Zoom for class meetings. To learn more about Zoom, click on the [Zoom information for students](#). To connect to USC's Secure Wireless network, please visit USC's [Information Technology Services](#) website.

Laptop Policy

All undergraduate and graduate Annenberg majors and minors are required to have a PC or Apple laptop that can be used in Annenberg classes. Please refer to the [Annenberg Digital Lounge](#) for more information. To connect to USC's Secure Wireless network, please visit USC's [Information Technology Services](#) website.

Attendance and Participation

Our learning community benefits from your attendance and participation in class. Please make attending class a priority.

Religious holidays, illness, university events, or personal matters occur that may prevent students from attending class. Written documentation for student athletes with approved Travel Request Letters and students observing religious holidays need to submit written document **before** the dates of the class absence. If a student is absent from class, then they will email the professor regarding how to make up the assignment missed.

Two unexcused absences are allowed for the semester. Written documentation for the excused absences must be provided. After two unexcused absences, one percent (1%) or six (6) points **will be deducted** from the final grade for **each additional unexcused absence**. Students who **attend all class sessions** will receive one percent (1%) or six (6) points will be **added** to the final grade.

Being present in class also contributes to participation grade. Each class day is worth three (3) participation points for a total of 85 points for the semester. If you are absent, there are ways to earn participation points.

Assignments

The course grade is based on the following criteria:

- Tests
- Participation
- Written assignments
- Speaking Assignment

Written and speaking assignments are due on the day they are due. Written documentation for illness must be presented to receive full credit for late assignments, especially on speaking days. If the written or speaking assignment is not completed the day they are due, there is a 10% point deduction for each day the assignment is late until the assignment is graded.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, and follow the assignment guidelines. Handwritten assignments or photos of written work from iPad will not be accepted. Two copies of each written assignment must be turned in. The first copy is submitted to Turnitin for a fact check and the second copy is submitted for a grade.

Limited Use of AI for Assignments

Public speaking is designed to share your own thoughts and ideas based on research and personal experience with the topic. Generative AI tools are not original ideas based on student experience. There are times when generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) can and cannot be used.

- Generative AI **can be used** during the idea development phase of the assignment such as brainstorming for a topic. Remember to copy the AI results link and submit to show the brainstorming process for the topic selection. Remember to cite the AI tool used.
- The AI tool **can be used** to refine speech topic ideas and select main points for the speech.
- Generative AI tools **cannot be** used to write entire sentences, speech outlines, or papers to complete class assignments.
- When in doubt about permitted usage, please ask for clarification.

Course Grading Scale

Letter grade and corresponding numerical point range					
650-611	94%-100% A	545-520	80% to 83%: B- (B minus)	455-449	67% to 69%: D+ (D plus)
610-585	90% to 93%: A- (A minus)	519-501	77% to 79%: C+ (C plus)	448-416	64% to 66%: D
584-566	87% to 89%: B+ (B plus)	500-481	74% to 76%: C	415-390	60% to 63%: D- (D minus)
565-546	84% to 86%: B	480-455	70% to 73%: C- (C minus)	389-0	0-59% F

Grading Breakdown

Description of assessments and corresponding points and percentage of grade.

Assignment	Date Due	Points	% Of Grade
Participation	3 points per class for 28 class sessions	85	13.08%
Introduction Outline	9/14/2023	30	4.62%
Introduction Turnitin Outline	9/14/2023	5	0.77%
Introduction Speech	9/26-28/23	50	7.69%
Cultural Trailblazer Informative Outline with Visual Aid	10/19/2023	30	4.62%
Cultural Trailblazer Turnitin Outline	10/19/2023	5	0.77%
PowerPoint for Trailblazer Speech	10/31-11/2/23	25	3.85%
Cultural Trailblazer Informative Speech with PowerPoint	10/31-11/2/23	50	7.69%
Persuasive Outline	11/7/2023	30	4.62%
Persuasive Turnitin Outline	11/7/2023	5	0.77%
Persuasive Speech	11/14-16/23	50	7.69%
Award Speech Outline	11/21/2023	25	3.85%
Award Speech Turnitin Outline	11/21/2023	5	0.77%
Award Speech	11/28/2023	50	7.69%
Public Speaker Analysis	10/10/2023	25	3.85%
Chapter Leader 1		10	1.54%
Chapter Leader 2		10	1.54%
Test 1	8/31/2023	20	3.08%
Test 2	9/12/2023	20	3.08%
Test 3	9/21/2023	20	3.08%
Test 4	10/26/2023	20	3.08%
Final Leaders, Lessons, Legacy Tribute Outline	11/30/2023	30	4.62%
Final Leaders Lessons Legacy Speech	Due Finals December 7, 2023, from 11-1 pm	50	7.69%
TOTAL		650	100.00%

Tentative Course Schedule

Important note to students: Be advised that this syllabus is subject to change - and probably will change - based on the progress of the class, news events, and/or guest speaker availability.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due	Chapter Leader
1	8/22/2023	Introduction			
	8/24/2023	Public Speaking and Ethics	Chapter 1: pp. 9, 16-20, 28- 33; Chapter 3: pp. 70-94	Chapter Leader Dates Selected	Chapter 1: Chapter 3:
2	8/29/2023	Listening and Analyze Audience	Chapter 15: pp. 450-473; Chapter 2: pp. 44-56	Three questions wans to know about audience	Chapter 2: Chapter 15:
	8/31/2023	Topic and Research		Test 1 on chapters 1, 2, 3, 15	
3	9/5/2023	Research	Chapter 5: pp. 125 – 161, Chapter 6 pp. 187-192		Chapter 5: Chapter 6:
	9/7/2023	Introduction, Organization, Conclusion	Chapter 4 pp: 109-122, Chapter 7: pp. 206-223	Bring AI results for 3 points for introduction speech	Chapter 4: Chapter 7:
4	9/12/2023	outline writing workshop		Test 2 on Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7	
	9/12/23			Award Speech Honoree Selected	
	9/14/2023	Language and Style	Chapter 8: pp. 224-248, Chapter 11: pp 312- 316	Submit Introduction Outline and Turnitin Outline on Blackboard by 11:00 PM	Chapter 8: Chapter 11:
5	9/19/2023	Delivery and Presentation Aids	Chapter 12: pp. 343-370; Chapter 13: pp. 377-386, 401-422		Chapter 12: Chapter 13:
	9/21/2023	Dress and Delivery		Test 3 on Chapters 8, 11, 12, 13	
6	9/26/2023	Introduction Speeches		Introduction Speeches	
	9/28/2023	Introduction Speeches		Introduction Speeches	
7	10/3/2023	Creating PowerPoint for Presentation			
	10/5/2023	Cultural Trailblazers Speech		Cultural Trailblazers Speech Topic Due Bring AI brainstorming list and three main points for person.	
8	10/10/2023	Speech Analysis Workday		Submit Public Speaker Analysis on Blackboard by 11 PM	
	10/12/2023	Fall Break No Class		Fall Break	

9	10/17/2023	Ceremonial Speaking	Chapter 14: pp. 423 – 449	Leaders, Lessons, and Legacy Tribute Speech Person	Chapter 14:
	10/19/2023	Monroe's Motivated Sequence		Submit Cultural Trailblazer Outline, Turnitin Outline, and PowerPoint Draft on Blackboard by 11:00 PM	
10	10/24/2023	Persuasive Speaking	Chapter 9: pp. 255-259, 265-268, Chapter 10: pp. 277 – 285	Persuasive Speech Topic Due Bring All brainstorming topic results	Chapter 9: Chapter 10:
	10/26/2023	Monroe's Motivated Sequence Workshop		Test 4: Chapters 9, 10, 14, Monroe's Motivated Sequence	
11	10/31/2023	Cultural Trailblazers Speech		Cultural Trailblazers Speech	
	11/2/2023	Cultural Trailblazers Speech		Cultural Trailblazers Speech	
12	11/7/2023	In		Submit Persuasive Outline and Turnitin Outline on Blackboard by 11:00 PM	
	11/9/2023				
13	11/14/2023	Persuasive Speeches		Persuasive Speeches	
	11/16/2023	Persuasive Speeches		Persuasive Speeches	
14	11/21/2023	Class on Zoom		Submit Award Speech Outline and Turnitin Outline on Blackboard by 11:00 PM	
	11/23/2023	No Class		Thanksgiving	
15	11/28/2023	Award Speeches			
	11/30/2023	Class Reflections		Submit Leaders, Lessons, & Legacy Speech Outline on Blackboard by 11:00 PM	
16	12/7/2023	11-1 pm Final Presentation		Leaders, Lessons, and Legacy Tribute Speech	

Grading Timeline

Most Blackboard assignments are due on Thursdays by 11:00 pm. There is a 10% point deduction from the assignment total for each day the assignment is late. The goal is to grade assignments and return them to students in a week. Feedback and assignment grade will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Standards

Letter Grade	Description
A	Excellent; demonstrates extraordinarily high achievement; comprehensive knowledge and understanding of subject matter; all expectations met and exceeded.
B	Good; moderately broad knowledge and understanding of subject matter; explicitly or implicitly demonstrates good, if not thorough understanding; only minor substantive shortcomings.
C	Satisfactory/Fair; reasonable knowledge and understanding of subject matter; most expectations are met; despite any shortcomings, demonstrates basic level of understanding.
D	Marginal; minimal knowledge and understanding of subject matter; more than one significant shortcoming; deficiencies indicate only the most rudimentary level of understanding.
F	Failing; unacceptably low level of knowledge and understanding of subject matter; deficiencies indicate lack of understanding.

Add/Drop Dates for Session 001

(15 weeks: 8/21/2023 – 12/1/2023; Final Exam Period: 12/6-13/2023)

Link: <https://classes.usc.edu/term-20233/calendar/>

Last day to add: Friday, September 8, 2023

Last day to drop without a mark of "W" and receive a refund: Friday, September 8, 2023

Last day to change enrollment option to Pass/No Pass or Audit: Friday, September 8, 2023 [All major and minor courses must be taken for a letter grade.]

Last day to add/drop a Monday-only class without a mark of "W" and receive a refund or change to Audit:

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

Last day to withdraw without a "W" on transcript or change pass/no pass to letter grade: Friday, October 6, 2023

[Mark of "W" will still appear on student record and STARS report and tuition charges still apply.]

*Please drop any course by the end of week three for session 001 (or the 20 percent mark of the session in which the course is offered) to avoid tuition charges.]

Last day to drop with a mark of "W": Friday, November 10, 2023

Description and Assessment of Assignments**Participation Points: 3 points per day for 28 class sessions**

Being present in class also contributes to participation grade. Each class day is worth three (3) participation points for a total of 85 points for the semester. Excused absences can earn participation points. Unexcused absences cannot earn participation points. Participation is based upon arriving to class on time, contributing to the discussion, asking and answering questions, putting cell phone away to engage in the discussion, and staying awake.

Chapter Leader Assignment: 10 points

Each student will serve as a chapter leader twice. The Chapter Leader presents information from the chapter that answers the study guide questions for the chapter. Students may volunteer for which two chapters to present. If there are no volunteers, then students will be selected.

The assignment is designed to provide students presentation practice and help each other prepare for the tests. The presentation should have an introduction with an attention getter, why people should listen, credibility, the main points of the presentation, and a conclusion that restates the main points of the presentation, and a memorable ending.

Chapter Tests: 4 tests and 20 points per test

There are four tests in the class worth 20 points per test. The test questions are based on the study guide created with questions related to information in each chapter. The test questions can be multiple choice, short answer, matching, and true/false. The information Chapter leaders present can help study for the tests.

Public Speaker Analysis: 25 points

Each student will select a live or recorded public speaker to watch. The speech needs to be between 15-30 minutes in length. The speech can be a video recording of a previous presentation given in front of an audience or a live presentation attended by the student. Students will include the video link or a picture of the flyer of the speaker for live event. After viewing the presentation, students will answer questions about what they noticed the speaker do that we talked about in class, what they did not do as we have discussed in class, and what the students learned about public speaking as a result of watching the public speaker. The analysis information will be presented as essay responses to questions.

Introduction Speech Outline and Speech: Outline =30 points, Turnitin = 5 points, Speech = 50 points

When attending functions and meeting new people, someone may ask the question, "So, tell me about yourself." Speaking about a topic that you know well will provide practice in writing an outline to organize your thoughts using the parts of the informative speech – introduction, body, and conclusion. This presentation will also give time to practice using references. Incorporate a quote that represents you and one fact or statistics from research that applies to you or your life into the speech.

Outline: The outline will follow the informative speech format. Full sentence outlines with APA citations and reference pages are submitted a week before the speeches are given. Accomplishes learning objectives 1 and 3. Two copies of the outline must be submitted. The first copy is the graded copy and the second copy is to Turnitin for fact check.

Speech: The presentation will be 3-6 minutes in length. Under or over time will result in point deduction. Dress professionally based on the class guidelines we created. On the day of the speech, you may use 3- 3 by 5 inch note cards writing on both the front and back which will be turned in the day of the presentation. The presentation accomplishes learning objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Trailblazer Introduction Speech with PowerPoint: Outline =30 points, Turnitin = 5 points, PowerPoint = 25 points, Speech = 50 points

As a way to celebrate differences, support inclusion, and ensure equity, select a person, to inform the audience who has opened doors, broken barriers, or made a difference in the world of the arts, sports, entertainment, medicine, politics, law, religion, or civil rights in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. The person be known at the local, national, or international level. Topic must be approved and there are no duplicate topics. The person must have **one** identifying characteristic different from your own. Identifying characteristics include race, gender, religion, age, ethnicity, ability, culture, or sexual orientation (Barney & Rosencrance, 2023). Examples include: a student who is Middle Eastern who selects an African American, Hispanic, Caucasian person; a female student could honor a male and a male student could honor a female, a heterosexual student could honor a LGBTQ person, and a LGBTQ student could honor a religious leader, or a Muslim student could honor a Jewish person.

Outline: The outline will follow the informative speech format. Full sentence outlines with APA citations and reference pages are submitted a week before the speeches are given. Accomplishes learning objectives 1 and 3. Two copies of the outline must be submitted. The first copy is the graded copy and the second copy is to Turnitin for fact check.

PowerPoint: The speech requires the use of a 4-6 slide PowerPoint that follows the PowerPoint guidelines discussed in class: sources cited for pictures and numbers, font size, word amount, design, and use of embedded video or audio.

Speech: The presentation will be 5-7 minutes in length. Under or over time will result in point deduction. Dress professionally based on the class guidelines we created. On the day of the speech, you may use 3- 3 by 5 inch note cards writing on both the front and back which will be turned in the day of the presentation. The presentation accomplishes learning objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Persuasive Speech Outline and Speech: Outline =30 points, Turnitin = 5 points, Speech = 50 points

Different values, views, and voices encourage personal growth. The persuasive speech is an opportunity to select a topic that can call people to action. The topic can get people to change their behavior, change their beliefs, or change their buying habits. Use the Monroe Motivated Sequence method to organize the speech. A minimum of three sources must be cited in the presentation.

Outline: The outline will follow Monroe's Motivated Sequence format. Full sentence outlines with APA citations and reference pages are submitted a week before the speeches are given. Accomplishes learning objectives 1 and 3. Two copies of the outline must be submitted. The first copy is the graded copy and the second copy is to Turnitin for fact check.

Speech: The presentation will be 5-7 minutes in length. Under or over time will result in point deduction. Dress professionally based on the class guidelines we created. On the day of the speech, you may use 3- 3 by 5 inch note cards writing on both the front and back which will be turned in the day of the presentation. The presentation accomplishes learning objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Awards Speech Outline and Speech: Outline =30 points, Turnitin = 5 points, Speech = 50 points

On the last week of class, we will celebrate and honor each other with an awards ceremony. Each person will be assigned a student to present an award and give a 2-3 minute introduction of the award and the recipient will give a 1-2 minute acceptance speech for the award. The two speeches combine into one 3-5 minute speech.

The award presentation will include quote or story that represents the person, the title of the award, and what the person has done to receive the award or why you have selected the award for the person.

Outline: The outline will follow the informative speech format. Full sentence outlines with APA citations and reference pages are submitted a week before the speeches are given. Accomplishes learning objectives 1 and 3. Two copies of the outline must be submitted. The first copy is the graded copy and the second copy is to Turnitin for fact check.

The acceptance speech will include: a word, theme, or quote that summarizes acceptance of the award or can be used throughout the acceptance, a thank you to the person who created the award, a thank you for the people who helped you earn the award (families, friends, coaches, etc.), and what receiving the award means to you.

Speech: The presentation will be 5-7 minutes in length. Under or over time will result in point deduction. Dress professionally based on the class guidelines we created. On the day of the speech, you may use 3- 3 by 5 inch note cards writing on both the front and back which will be turned in the day of the presentation. The presentation accomplishes learning objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Leaders, Lessons, and Legacy Award Speech for Final Exam Speech: Outline =30 points, Speech = 50 points

The speech given on the final exam day is designed to honor and pay tribute to a person in your life that you consider a leader or mentor. The goal is to have the person attend the class either in person or via zoom and receive the Leader, Lesson, and Legacy Award. The person can be a coach, teacher, family member, friend, pastor, rabbi, or community member, someone who has had a positive impact on your life.

An invitation will be sent to the person sharing that they have received the Leader, Lesson, and Legacy Award and are invited to attend the presentation to receive their award. They can have 1-2 minutes to give an acceptance speech.

Outline: The outline will follow the informative speech format. Full sentence outlines with APA citations and reference pages are submitted a week before the speeches are given. Accomplishes learning objectives 1 and 3.

Speech: The presentation will be 3-5 minutes in length. Under or over time will result in point deduction. Dress professionally based on the class guidelines we created. On the day of the speech, you may use 3- 3 by 5 inch note cards writing on both the front and back which will be turned in the day of the presentation. The presentation accomplishes learning objectives 1, 4, and 5.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**Academic Integrity:**

The university expects two hours of out of class student work per week over a semester for each unit of in-class contact time. There is 2.67 hours a week of in-class contact time. The university expects students enrolled in this class spend 5.34 hours a week outside of class.

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

The School of Communication maintains a commitment to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found responsible for plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on examinations, or purchasing papers or other assignments will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards and may be dismissed from the School of Communication. There are no exceptions to the school's policy.

In addition, it is assumed that the work you submit for this course is work you have produced entirely by yourself and has not been previously produced by you for submission in another course or Learning Lab, without approval of the instructor.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

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

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

Annenberg Student Success Fund

<https://annenberg.usc.edu/current-students/resources/annenberg-scholarships-and-awards>

The Annenberg Student Success Fund is a donor-funded financial aid account available to USC Annenberg undergraduate and graduate students for non-tuition expenses related to extra- and co-curricular programs and opportunities.

Annenberg Student Emergency Aid Fund

<https://annenberg.usc.edu/current-students/resources/annenberg-scholarships-and-awards>

Awards are distributed to students experiencing unforeseen circumstances and emergencies impacting their ability to pay tuition or cover everyday living expenses. These awards are not intended to cover full-tuition expenses, but rather serve as bridge funding to guarantee students' continued enrollment at USC until other resources, such as scholarships or loans, become available. Students are encouraged to provide as much information in their application, as well as contact their academic advisor directly with questions about additional resources available to them.

About Your Instructor

Stephanie A. Westmyer, Ph.D. uses her communication, mediation, and corporate training background to develop communication skills, conflict resolution, and mediation training workshops for college students, corporate executives, and community members. She earned a doctorate degree in Communication from Kent State University and a master's degree in Dispute Resolution for USC's Gould School of Law.

She has taught undergraduate and graduate communication classes for state universities and private colleges. She worked as a corporate trainer for In-N-Out Burger and Associated Students, Incorporated. She currently works as the Training Specialist for the Experiential Learning Center at USC's Marshall School of Business, and as an adjunct faculty for USC's Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism.

Stephanie is a Certified Trainer in Workplace Conflict through Eckert College's Mediation Training Institute. She has co-created curriculum on the biblical principles of conflict resolution and presents the training workshop to churches and community members. She also volunteers for the Center for Conflict Resolution as a mediator for the Los Angeles Court System.