



# COMM 001: FUNDAMENTALS/PUBLIC SPEAKING

**Proposer:****Name:**

Cynthia Johnson

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**Effective Term:**

Fall 2025

**Credit Status:**

Credit - Degree Applicable

**Subject:**

COMM - Communication

**Course Number:**

001

**Discipline:**

And/Or	(	Discipline	)
		Communication Studies	

**Catalog Title**

Fundamentals of Public Speaking

**Catalog Description**

This introductory communication course offers students the tools and confidence necessary to elevate their voices within a democratic society, with a focus on the foundational theoretical frameworks to help create and share knowledge. Students are coached on how to organize, develop, and deliver speeches in an inclusive environment. In this course, students also have the opportunity to discover, develop, and critique diverse ideas in public discourse through research, reasoning, organization, outlining, presenting and evaluating speeches in various contexts.

**Method of Instruction:**

Distance Education

Lecture and/or Discussion

**Course Units/Hours:****Course Units Minimum:**

3

**Lecture Hours Minimum (week)**

3

**Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)**

52.5

**Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)**

105

**Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)**

157.5

**Repeatability:**

No

**Open Entry/Exit:**

No

**Field Trips:**

Not Required

**Grade Mode:**

Standard Letter

**TOP Code:**

150600 - Speech Communication

**SAM Code:**

E - Non-Occupational

## Course Content

**Methods of Assessment:**

Essay quizzes or exams

Oral presentations

Problem solving assignments or activities

Short answer quizzes or exams

**Course Topics:**

Course Topics	
1	Types, theories, and techniques of public speaking taught in English.
2	Critical analysis of public discourse.
3	Principles of ethical human communication including truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and sound reasoning.
4	Managing communication apprehension.
5	Listening critically and providing constructive feedback.
6	Speech organization and outlining.
7	Selecting, organizing, and evaluating, relevant and credible supporting materials.
8	Foundations of knowledge sharing including informative speaking, the five canons of rhetoric, Aristotle's modes of proof, rhetorical devices, and methods of persuasion.
9	Elements of dynamic delivery including verbal, nonverbal, and extemporaneous delivery.
10	Elements of effective public speaking, including analysis of communication situation, ethics and diversity, audience, occasion, purpose, selection of subject matter, research, evidence evaluation, organization, and evaluation of communication effectiveness.

**Course Objectives:**

Course Objectives	
1	Explain the basic principles of human communication and the role of ethical public speaking in a democratic society.
2	Demonstrate the ability to effectively prepare for, organize, and extemporaneously deliver informative and persuasive presentations to a live audience.
3	Identify and apply ethical strategies in the process of creating and delivering speeches, including truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and integrity in communication.
4	Analyze their communication situation, audience, occasion, speech purpose, and selection of subject matter.
5	Demonstrate rhetorical sensitivity to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility while engaging in the public speaking process.
6	Conceptualize and utilize compelling arguments and sound reasoning in support of a guiding thesis and organizational pattern appropriate for the audience, occasion, and across a variety of contexts.
7	Demonstrate the ability to discover, critically evaluate, and accurately report credible information.
8	Demonstrate careful and critical thinking as speakers and as listeners.
9	Identify and apply rhetorical principles to effectively evaluate the messages of others including peers and historical and contemporary public discourse.

### Course Outcomes:

Course Outcomes	
1	Students will be able to explain the basic principles of human communication and the role of ethical public speaking in a democratic society.
2	Students will be able to effectively manage communication apprehension and prepare, organize, and deliver informative and persuasive presentations to a live audience.
3	Students will be able to demonstrate effective verbal, nonverbal, and extemporaneous speech delivery.
4	Students will be able to analyze their communication situation, audience, occasion, and speech purpose and select appropriate subject matter.
5	Students will be able to demonstrate rhetorical sensitivity to cultural diversity, inclusion, and accessibility while engaging in the public speaking process.
6	Students will be able to conceptualize and utilize compelling arguments and sound reasoning in support of a guiding thesis and organizational pattern appropriate for the audience, occasion, and across a variety of contexts.
7	Students will be able to discover, critically evaluate, and integrate credible, relevant, and accurate supporting materials in presentations.
8	Students will be able to explain and apply theoretical foundations of communicating knowledge including use of the canons of rhetoric and Aristotelian proofs (ethos, pathos, and logos).
9	Students will be able to identify and apply rhetorical principles to effectively evaluate the messages of others including peers and historical and contemporary public discourse.

### Assignments:

Assignment Type:	Details
Other	<p>Informative Speech (oral presentation)</p> <p>The objective of this assignment is to provide students with experience in informative speaking. Each presentation should be audience adapted, organized, researched based, and extemporaneous. Using the forms of support discussed in the text and in class, develop and construct a speech in English that addresses ONE of the following: Objects, people, places, events, ideas, or procedures in front of a live audience of their peers and a faculty member. In online courses, this presentation will be performed in front of a live audience of peers and a faculty member via tele-conference.</p>
Writing	<p>Speaker Assessment Paper</p> <p>Over the course of the semester, you will be required to assess your own public speaking effectiveness. In 2 different papers of varying lengths, you will assess your strengths and weaknesses as a public speaker as well as discuss strategies you plan to use to improve your effectiveness.</p>
Reading	<p>Famous Speech Reading Assignment</p> <p>Pick a transcript of a famous historical speech (e.g. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech). Read the transcript and in a one page response identify uses of ethos, pathos, and logos.</p>
Homework	<p>Speech Outline Rough Draft</p> <p>Using the format discussed in class, students should write their speech using the Visual Outline Format and label key speech elements throughout (Attention getter, Thesis, Preview Statement, etc). Bring rough draft to class and work in groups to edit and refine.</p>
Other	<p>Persuasive speech. The objective of this presentation is to offer the student the experience of building persuasive arguments, as well as utilizing learned fallacies, the canons of rhetoric, modes of proof and support research within the content. Presentation will be performed in front of a live audience of their peers and a faculty member. In online courses, this presentation will be performed in front of a live audience of peers and a faculty member via tele-conference.</p>

### Textbooks or other support materials

Resource Type:	Details
Books	The Art of Public Speaking. Stephen Lucas and Paul Stob. Publisher: McGraw Hill. (2023). ISBN10: 1265455643. ISBN13: 9781265455644.
Books	Speak Up!: An Illustrated Guide to Public Speaking. 5th Edition. 2019 By: Fraleigh and Tuman. Publisher: Bedford/St. Martins. ISBN: 978-1319208127

**Zero Textbook Cost**

The Public Speaking Project. Lisa Schreiber and Morgan Hartranft. Millersville University. 2024. OER: [https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Communication/Public\\_Speaking/Public\\_Speaking\\_\(The\\_Public\\_Speaking\\_Project\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Communication/Public_Speaking/Public_Speaking_(The_Public_Speaking_Project))

**Equity Review:**

Yes

**Transferable to CSU**

Yes - Approved

**CSU General Education**

CSU GE A1: Oral Communication  
Transferable to CSU

**Transferable to UC**

Yes - Proposed

**UC/IGETC General Education**

IGETC 1C: Oral Communication  
Transferable to UC

**COS General Education**

COS GE A2: Oral Communication/Analytic Thinking

**Other Degree Attributes**

Degree Applicable  
Not a Basic Skills Course

**Distance Learning Addendum**

DLA Comm 1 Updated 2024.pdf

**Banner Title:**

Fundamentals/Public Speaking

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:**

11/16/2019

**Academic Senate Approval Date:**

01/22/2020

**District Governing Board Approval Date:**

02/10/2020

**Course Control Number:**

CCC000451971

**C-ID:**

COMM110