

Syllabus for Online Public Speaking

Fall 2026

Instructor: Andrew Vierling

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Office:

Levelland Campus - Communications Building Room 141 OR Lubbock Downtown Campus

Room B007 OR

Online Meeting Space

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday after class (2 - 4 pm)

SPCH 1315 - Online Public Speaking

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: SPCH1315
Revised Fall 2026

Department: Communications

Discipline: Speech Communication
Course Number: SPCH1315
Course Title: Public Speaking
Available Formats: **Conventional**, Internet, Hybrid
Campuses: Levelland, Reese, Plainview, **Lubbock Center**, Online

Course Description: This course will prepare you to communicate in a public and small-group setting, with special emphasis in online contexts to prepare you for the workforce of the future.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:
Communication (010) or Component Area (090)

Textbook: Exploring Public Speaking: Edition 4.2, Tucker et al
Blackboard Access IS REQUIRED
Weblink: <https://www.exploringpublicspeaking.com/download>



This text is part of the OER program. The text is free. It can be found at the link above in many formats, including PDF. There is no physical version of the text, but the student can have it printed at their own expense, if so desired.

Core Curriculum Objectives addressed:

- Communications skills—to include effective written, oral and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Teamwork—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 the demonstrated knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication.
2. Apply elements of audience analysis.
3. Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations for evidence and logic.
4. Research, develop and deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques.
5. Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting speeches.
6. Identify how culture, ethnicity and gender influence communication.
7. Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g. narrative, informative or persuasive)

Course Evaluation:

Course grade will be assessed according to the completion of the following using percentages noted:

Evaluation

Grades in this course are as follows: 90-100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79 % = C; 60 – 69% = D; 59% and below = F

Course grade will be assessed according to the completion of the following using percentages noted:

Major Presentations (speeches)	40%
Exams / major grades	30%
Daily Work, Class Participation	30%

Supplies:

1. Textbook (linked above)
2. Computer, capable of accessing Blackboard
3. Audio / video equipment
4. Speech visual aids

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to facilitate growth within the individual of those skills necessary to be an effective communicator. The course ensures said growth through instruction in the theories and principles comprising effective communication, as well as the application of those theories to the creation and delivery of speeches.

Technical Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer
- High speed internet access
- SPC E-mail
- Word Processing software
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching and listening to course content)
- Web camera and microphone (for video conferencing and recording)
- All software needs to be updated on computer or laptop

Technical Skill Requirements

Be comfortable with the following

- Word Processing
- Using email for communication, attaching documents as PDF for DOCX or ODF
- Internet search engines and browsers
- Recording and uploading video files. Not having a way to record speeches or vlogs will not be tolerated as an excuse for failure to submit assignments.
- The ability to download video files, or to stream files.

Course Requirements:

1. To read the information assigned in the text; anything assigned to be read from the text might appear on an exam.
2. To follow directions on blackboard.
3. To deliver speeches and written materials in a language understood by the instructor.
4. To participate in any required forum discussions.
5. To show maturity and professionalism in preparation of assignments and in classroom behavior. This means speech topics must be appropriate.

6. To show courteousness to fellow classmates/speakers.
7. To seek help from the professor if assistance is required in some way.
8. To appropriately cite information obtained from other sources, both in written and verbal formats. Please refer to the academic honesty section below for further details.
9. To initiate withdrawal from the course if absences become excessive.
Your professor will drop you from the course if you miss more than two weeks' worth of class.

Grade Distribution

Major presentations (40%):

Introductory Presentation
Informative Presentation
Persuasive Presentation
Group Project
Oration of historical speech

Test Grades (30%):

Exam 1
Exam 2
Final Exam

Daily Grades (30%):

Peer-evaluations / self-evaluations
Daily Assignments / Attendance
Speech rough drafts / Topic Submissions, et cetera

Late Work Policy

Module quizzes, learning activities, vlogs/comments, speech uploads, and peer and self-evaluations are due the date mentioned in the syllabus or in class. Late work will not be accepted. The only exception that will be made will be for extended illnesses or a death in the family. In such instances, you must submit verifiable and official documentation to your instructor (e.g., a doctor's note indicating an extended illness or extenuating circumstance). Technological issues are not an excuse for late work. Do your assignments, quizzes and speeches early to ensure you have time for any issues that might arise. If for any reason you miss a speech you can make up 1 speech as determined by your instructor for a 20 point deduction.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may

be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

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. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

Intellectual Exchange, Disabilities, Nondiscrimination, Title 9 Pregnancy, CARE, Concealed Carry, Covid, Artificial Intelligence statements:

<https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>

Academic Honesty:

Appropriate citation and documentation will be 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. In addition, the student may be dropped from the course with a failing grade. See the Student Handbook for more information.

Contacting your professor:

Please feel free to contact your professor if you have questions or concerns about your progress in this class. You may contact your professor in person during office hours, or by email.

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Course Schedule: Tentative, subject to change as needed. Please note that Daily Activities are not listed here. They are generally only assigned in class. When assigned, they are due the next class meeting either in-person or via email before / just after class. If you intend to miss a major assignment (test or speech) I suggest you speak with me BEFORE the due date; Daily Assignments should just be submitted via email.

Week #	Dates	Content Covered	Assignments Due
<u>Week 1</u>	Aug 24 Aug 26	Intro to course / Outlining Chapter 1 - Intro to comm	Intro Speech Assigned / PRCA Intro Speech Delivery
<u>Week 2</u>	Aug 31 Sep 2	Chapters 6 + 2 - Outlining and Audience Analysis Chapter 3 - Ethics	Ethics Activity in class
<u>Week 3</u>	Sep 7 Sep 9	Chapter 4 + 7 - Topics, CIS, Supporting Materials Read Chapter 9 + 12 - slideshows and informative speaking	
<u>Week 4</u>	Sep 14* Sep 16*	Informative Speech Assigned Informative Workshop	Informative Topic Submission Informative Outlines
<u>Week 5</u>	Sep 21* Sep 23	Informative Workshop Informative Deliveries	Informative Slideshows Informative Deliveries
<u>Week 6</u>	Sep 28* Sep 30	Exam 1 Review	Exam 1
<u>Week 7</u>	Oct 5 Oct 7	Chapter 5 + 14 - Research and Logic Chapter 8 + 10 - Intro/Conclusion and Language	
<u>Week 8</u>	Oct 12 Oct 14*	Chapter 13 - Persuasive Speaking Persuasive Assigned	Persuasive Topics
<u>Week 9</u>	Oct 19* Oct 21*	Group Speech Assigned	Persuasive Workshop - Outlines Persuasive Workshop - Slideshows
<u>Week 10</u>	Oct 26 Oct 28	Chapter 11 Delivery	Persuasive Deliveries
<u>Week 11</u>	Nov 2 Nov 4*	Chapter 15 - Special Occasions Oration Assigned	
<u>Week 12</u>	Nov 9* Nov 11	Review for Exam 2	Exam 2
<u>Week 13</u>	Nov 16 Nov 18	Free Speech Activity	Oration Speeches Delivered In-Class Activity
<u>Week 14</u>	Nov 23 Nov 25	HAPPY HAPPY	THANKSGIVING THANKSGIVING
<u>Week 15</u>	Nov 30* Dec 2	Review for Final Group Project Workshop	Group Projects Due
<u>Finals:</u>	Dec 7 - 10	Finals!	Take Final at appointed time!
Important Dates -			
Sep 7 - Labour Day			
DATES MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK (*) - Please bring a computer to class!			
Nov 23 - 27 - Thanksgiving Break			