

Course Syllabus

SPCH 1315 (3:3:0)

Public Speaking

Communication Department

Division of Arts and Sciences

Levelland

South Plains College

FALL 2026

Janine Fox

Course Syllabus
SPCH 1315 Public Speaking

Instructor Information: *Janine Fox*

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Office hours:

Monday 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Tuesday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Thursday 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM

Friday 9:00 AM – 10:00 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 **Classavo** access

Supplies:

1. Text access through Classavo
2. Notebook(s) and pen/pencil/highlighter
3. White 3x5 notecards
4. Access to a computer for online activities

PLEASE BE SURE TO BRING PAPER, PEN/PENCIL, & SYLLABUS TO EVERY CLASS.

Course Description: Application of communication theory and practice to the public speaking context, with emphasis on audience analysis, speaker delivery, ethics of communication, cultural diversity, and speech organizational techniques to develop students' speaking abilities, as well as ability to effectively evaluate oral presentations. (Performance based.)

This course partially satisfies Core Curriculum Requirement: Institutional Foundational Component Area (090)

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

Learning Outcomes: 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:

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 and 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 whenever assistance is needed re: class assignments.
7. To appropriately cite information obtained from other sources.
8. To initiate withdrawal from the course if absences become excessive.
9. Students cannot pass the course and should drop if missing multiple major grades.

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 Environment: 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.

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 & will be interpreted as: A=900-1000, B=800-899, C=700-799, D=600-699, F=599 and below.

Major Speech Assignments:		Points Earned:	
Impromptu Presentation	100		_____
Introductory Presentation	100		_____
Informative Presentation	100		_____
Persuasive Presentation	100		_____
Exams and Daily Grades:			
Exam 1	100		_____
Exam 2	100		_____
Final Exam	50		_____
Chapter Quizzes (9 @ 15pts EA.)	135		_____
Pre-Test Quiz	15		_____
Group Project	100		_____
Peer Evals. (2 @ 10 points each)	20	_____	= _____
Self Evals. (2 @ 15 points each)	30	_____	= _____
Worksheets (5 @ 10 points each)	50	_____	= _____
Points Possible:	1000	Your Total:	_____

Graded Assignment Brief Descriptions:

1. **Exams (2 @100 points each) and Final Exam (50 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 during Finals Week. FINAL EXAMS MAY ONLY BE TAKEN DURING OPEN TIMES ON FINALS WEEK. You *may* earn an exemption from the final exam if prior to the final you have 800 points or more with no more than 3 absences, OR if you have perfect attendance. Exams will cover lectures, material discussed in class and online, and material from the textbook.
2. **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. Speech grades will be lowered for tardies/unexcused absences.
3. **Worksheets, Group Project, Quizzes and Evaluations (350 points total):** This is a highly interactive class that will involve a number of supporting activities. Students are expected to not only attend class, but to participate. You are required to bring your pens/pencils, paper, textbook, and syllabus to EVERY CLASS. You will be asked to complete worksheet assignments (5 @ 10 points each), a pre-test quiz (15 points) and complete quizzes for each chapter (9 @ 15 points each). You will also be required to complete and upload a Group Project (100 points). Finally, you will be asked to complete 2 different peer evaluations (10 points each) and 2 self-evaluations (15 points each) of speeches. These assignments, among others, may be in class or online using your Top Hat access. You may record all grades in your syllabus for easy access to your progress in the course.

I DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD MUCH FOR THIS CLASS. It is important that you keep track of ALL assignments during the semester in Classavo. Once graded, if you need clarification or have questions, it is your responsibility to provide those documents and visit with me.
In addition, I do not accept emailed assignments unless instructed to do so when assigned.

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 attend class regularly, complete online requirements by the posted deadline, be on time for speeches and class meetings, and remain until dismissed. Roll will be taken at each class meeting. If a student is tardy, he/she must see the instructor after class to have the absence mark removed. If a student leaves class prior to dismissal of the class, he/she may be counted tardy or absent. Two tardies equals an absence.

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from this course if needed. 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 and/or 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 class absence arises, such as illness, family death, emergency, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, I **may** permit the student to make up work missed ONLY IF DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED. This is especially important for presentations. The student should communicate with the instructor to learn what documentation is acceptable. Each student absence will be dealt with on an individual basis. If a student must be absent, she/he should advise the instructor beforehand if possible and if the student is representing the college, they should have a signed permit from his/her 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. Each student must make an appointment to plan for make-up work. **Also, late work may not receive full credit.**

Changes may be made as the semester progresses.*

1	All assignments, CH quizzes, worksheets etc. due Thursdays. Watch CH lectures BEFORE Tuesday classes.	25-Aug	Introduction to course/Syllabus/Classsavo	27-Aug	Get logged into Classsavo ASAP! Assign <i>Impromptu Speech</i> , <i>Pre-Test</i> , & <i>Goal Setting WS</i>
2		1-Sep	Course Q & A	3-Sep	Pre-Test Quiz & Goal Setting WS Due at 9 AM Impromptu Speeches
3		8-Sep	Discuss Chapter/Lecture Info <i>Assign Introductory Speech</i>	10-Sep	CH's 1/2 Quizzes & PRCA Worksheet Due at 9 AM
4		15-Sep	Discuss Chapter/Lecture Info <i>CH 3</i> <i>CH 4</i>	17-Sep	CH's 3/4 Quizzes & Outline Worksheet Due at 9 AM Outlining Workshop
5		22-Sep	Introductory Speech Day	24-Sep	<i>Assign Informative Presentations</i>
6		29-Sep	In-class Informative Workshop	1-Oct	ALL Self and Peer Evaluations Due by 9 AM In-class Informative Workshop
7	<i>CH 5</i> <i>CH 6</i>	6-Oct	Discuss Chapter/Lecture Info Informative Speech Q&A <i>Assign Exam 1</i>	8-Oct	CH's 5/6 Quizzes Due at 9 AM In-class Informative Workshop
8		13-Oct	Informative Speech Day	15-Oct	Informative Speech Day EXAM 1 Due at 9 AM (Over Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5)
9	<i>CH 7</i> <i>CH 8</i>	20-Oct	Discuss Chapter/Lecture Info <i>Assign Conflict Management WS</i>	22-Oct	CH's 7/8 Quizzes Due at 9 AM ALL Self and Peer Evaluations Due at 9 AM
10	<i>CH 10</i>	27-Oct	Discuss Chapter/Lecture Info <i>Assign Group Infographic Project</i>	29-Oct	CH 10 Quiz Due at 9 AM Conflict Mgmt. Worksheet Due at 9 AM In-class Group Project Workshop
11		3-Nov	In-class Group Project Workshop <i>Assign Persuasive Speech</i>	5-Nov	Group Info graphic Due at 9 AM Group Evaluation Worksheet Due at 9 AM In-class Persuasive Speech Workshop
12		10-Nov	Persuasive Speech Q & A	12-Nov	In-class Persuasive Speech Workshop Persuasive Speech Check-in (PowerPoint/Outline/Citations) <i>Assign Exam 2</i>
13		17-Nov	Persuasive Speech Day	19-Nov	Persuasive Speech Day
14		24-Nov	EXAM 2 Due at 9 AM (Over Chapters 6, 7, 8, & 10)	26-Nov	Thanksgiving Holiday - NO CLASS!
15		1-Dec	Course Wrap-up! Exemptions Release/ Final Q & A	3-Dec	Final Exam Opens at 9 AM
16 FINALS WEEK	<i>Final Exam</i>	8-Dec	Final Exam DUE Tuesday by 9 AM		