

**Course Syllabus**

**SPCH 1315**

**Public Speaking**

**Communication Department**

**Division of Arts and Sciences**

**South Plains College  
Lubbock Downtown Center**

**Spring 2026**

**Seth McLean**

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**(DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD COURSE MESSEGES)**

**Office: B006**

**Office Hours:**

**Mon 12:15pm-1:15pm**

**Tues 8:30am-9:30am, 10:45am-12:15pm**

**Wed 12:15pm-1:15pm**

**Thurs 8:30am-9:30am, 10:45am-12:15pm**

**Fri 8:00am-9:00am**

**Office Phone: 806-716-4025**

### Common Course Syllabus: SPCH1315

**Department:** Communication Department

**Discipline:** Communication Studies

**Course Number:** SPCH1315

**Course Title:** Public Speaking

**Course Formats:** This course will be taught in the face-to-face format.

**Campus:** Lubbock Downtown Center

**Room:** B013

**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.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Credit:** 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

**Textbook:** Mr. McLean does not require a textbook for this class.

**Supplies:**

1. At least a 1 GB flash drive
2. Choice of sensory aid materials for oral presentations
3. Internet Access, and access Blackboard with the capabilities of utilizing Windows Media Player/Real Player.
4. Two (2) scantrons for exams (Scantron 26660 available at the coffee shop)

**This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement:**

Institutional Foundational Component Area (090)

**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:**

Major Presentations	40%
Exams, Projects, Daily Work, Class Participation	60%

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Disability Statement:** Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class 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 his/her 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 Accommodations Statement:** 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](mailto:rcanon@southplainscollege.edu) for assistance.

**Covid-19 Policy Statement:**

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

Please also notify DeEtte Edens, BSN, RN, Associate Director of Health & Wellness, at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu) or 806-716-2376. Proof of a positive test is required. A home test is sufficient but students must 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, BSN, RN at [dedens@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:dedens@southplainscollege.edu).**

**Please communicate with DeEtte Edens before returning to class after your 3 day isolation period.**

**Course Requirements:**

1. To read the information assigned in the text; you will be tested on this material, in addition to class lecture/discussion materials on scheduled exams.
2. To perform speeches and written material in a language understood by the instructor and class.
3. To take thorough notes (no pictures of notes) and study all lecture material, informational handouts, and assigned readings.
4. To actively participate in class discussions and group activities.
5. To show maturity and professionalism in preparation of assignments and in classroom behavior.
6. To show courteousness to fellow classmates/speakers (i.e. no electronic devices during speeches).
7. To initiate consultations with the instructor whenever assistance is needed regarding class assignments.
8. To appropriately cite information obtained from other sources, both in written and verbal formats. Any assignment found to be AI generated will receive a grade of zero. Do your own work! Please refer to the academic honesty section of the student code of conduct for further details.
9. A student may not pass the course if (s)he fails to complete two or more major assignments.
10. Laptops/tablets are not permitted for the purpose of note taking in the classroom
11. Grades will be posted regularly. Please review grades and comments regularly. Students have 48 hours to contest grades. After this time, grades will not be reviewed.

**Specific Attendance Policy Restated**

1. All students enrolled for this course are expected to attend class regularly, be on time, and remain until dismissed.
2. Roll will be taken at each class meeting.
3. If a student is tardy, he/she should speak with the instructor after class to avoid having tardies count toward absences.
4. Students are responsible for all classwork covered during absences from class even in cases in which they are able to satisfy the instructor that the absence was unavoidable.
5. If a student leaves class prior to dismissal of the class, he/she will be counted absent.
6. The only absences labeled as "excused" are those absences due to participation in school functions, or documentable absences due to illness (doctor's note required in the next class period), or a death in the family requires the student to be in attendance of a funeral (proof required).
7. **The instructor may administratively drop a student due to excessive absences (lack of participation).**

**Note: Excessive absences is defined as any number of absences above 4 class periods.**

**Behaviors that will get you counted absent:**

1. Wearing earbuds during class is disrespectful and not conducive to learning during class.
2. Watching videos during class.
3. Sleeping during class.
4. Disengaging from the class (cell phone/electronic usage).
5. Reading/studying for other courses during my class.
6. Disruptive behavior.
7. Leaving early.
8. Leaving for excessively long periods of time during class.

**Make-up Work:**

Make-up work is **NOT** guaranteed. **All work has a deadline and deadlines must be met even if the student is absent.** An absence on the day that you are scheduled for oral presentations or examinations will result in a grade of zero for the assignment unless you meet one of the standards for and “excused absence” according to course policy. Being unprepared OR not knowing the date of your speech or exam is not an acceptable excuse! If, according to the instructor’s discretion, the student is allowed to make up such a presentation or exam, the student may receive a late penalty for the assignment. Only **ONE** speech may be made up during the semester on the designated date for make-ups.

**Note:**

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

**Course Assignment Grade Percentage**

<b>Who am I? Speech</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Informative Speech</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Persuasive Speech</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Special Occasion Speech</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Crisis Management Address</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Exam 2 (Final Exam)</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Attendance/Activities</b>	<b>20%</b>