

SPCH1315-Public Speaking-Online Fall 2026

Faculty Information

Instructor: Hilary Nixon

Email: hnixon@southplainscollege.edu

Virtual Office Hours in Blackboard Collaborate: By appointment

Communication Plan:

- You can expect an email reply within 24 hours on weekdays, and within 48 hours on weekends.
- I will be posting course related announcements in Blackboard every few days.
- I DO NOT use blackboard messages. If you email within blackboard, you will not receive a response. Please email me from your SPC email address.

Office Hours

Office Location:

Levelland Campus

Communications Building Room #139

- Monday:
 - 12:30pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-4:15pm
- Tuesday:
 - 12:30pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-2:45pm
- Wednesday:
 - 12:30pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-4:15pm
- Thursday:
 - 12:30pm-1:00pm & 2:15pm-2:45pm
- Friday:
 - 3pm-4pm

Course Description and Purpose

SPCH 1315 Public Speaking. This course is delivered 100% online. It is my sincere hope that you will learn to enjoy the process of public speaking, while gaining confidence, improving your skills, and making new friends.

This course equips students with the skills necessary for successful public speaking. Students will learn to prepare and deliver effective presentations, adapt to various audiences, and adjust to different speaking contexts.

Core Objectives

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.
- Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting speeches.
- 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).

Course Requirements

- You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course daily to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.
- Higher institutions recommend that students plan to spend 2 hours of outside study for every 1 hour of in class time. For a 3 credit-hour, face-to-face course that means a total time investment of nine hours per week, or 135 hours per semester, in a 15-week course.
- Expectations for time investment are no less rigorous for online courses at SPC. According to this guideline, you should expect to invest 9 hours per week in this course, during a spring or fall semester; more in a summer course.
- Online course activities promote learning and the creation of a learning community, so they are encouraged and expected.
- Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). More importantly ensure that your e-mail messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful. We will welcome diverse opinions in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others.
- Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the SPC Student Handbook.
- Note that students from other institutions are still bound by SPC policies in the course.

Required Course Materials

Textbook:

Fox, J. & Finley, K. (2019). From Entry Level to Executive: All Communication Counts. Fountainhead Press.

The course textbook is free and provided to you in blackboard under course content.

This resource is a collaboration between Austin Community College and Dallas College and was made possible by a grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Technical Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer
- High speed internet access
- SPC E-mail
- Microsoft Office
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching and listening to course content)
- Web camera and microphone (for video conferencing and recording vlogs)

Assignment Submissions

You will submit all assignments through their designated submission link in Blackboard. You are required to title your assignment files in the following format: “lastname_firstname_assignmentname.doc”.

Grade Distribution

Introductory Speech	50 Points
Informative Speech	100 Points
Persuasive Speech	100 Points
Special Occasion Speech	50 Points
Group Project	100 Points

Exam 1	100 Points
Exam 2	100 Points
Final Exam	50 Points
Vlogs/Peer Evals/Activities/Discussion Boards	350 Points
Total	1000 Points

Course Work

Speeches

You will deliver four major speeches in the course. More information about speech purposes and topics, instructions, and assessment methods will be included in the weeks. Below you will find basic information about each speech.

- The Introductory Speech will be submitted as a video file or web link (YouTube or Google Drive) and viewed asynchronously by your audience.
- The Informative Speech will be submitted as a video file or web link (YouTube or Google Drive) and viewed asynchronously by your audience.
- The Persuasive Speech will be submitted as a video file or web link (YouTube or Google Drive) and viewed asynchronously by your audience. Additionally, this speech will require you to use a PowerPoint Presentation.
- The Special Occasion Speech will be submitted as a video file or web link (YouTube or Google Drive) and viewed asynchronously by your audience.

Exams

You will take 3 exams based on chapter and supplemental readings, lecture videos, and any other supplemental material presented in each week.

Peer-Evaluations/Learning Activities/Vlog Entries and Vlog Group Comment

You will complete peer evaluations and self-evaluations. These evaluations will give you the opportunity to reflect on your own speeches and the speeches of your group members. You will complete learning activities designed to help you apply course material and prepare for your upcoming speeches. You will create 1-2 minute vlogs (Video Blogs) related to course and week material. These vlog entries will require you to summarize content, apply content to your personal life, reflect on your experiences in the course, practice skills taught in the course, and ask questions of your group members. Additionally, you will respond to the questions posed in your group members' vlog entries.

Group Project

You will be assigned a group and together you will use multimedia and create a short video file project.

Grading

You can access your grades on the Blackboard Course Menu (My Grades). Grades will be posted after the due date and after all assignments have been graded. Speech Grading Rubrics will be made available to you when speeches are assigned so that you can prepare for my assessment methods.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- To earn an A, you need 895 points
- To earn a B, you need 795 points
- To earn a C, you need 695 points
- To earn a D, you need 595 points

- If your point total is 594 points or less, you will earn an F

If you have questions about or are concerned about a specific grade you earned, you will need to email me or visit me during my office hours to discuss the grade. If you want to appeal a grade you earned on a specific assignment, you have one week after the grade has been posted in Blackboard to approach your instructor about your questions or concerns. After one week, I will consider the matter closed. When you approach me after viewing your grade, you are expected to have revisited the assignment or speech description, the grading rubric, and the feedback provided to you by me.

Late Work/Make Up Work Policy

Make-up work is NOT guaranteed. When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor **may** permit the student to make up work missed. If a student must be absent to represent the college, she/he should advise the instructor beforehand and should have a signed permit from his/her coach or sponsor. In such cases, it is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the instructor. Each student must make an appointment with the instructor to decide on make-up work. **Late work may not receive full credit.** An absence on the day that you are scheduled for oral presentations or examinations will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. **If, according to the instructor's discretion, the student is allowed to make up such a presentation or exam, the student will automatically receive a grade drop for the assignment (25-point grade reduction).**

Course and Technical Help

Do not hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have course-related questions. I am here to guide you through the course. I will try to respond to calls and e-mails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours (about 2 days) over the weekend.

Be aware that the Instructional Technology office and Blackboard both recommend using a browser other than Internet Explorer when using Blackboard.

Please realize that this is not a computer class, so our content is business and professional communication, not Windows or Word processing. I can answer any questions about the course content or assignments, but I will be no help with technical problems.

Blackboard Support

For Blackboard support you make refer to the following resources:

1. When you log into Blackboard (BB), at the very top of the page, you will see a question mark icon with the word help next to it. Click on that icon.
2. You may also contact
Information Systems
Ext. 2600
Direct: 806-716-2600
blackboard@southplainscollege.edu
helpdesk@southplainscollege.edu

Server Problems

When the Blackboard server needs downtime for maintenance, the Blackboard administrator will post an announcement in your course informing the time and date. If the server experiences unforeseen problems your course instructor will send an email.

Lost/Corrupt/Disappeared Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external disk or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g., Blackboard server crash or virus infection, students own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any contradictions/problems,

I may/will request you to resubmit the files. In other words, if you submit a document to me, and I do not receive it (lost in cyberspace) or it is corrupted when I open it, you need to resend it to me, corrected, with little or no “downtime” in regard to the timeline for submission.

SPC Tutoring Services

SPC Tutors

Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.

<http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php>

Brainfuse

You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Brainfuse each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, and click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Brainfuse link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access Brainfuse tutors during the following times:

Monday – Thursday: 8 pm-8 am

6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

For questions regarding tutoring, please email tutoring@southplainscollege.edu or call 806-716-224

Intellectual Exchange Statement

In South Plains College courses, the instructor will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group difference and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of the individual's disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Lubbock Centers (located at the Lubbock Downtown Center) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302.

Non-Discrimination Statement

South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

Title IX Pregnancy and Parenting Accommodations Statement (Rev. 6/11/2024)

If you are pregnant or parenting (paternal or maternal) with children under the age of 18 per [Texas Education Code 51.982](#) and Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a [Title IX pregnancy and parenting accommodations request](#), along with specific medical documentation, to the Health and Wellness Center. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact the Health and Wellness Center at 806-716-2529 or email rcanon@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

CARE (Campus Assessment, Response, and Evaluation) Team

South Plains College is committed to ensuring the safety, health, and well-being of its students and community. To support its campus community SPC has a CARE Team. This is a dedicated group of campus professionals responsible for assessing and responding to students who could benefit from academic, emotional, or psychological support, as well as those presenting risk to the health or safety of the community. If you see someone experiencing challenges, appearing distressed, posing a threat to their safety or someone else's safety, or causing a significant disruption to the SPC community, please submit a [CARE Team referral](#). You may also submit a referral for yourself if you would like additional support. NOTE: In cases where a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Government Code 411.2031, et al. authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: <http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

COVID-19 (Rev. 8/17/2024)

If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, please do not attend class and either seek medical attention or get tested for COVID-19.

- Fever or chills
- Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscles or body aches
- New loss of taste and smell
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, FNP-C, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at dedens@southplainscollege.edu or 806-716-2376

1. SPC will follow the recommended 3-day isolation period for individuals that test positive.
 - a. **Please note that day 0 is the date of positive test. Day 1 begins the first full day after the date of positive result.**
2. COVID reporting
 - a. Please have students and employees notify DeEtte Edens, FNP-C if they have tested positive to verify dates before returning to class or work.
 - b. The home tests are sufficient but students need to submit a photo of the positive result. The date of test must be written on the test result and an ID included in the photo. If tested elsewhere (clinic, pharmacy, etc.), please submit a copy of the doctor's note or email notification. Results may be emailed to DeEtte Edens, FNP-C at dedens@southplainscollege.edu.
 - c. A student is clear to return to class without further assessment if they have completed:
 - i. The 3-day isolation period, symptoms have improved and
 - ii. they are afebrile for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - d. **HEATH SCIENCE PROGRAMS ONLY:** Due to clinical requirements, students in health science programs returning to class or clinical from a positive test will be

required to wear a mask in the health sciences areas including offices, hallways, and classrooms, as well as in the clinical setting for a 10-day period from date of positive test.

3. Please instruct students and employees to communicate with DeEtte Edens prior to their return date if still symptomatic at the end of the 3-day isolation.
4. Exposed individuals will not be required to quarantine. If exposed, SPC does request individuals closely monitor themselves. If an individual does become symptomatic, please do not attend class or work and be tested.

Artificial Intelligence Statement

Purpose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Applications:

AI applications are advanced language models designed to aid and engage in meaningful conversations, as well as, generate and revise content. AI is intended to supplement learning, stimulate critical thinking, and enhance academic discourse. However, its use comes with certain responsibilities.

Academic Integrity:

Using AI to generate academic work, including essays, reports, or assignments, without proper attribution is a violation of SPC academic integrity policies. Plagiarism undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. Students must ensure that their work reflects their own ideas, research, synthesis, and analysis and appropriately cites all sources, including AI.

Collaboration and Consultation:

While AI can be a valuable resource, it is essential to strike a balance between seeking assistance and maintaining personal responsibility. Collaboration with peers, consulting instructors, and utilizing other approved learning resources should be prioritized. Overreliance on AI for solutions without actively engaging in the learning process is discouraged and can be grounds for academic integrity violations. Utilizing AI as a tool for brainstorming or research is allowed but the writing should be the student's own work and thoughts.

Critical Thinking and Originality:

AI usage can provide suggestions and information, but it is essential to critically evaluate the responses and exercise independent thought. Relying solely on AI for answers deprives students of the opportunity to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills. In assignments where originality, creativity, and independent thinking are valued, AI would be detrimental to the student learning process. Critical thinking and originality emphasize the importance of independent thinking in all academic endeavors as part of the student's learning experience apart from outside influence and offers the student the opportunity to refine their unique, individual voice through academic discourse with other students and faculty.

Ethical Use and Bias Awareness:

AI is trained on large amounts of data from the internet, which may include biased or inaccurate information. Be mindful of the potential for bias and critically evaluate the responses provided by AI. Therefore, when using AI, just like with using any other database, students must verify that the information is from reliable sources, question any potential biases, and ensure that the information and sources used in the paper are neutral, peer-reviewed sources.

Responsible Engagement:

Students should engage with AI in a respectful and responsible manner and avoid using offensive language, discriminatory remarks, or engaging in any form of harassment or inappropriate behavior. Students should also uphold the standards of respectful communication in addressing both AI and fellow classmates.

Compliance with South Plains College Policies:

Policies regarding the appropriate use of AI in South Plains College courses are set by instructional departments and individual instructors. Appropriate use of AI may range from strict prohibition to assignments they may require the use of AI. Misusing or violating the guidelines outlined in this syllabus warning may result in disciplinary action, including

academic penalties. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the specific course policies regarding the use of AI and adhere to them throughout the semester.

Remember, AI can be a tool to support your learning in certain courses and assignments, but it cannot replace the critical thinking, creativity, and independent work that are integral to your overall academic growth.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule is subject to change. You will find the course schedule below.

Module	Assignment	Due Date	Points
Module 1: Course Introduction			
	Read Syllabus Smart Goals Activity	Aug 30	20 points
Module 2: Mediated Communication			
	Module 2 Vlog	Sept 6	30 points
Module 3: Communication Apprehension			
	Module 3 Vlog Entry Module 3 Vlog Comments	Sept 13 Sept 15	30 points 30 points
Module 4: Introductory Speech Entry			
	Introductory Speech Entry Introductory Speech Peer Comments	Sept 20 Sept 22	50 points 30 points
Module 5: Organizing a Speech			
	Module 5 Activity	Sept 27	30 points
Module 6: Exam 1			
	Exam 1	Oct 4	100 points
Module 7: Informative Speech Entry			
	Informative Speech Entry Informative Speech Peer Comments	Oct 11 Oct 13	100 points 30 points
Module 9: Persuasion			
	Module 9 Activity	Oct 18	30 points
Module 10: Presentation Aids			
	Module 10 Activity	Oct 25	30 points
Module 11: Persuasive Speech Entry			
	Persuasive Speech Entry Persuasive Speech Peer Comments	Nov 1 Nov 3	100 points 30 points
Module 12: Special Occasion Speech Entry			
	Special Occasion Speech Entry Special Occasion Speech Peer Comments	Nov 8 Nov 10	50 points 30 points
Module 13: Group Communication			
	Module 13 Vlog	Nov 15	30 points
Module 14: Exam 2			
	Exam 2	Nov 22	100 points
Module 15: Group Project			

Submit Group Project	Dec 3	100 points
Module 15: Final Exam/Course Review		
Final Exam/ Extra Credit	Dec 7	50 points