

Syllabus for Online Business and Professional Speech

Spring 2021

Instructor: Andrew Vierling

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Office:

Reese Room 203: Thursday 5 - 6 pm

Office Hours:

Department: Communication Department

Discipline: Speech Communication

Credit: 3 credit hours

Textbook: Communicating at Work: Strategies for Success in Business and the Professions, with CONNECT access, by Ronald B Adler, Jeanne Elmhurst, and Kristen Lucas, 12th Edition.

Supplies:

1. Textbook with Connect platform
2. One audio recording device (may be acquired from SPC Library when needed, phones generally can do this)
3. Composition notebook and writing utensil for Interactive Notebook
4. Speech visual aids
5. Access to a computer with high speed internet
6. Flash Drive with at least 1gb storage for interview(cell phones often work)
7. Access to Blackboard for assignments, grades, and important dates
8. Access to Connect platform

Course Description: This course includes the basic principles of speech applied to a business context. The course emphasizes applying theoretical knowledge to real situations which simulate a business environment.

Course Objectives satisfied:

Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

Critical Thinking - to include creative thinking, innovation, and inquiry as well as analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.

Team Work - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.

Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Purpose: The purpose of this course is to facilitate growth within the individual of those skills necessary to be an effective communicator in any professional or business context. The course ensures said growth through instruction in the theories and principles comprising effective communication, followed by application of these theories and principles to situations that simulate a professional environment.

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 complete assignments in the Connect Platform to demonstrate mastery
3. To deliver speeches and written materials in a language understood by the instructor and the class.
4. To participate in classroom discussions and online forums.
5. To show maturity and professionalism in preparation of assignments and in online 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.

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.

ADA 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. For more information call or visit the Disability Services Office.

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (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, please refer to the SPC policy at:

(http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.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.

Diversity Statement - In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve the challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement - If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. 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 Crystal Gilster, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cgilster@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

Synchronous Meetings - This class will meet eight times over the course of the semester, on a yet-to-be determined Friday. Each evening will have two meetings, each with 10 spots available, and meetings will begin at 6 pm and 7:30 pm. That will be the topic of our first Forum Discussion. You are required to attend two of these meetings.

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.

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 grades will be assessed according to the following percentages:

Major Assignments = 80%

Daily Grades = 20%

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will not be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. Note: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

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.

Grade Distribution

Major Assignments:

- Introductory Presentation
- Informative Presentation
- Persuasive Presentation
- Special Occasion Presentation
- Synchronous Meeting Attendance
- Resume/Cover Letter/Mock Interview
- Information Gathering Interview
- Exam 1
- Exam 2
- Comprehensive Final Exam

Daily Grades

- Activities
- Peer-evaluations
- Online Discussion Forums
- Speech rough drafts

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 the 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.

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 or she should speak with professor after class to avoid having tardies count toward absences.
4. Two (2) tardies will constitute an absence.
5. If a student leaves class prior to dismissal of the class, he or she will be counted absent.
6. Whenever absences become excessive and minimum course objectives cannot be met, the student should initiate withdrawal from the course.
7. “Excessive absences” can be defined as more than two weeks worth of unexcused absences through the course of the semester.
8. 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 requiring the student to be in attendance of a funeral (proof required).
9. The instructor will administratively drop a student due to excessive absences.
10. Students are responsible for classwork covered during absences from class even in cases in which they are able to satisfy the instructor that the absence was unavoidable.

Late Work Policy

Module quizzes, learning activities, vlogs/comments, speech uploads, and peer and self-evaluations are due by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on the Friday of the week assigned. Your Connect Platform also has due dates listed. 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.

Video Conferences where you will deliver synchronous speeches are mandatory. Because our meeting times are strictly scheduled, there is only ONE opportunity to make-up a missed speech for an EXCUSED absence. Excused absences include illness, family death, emergency, an official school trip or an official school activity, ONLY IF DOCUMENTATION IS PROVIDED. The instructor determines the date/time which is posted on your schedule.

If for any reason you miss a speech you can make up 1 speech as determined by your instructor for a 20 point deduction.

Make-up Policy:

Make-up work is NOT guaranteed. All work has a deadline and deadlines must be met even if the student is absent. See the professor's locator information for emailing work if you are not in class. 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 following requirements. Students may only make up speeches in the event of sickness or the death of a family member and in both cases must provide proof. In the case of sickness, a doctor's note is required to make up a speech. If you don't go to the doctor, then you are not sick enough to miss class! In the event of a funeral, the funeral program or obituary is required. These are the only two cases accepted for any form of makeup speeches. Being unprepared or not knowing the date of your speech 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 will automatically receive a grade drop of 10 points for the assignment. Only ONE speech may be made up during the semester or the designated date for makeups.

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

1. Communication Process: Understanding the communication process
2. Communication Systems and Cultures: Have an awareness of communication systems and communicative cultures.

3. Verbal Communication: Identify, prepare, and deliver clear messages and presentations.

4. Nonverbal Communication: Understand, define, utilize, and interpret different categories of nonverbal communication.

5. Listening: Become aware of poor listening habits, understand the benefits of good listening habits. Be able to practice good listening habits.

6. Interviewing: Identify different types of interviews, evaluate effective interview skills, prepare job interview documents, and conduct an effective information gathering interview.

7. Small groups: Define a small group. Identify the roles taken by small-group participants. Understand functional and dysfunctional team behaviors. Be able to function as an indispensable member of a small-group.

8. Public Speaking: Deliver multiple presentations in a credible and competent way. Foster confidence in one's ability to deliver a speech alone or in a group. Be able to listen to and interpret public speeches delivered by classmates and others more effectively.

Course Schedule - Tentative, subject to change as needed. Assignment due dates are as assigned in class; it is for these reasons that attendance on each class day is crucial for your success. Also note that daily activities are not listed on particular days. This is deliberate. Daily activities can include anything done as a class and submitted on paper to the professor before class is dismissed, via interactive notebooks, or via blackboard.

<u>Week #</u> <u>Dates</u>	<u>Content Covered</u>	<u>Major Assignments</u>
<u>Week 1</u> Jan 19 - 22	Course Introduction	
<u>Week 2</u> Jan 25 - 29	Chapter 1	Introductory Assigned
<u>Week 3</u> Feb 1 - 5	Chapter 2	Introductory Speeches
<u>Week 4</u> Feb 8 - 12	Chapter 9	Informative Assigned
<u>Week 5</u> Feb 15 - 19	Chapter 10	IGI Assigned
<u>Week 6</u> Feb 22 - 26	Chapter 11	Exam 1 / Inf Synch Day 1 Resume/CL Assigned
<u>Week 7</u> Mar 1 - 5	Chapter 3	Resume / Cover Letter due
<u>Week 8</u> Mar 8 - 12	Chapter 6	Inf Synch Day 2 Persuasive Assigned
<u>Week 9</u> Mar 15 - 19	Spring Break	Spring Break
<u>Week 10</u> Mar 22 - 26	Chapter 12	Mock Interview due
<u>Week 11</u> Mar 29 - Apr 2	Easter break Fri	Work on Persuasive Speech
<u>Week 12</u> Apr 5 - 9	Chapter 4	Special Occasion Assigned Pers Synchronous Day 1
<u>Week 13</u> Apr 12 - 16	Chapter 5	IGI due Pers. Synchronous Day 2
<u>Week 14</u> Apr 19 - 23	Chapter 7	Special Occasion due
<u>Week 15</u> Apr 26 - 30	Chapter 8	Exam 2
<u>Week 16</u> May 3 - 7	Review for Final	Review for Final
<u>Finals Week:</u>	May 10 - 13	Comprehensive Final

Important Dates:
Mar 15 - 19: spring break
April 2: Good Friday
April 29: last day to drop