

Syllabus for Business and Professional Speech

Spring 2026

Mon / Wed: 1 - 2:15

Instructor: Andrew Vierling

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Office:

Levelland Campus - Communications Building Room 141 OR

Online Meeting Space

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9:30a - 11:30a

Tuesday: 1p - 3p

South Plains College
Course Syllabus: SPCH1321
Revised Spring 2026

Department: Communications

Discipline: Speech Communication

Course Number: SPCH1321

Course Title: Business & Professional Communication

Available Formats: **Conventional**, Internet, Hybrid

Campuses: **Levelland**, Plainview, Downtown Lubbock Center

Course Description: Study and application of communication within the business and professional context. Special emphasis will be given to communication competencies in presentations, dyads, teams and technologically mediated formats.

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

This course partially satisfies a Core Curriculum Requirement: Communication (010)

Textbook: Textbook: Communication for Business Professionals: Canadian Edition, Simon et al

Blackboard Access IS REQUIRED.

Weblink:

<https://collection.bccampus.ca/textbooks/communication-for-business-professionals-canadian-edition-ecampusontario-82/>



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. The student can order a hardcopy or have it printed, at their own expense, if 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 communication competence and critical thinking through an understanding of the foundational communication models.
2. Demonstrate essential public speaking skills in professional presentations.
3. Demonstrate written and oral competencies as it relates to employment (including job searches, interviews, interpersonal interaction, conflict management, leadership and performance appraisals.)
4. Apply essential dyadic and small group processes as they relate to the workplace.
5. Utilize various technologies as they relate to competent communication.
6. Demonstrate effective cross-cultural communication.

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)	30%
Exams / major grades	40%
Daily Work, Class Participation	30%

Supplies:

1. Textbook, digital or physical
2. Computer, capable of accessing Blackboard
3. Speech visual aids
4. Audio Recording Device for IGI
5. Composition Notebook

Interactive Notebooks

You may have heard of this style of note-taking and studying. The basic idea is that you will have a notebook which has information from each chapter, along with activities completed in class, end of chapter assignments, and other necessary course materials. This will, by the end of the semester, be something you can keep as a communications reference guide for future use in class or your career.

In order to get credit for your Interactive Notebook test grade, you will be required to have a written notebook to submit at the end of the term for me to review. You are expected to keep it organized, or be able to show me the location of all vocabulary lists and definitions for each chapter found in the book. Vocabulary must be hand-written.

Technical Requirements

- Desktop or laptop computer
- High speed internet access
- SPC E-mail
- Word Processing / slideshow software

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 in class and from blackboard
3. To deliver speeches and written materials in a language understood by the instructor.
4. To participate in class 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 courtesy 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.
10. To keep electronic use during class at a minimum. If you have to be told to put your device away more than once in a class period you will be asked to leave, and will be given a zero for any activities completed in class. You will still be responsible for work assigned or due that day.

Grade Distribution

Major presentations (30%):

- Introductory Outline
- Informative Presentation
- Persuasive Presentation
- Group Presentation

Test Grades (40%):

- Resume/Cover Letter/Mock Interview
- Information Gathering Interview
- Exam 1
- Exam 2
- Final Exam
- Interactive Notebook

Daily Grades (30%):

- In-class activities
- Peer-evaluations
- Self-evaluations
- Speech supplementary materials (topic proposals, et cetera)
- Attendance

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.

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.

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. Please try to let him know in advance if you will have to miss class. You may contact your professor in person during office hours, or by email.

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

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

Course Schedule: Very Tentative, Subject to changes during semester. I will issue a new schedule as necessary to accommodate said changes. Please note that daily activities are not listed. This is deliberate; I will assign daily tasks during class. This means missing class will almost certainly result in missing grades.

<u>Week #</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Content Covered</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
<u>Week 1</u>	Jan 12 Jan 14	Intro to course / Outlining Chapter 1	Intro Speech Assigned / PRCA Introductory Speech Delivery
<u>Week 2</u>	Jan 19 Jan 21	MLK DAY Chapter 2 + 3	
<u>Week 3</u>	Jan 26 Jan 28	Chapter 10 + 5/ IGI Assigned	IGI worksheet Informative Assigned/Topic Proposals
<u>Week 4</u>	Feb 2 Feb 4	Informative Workshop - outline Informative Workshop - visual aid	
<u>Week 5</u>	Feb 9 Feb 11		Informative Speech Delivery Informative Speech Delivery
<u>Week 6</u>	Feb 16 Feb 18	Chapter 7	Test Review Exam 1
<u>Week 7</u>	Feb 23 Feb 25	Resume / Cover Letter Assigned Chapter 4	Resume workshop
<u>Week 8</u>	March 2 March 4	Chapter 6	R+CL due Mock Interviews
<u>Week 9</u>	March 9 March 11	Free Speech Activity Chapter 8 / Group Speech Assn	In-class activity
<u>Week 10</u>	March 16 March 18	SPRING SPRING	BREAK BREAK
<u>Week 11</u>	March 23 March 25	Chapter 9 Chapter 11	
<u>Week 12</u>	March 30 April 1	Chapter 12 / Persuasive Spch Assn	Topic Proposals Due Review for Exam 2
<u>Week 13</u>	April 6 April 8	Persuasive Workshop	Exam 2 Persuasive Outline Due
<u>Week 14</u>	April 13 April 15	Persuasive Workshop	Persuasive Visual Aid Due Persuasive Delivery - Day 1
<u>Week 15</u>	April 20 April 22		Persuasive Delivery - Day 2 Persuasive Delivery - Day 3 / IGI due
<u>Week 14</u>	April 27 April 29	Group Project Workshop Review for Final	Group Project Due
<u>Finals:</u>	May 4 - 7	Finals Week	Group Project Viewing and finals!

Important Dates -

MLK Day - January 19th
Spring Break - March 16 - 20