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COMX 111A.15: Introduction to Public Speaking

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SPRING SEMESTER 2022

COMX 111 A, SECTION 15 (CRN 32227)

CLASS TIME: T/TH 12:30 PM - 1:50 PM, LIBERAL ARTS (LA) 304

INSTRUCTOR: LIZZY (ELIZABETH) SHOLEY

ELIZABETH2.COOK@UMCONNECT.UMT.EDU

OFFICE HOURS: DROP-IN WEDNESDAYS BETWEEN 11 AM- 1 PM IN LA 339, BY APPOINTMENT, OR VIA ZOOM

Hi there! Welcome to Intro to Public Speaking! I'm so glad that you decided to take this course. It can be difficult course, but I can assure you that this class with greatly benefit you not only in your academic life, but also in your future careers. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and watching you develop your public speaking skills!

Required Course Materials:

Book: Kristina Ruiz-Mesa & Melissa A. Broeckelman-Post. Inclusive Public Speaking: Communicating in a Diverse World

All readings for this course will be through the Top Hat digital learning platform, which hosts this semester's **online textbook**. Embedded throughout this text are interactive questions pertaining to the readings, which will be factored into your overall grade for the course. The textbook can be purchased directly through Top Hat or through the campus bookstore where you will purchase a code and then log into Top Hat to join the course textbook. Please use the personalized course link and course code provided to you for this section of Public Speaking: **438619** and <https://app.tophat.com/e/438619> If you are new to Top Hat and don't have an account, watch this orientation video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/kKM34vIcCbQ>. If you have any trouble signing into Top Hat or gaining access to the course, email support@tophat.com.

Recently we learned that not all parts of the Top Hat platform used in this course are accessible to individuals who use screen readers or speech to text technologies. If you use this technology and can't access the course content or have difficulties using TOPHAT please contact [Accessible Technology Services](#). They will assist you with finding a solution.

There will also be readings from the **Course Packet (CP)**, which is also embedded within the textbook. This is material specifically designed by the Communication Studies Department for this class that includes activities and readings. Make sure you are reading from not only the textbook chapter, but also the assigned CP content throughout the semester.

Electronic Device: You will need access to a smartphone, laptop, or tablet to read the textbook and complete certain assignments. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are unable to access a suitable device either at home or on campus.

Format of the Course:

Instruction

- For the time being, **this class will be held in-person in LA 304**. As the semester progresses, we frequently evaluate whether it is safe to continue meeting in person in light of COVID-19.
- You will need to complete all readings/videos and assignments by a certain date. Class time will be used to reinforce difficult material, have question and answer time, and complete activities.
- Attendance will be taken every class for participation and COVID-19 purposes.
- In class sessions, I will give a short lecture going over material I think is most important from the week's readings and assignments. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, and we will work on activities that strengthen the skills you are building through readings, videos, and assignments.
- You are expected to come on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Class will meet for the full 80 minutes allotted to us.
- You will earn participation points for the activities we do in class. If you cannot attend class in person, you will still be responsible for the activities completed in class. Please let me know as soon as possible if you know that you will not be attending class, and we can set up a comparable activity for you to receive participation points.
- For some class sessions, you may be asked to download/print off worksheets or activities. It is unlikely, but just in case, make sure to check Moodle before class to make sure you are prepared for the day!
- I will discourage the use of electronic devices in class unless (a) we need them for an assignment or (b) you specifically let me know that is how you take notes. If you do use an electronic device frequently, I will request that you sit

near the back of the classroom, so you don't unintentionally distract your fellow classmates.

COVID-19 Protocols:

My goal is for this semester is for it to be both engaging and safe. If for some reason you do not feel physically safe coming to class or if you have been exposed to COVID, please do not attend class in-person. There will always be an opportunity to make up coursework! I would prefer everyone to try to attend in person as much as possible, but I understand this is an uncertain time and we need to be flexible! Below are the current University policies regarding COVID-19:

- Mask use is required within the classroom.
- When possible, windows will be open in the classroom
- If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please don't come to class and contact the Curry Health Center at (406) 243-4330.
- If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support in the class to ensure continued academic progress. You can chat with me about whether you would like to attend class via Zoom or if you would prefer asynchronous instruction and materials. Regardless of your preference, I will work with you depending on your circumstances!
- UM recommends students get the COVID-19 vaccine. Please direct your questions or concerns about vaccines to Curry Health Center.
- Where social distancing (maintaining consistent 6 feet between individuals) is not possible, specific seating arrangements will be used to support contact tracing efforts.
- Class attendance and seating will be recorded to support contact tracing efforts.
- Eating food is discouraged within the classroom. Water will be allowed; however, you cannot fully take your mask off to drink.
- If the class is being recorded, students will be notified of the recording.
- Up-to-Date COVID-19 Information from the University of Montana:
 - UM Coronavirus Website: <https://www.umt.edu/coronavirus>
- We strongly encourage you to remain vigilant outside the classroom in mitigating the spread of COVID-19

Grading & Class Points

Points Breakdown

Speech 1: Narrative Speech

- Performance: 75 points
- Speaking Notes and Outline: 25 Points

Total: 100 points

Speech 2: Informative Speech

- Draft working outline: 15 points
- Performance: 125 points
- Final working outline: 25 points
- Speaking Notes, Bibliography, Sources: 25 points

Total: 190 points

Speech 3: Persuasive Speech

- Performance: 150 points
- Final working outline: 25 points
- Speaking Notes, Bibliography, Sources: 25 points

Total: 200 points

Speech 4: Ceremonial Speech

- Performance: 125 points
- Manuscript: 25 points

Total: 150 points

Other Assignments

- Speeches 2 and 4: Two topic proposals at 10 points each
- Speech 3: Persuasive draft outline: 15 points
 - Supplemental assignments: 45 points
- Mid-semester feedback: 5 points
- Participation in class: 65 points
- Peer Evaluations: 100 points (10 points for one evaluation)
 - Speeches 2-4: 9 evaluations (three per speech) at 10 points each
- Self Evaluations: 60 points (4 evaluations at 15 points each)

➤ Outside Speaker Assignment: 50 points

Total Points Available: 1000

****Tip: This means that every 10 points you earn is worth 1% of your grade...skipping small assignments adds up quickly and makes it tougher to earn an A at the end of the semester!*

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on four major speaking assignments, smaller assignments related to the speeches, and in-class exercises. Some assignment dates, point values, and readings are subject to change.

Grading Breakdown:

This is a difficult course for a variety of reasons. **I don't expect you to be perfect! I want you to put in your best effort and do good work.** Keep in mind that a C means that you have all the criteria for a speech, while an A means that you gave an outstanding speech. Also, in order to earn your general education requirement for this course, you must obtain at least a C (72.5% or higher) per University general education standards.

>925 = A 924-900=A- 899-875 = B+ 874-825 = B 824-800 = B-
799-775 = C+ 774-725 = C 724-700 = C- 699-600 = D <600 = F

Speech Completion: Failure to complete ALL FOUR formal speeches will result in a failing grade for this course, regardless of total points earned.

Policies and Resources

Schedule Changes: I reserve the right to make modifications to this syllabus as needed, and I will inform you by email if changes are necessary. Like last semester, this semester is full of unknowns, so please be patient with me if I need to adjust dates or assignments along the way.

Extra Credit Opportunities: For **each unit**, you have the option to earn 5 extra credit points prior to your speech day by completing an activity. You may do the extra credit opportunities anytime during the unit, but **only** for the specified unit. They are due on the same day that your speeches are.

1. **Narrative Speech Unit:** Practice email etiquette and send me an email!
 - You can practice writing a professional email by following the guidelines that I will assign you. Please see the attachment on our Moodle page for detailed instructions.
2. **Informative Speech Unit:** Visit the Writing and Public Speaking Center (WPSC) virtually for help with your outline
 - Please forward me the email you get from the WPSC after you complete your visit
 - You can work on brainstorming, arguments, research, etc. with the WPSC.
3. **Persuasive Speech Unit:** Film yourself practicing your persuasive speech and write a short reflection
 - First, take a video of yourself practicing the whole speech as if you were giving it to the class. Note: please do not film your first or second attempt at giving the speech – rehearse it a few times, and then film it for reflection.
 - Second, watch yourself giving the speech, making note of areas of strength and weakness.
 - Third, write a short, two-paragraph reflection in which you address elements of your speech that went well in the first paragraph and elements that could be improved in the second paragraph. Consult the speech rubric for ideas of what to discuss.
 - Fourth, email me the paragraph.
4. **Ceremonial Speech Unit:** Give a ceremonial speech to someone you appreciate!
 - Film yourself giving a 3-5 minute speech to your chosen person and send me the recording. If you feel comfortable, send me a little explanation of why you chose this person. Points will not be taken away if you don't explain why.
 - This ceremonial speech is separate from your assigned ceremonial speech, so this speech must be completely different from the one you present in class. You will not get credit if they are identical.
 - Please keep in mind COVID safety protocols!

Sharing Videos: Please do not share, record, store, or repost the videos assigned through this course that were curated specifically for COMX111 (i.e. videos that I or another TA appear in) without express permission from me.

Campus Resources – Basic Needs Statement: Any student who faces challenges securing food, housing, or healthcare and believes that this could affect their performance in this course is urged to contact the appropriate campus resource. I have a document on our Moodle page that has a list of several services. If those resources don't fit your situation, please come see me with concerns you have, and I will do my best to help connect you with additional resources (if you are comfortable with doing that!).

Respect: Please show respect for your instructor and your peers at all times. This class will maintain a civil, safe, and professional atmosphere. Respect differing opinions, backgrounds, and identities. Do not use vulgar or offensive language. We will create a supportive learning environment throughout the semester, and everyone is responsible for maintaining it. This not only includes communication in the classroom, but also online. Please be mindful of your grammar and language as you post on the Moodle page and write emails to me.

If the name on my roster is not the name you wish to be called, please send me an email, and let me know how I should address you. I will also do my best to pronounce your name correctly; if I am mispronouncing your name, you are welcome to correct me. Finally, you have the right to be referred to with the pronouns you are most comfortable with, and I encourage you list your pronouns in the extra credit email assignment and/or let me know if I have incorrectly addressed you.

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Communication: This is a communication course. Beyond just public speaking, communication involves interpersonal interaction, addressing conflict, and using your voice. If you have any questions, concerns, complications, or need any accommodations regarding assignments, grades, policies, etc., I expect you to communicate with me! Please let me know in a timely, respectful, and professional manner, and I will do my best to work out a solution with you.

- Please make sure that you are checking your email frequently! I will contact you to remind you of important events coming up throughout the semester, if there is a schedule change, or important announcements related to our course. **I expect you to keep up on the emails I send-you may miss important information if you don't!** If your university email is not working properly, please let me know and I will do my best to assist you. Please keep in mind that I check and reply to emails between 9 AM- 5 PM daily. If you email me before or after this time, I will not answer unless it is an emergency.

Office Hours and Appointments: My office hours will be held on Wednesdays from 11 AM – 1 P.M in-person in LA 339. I am also available by appointment, or we can set up a Zoom call to discuss your questions or concerns about the course.

Academic Honesty: I (and the entire COMX department) take academic honesty extremely seriously. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with plagiarism, to ensure your work is your own, and to properly attribute any information that you are including in assignments, speeches, etc. University of Montana's Student Conduct Code can be found at <http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/StudentConductCode1.pdf>. The following types of plagiarism, as well as all other forms of academic dishonesty outlined in the Student Conduct Code, will result in an F on the assignment and any additional disciplinary action deemed appropriate, including receiving an F as a final course grade:

- Incremental plagiarism (not attributing quotes or passages to a source properly)
- Patchwork plagiarism (cutting and pasting from multiple sources and making minor or no alterations)
- Global plagiarism (using a “canned” speech, reading a speech written by somebody else or in any other way using a source in its entirety without proper attribution)

Please keep in mind that all work is expected to be completed only by you, unless given explicit permission to work with a partner or in a group. If you are caught not turning in your own individual work, disciplinary action will be taken.

For Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability that may require modification of the course, please obtain appropriate documentation from the Office of Disability Equity and then see me to discuss what, if any, special arrangements need to be made. Please do so within the first 2 weeks of class in order to be effectively accommodated.

Other Instructors: Every once in a while, you will be assigned a video or have someone other than myself come in and teach you about a particular subject! The other graduate students are amazing and have a lot of different strengths, and sometimes I will want to share their talents with y'all! I am hoping to feature some guest lecturers as well. I want you to have a diverse range of people who can offer you their best advice on how to speak well in public!

Controversial Speech Topics: For two of your speech topics, you will be asked to inform or persuade us on a topic. It is required to speak about controversial topics. I will ask you to look at both sides of the argument, however! I will also ask you to be creative about your perspective if you choose a topic that is discussed often. You will be writing topic proposals, so we will have a chance to discuss your topics when the time comes. Always keep in mind that we need to respect our fellow classmates at all times.

Flexibility: I want to say right up front that I understand that this is an unusual time to be going to college, and I get that things are uncertain! If you need an extension on an assignment due to something beyond your control, please reach out. I want you to succeed! I won't be flexible about things that are in your control (like oversleeping, choosing not to complete an assignment, etc.), however. **Just communicate with me**, and hopefully we can work something out.

Extensions on Assignments: I get that life happens, and at times, Public Speaking is not your number one priority. If you communicate with me at least 24 hours before an assignment is due, I will give you an extension. You are welcome to share why you need the extensions, but it is not required. **All I ask that you communicate me with me in a timely and efficient manner.** We will figure out the logistics of your extension on a case-by-case scenario.

Adding or Dropping a Class: Turns out this class isn't right for you? That's okay! Please go to <http://www.umt.edu/undergrad-advising-center/i-need-to/add-drop.php> for details. If you add within the first seven days of class, it doesn't cost you anything and it's easy to do from Cyberbear. Dropping a class can be done from Cyberbear as well, and up to the fifteenth day of class, you won't get penalized for dropping. After that, it gets a little more complicated, but it can be done!

What Will my Week Look Like?

Mondays:

By Monday at 11:59pm MST, you should have read any readings assigned that week. You may also sometimes have smaller assignments due on Mondays as well.

Tuesdays/Thursdays:

On Tuesdays and Thursday, we will meet during our scheduled class time. In class, we will have lecture and an activity or discussion to apply the skills you learned about through that week's content. This is where you will earn participation points! Often, you will have readings or homework assigned in between classes so you will be prepared for the next day's class.

Fridays:

On Fridays, any exercises for the week will be due. You will often have assignments that will reinforce the skills we are building through instruction and through in-person activities. Assignments will be due Fridays at 11:59pm MST.

Speech Weeks:

During weeks that speeches are due, the schedule will look a little different. We will meet at our regular time, and you will be delivering your speech live in class. The rest of the week, you won't have any "outside of class" assignments so you will have time to reflect on your work. Instead of the normal breakdown, we will use the following schedule:

- Upload your speech materials (and extra credit if you choose to do it) by 11:59pm MST on Monday.
- On your assigned day (either a Tuesday or Thursday), you will deliver your speech live. When you are not delivering your speech, you will be expected to be actively listening and completing your peer evaluations. **Even if you aren't giving a speech on a particular speech day, you are still expected to come, listen to your fellow classmates, and complete your peer evaluations!**
- You will submit your peer evaluation comments and self-evaluations by 11:59pm MST on the following Friday.

***Note:** For your informative and persuasive speeches, we will split up the speeches over two or more weeks. The narrative and ceremonial speeches will be delivered over one week.

Course Schedule

All deadlines are 11:59pm MST and take the form of Moodle or Top Hat submission, unless otherwise noted. **Late work (without prior approval or extreme circumstances) will be subject to a 10% per day penalty.** I won't accept late work after 5 days, because the highest grade you can receive will be a 50% if you follow all assignment requirements. **Late speeches are deducted 25% every day they are late.** *This class moves quickly!*

- Keep in mind that the schedule is subject to change, due to the unusual circumstances around us! The speech weeks will not change no matter what, so they are already listed. I will notify you as soon as possible if I do have to change anything.

UNIT 1: LOCAL ISSUE SPEAKING

Week 1: January 16th- 22nd

In class: Welcome to Public Speaking!
January 17th- MLK Day: No class!

- *January 18th*: Course introduction
 - o If possible, please look over the syllabus before class and come with questions or concerns you may have about the course!
 - o **Before next class:** Read Chapter 1 and 2, CP “The Power of Rhetorical Narratives”
- *January 20th*: Why Public Speaking?

Due Friday (1/21):

- o Brainstorm ideas for your Narrative Speech and email Lizzy if you have any questions

Week 2: January 23rd- 29th

Due Monday (1/24):

- o Readings: Chapter 3 & 6 (“Introduction”, “Parts of a Formal Speech”, and “Building an Outline”), CP “Guidelines and Etiquette for Speech Day”, “Guidelines for Speaking Notes”, “Peer Feedback”

In class: Nuts and Bolts of Public Speaking

- *January 25th*: Developing Your First Speech
 - o **Homework (HW):** Read Chapter 4 and indicate your speech day preference by midnight on Tuesday (1/25)
- *January 27th*: Presenting Yourself as a Speaker: Guest Speaker!

Due Friday (1/28):

- o Narrative Speech Worksheet
- o Thesis statement worksheet
- o Reminder: Your Narrative Speech is due next week!

Week 3: January 30th- February 5th [Narrative Speech Week!]

Due Monday (1/31):

- o Speech Materials (if necessary, a bibliography, checklist) uploaded to Moodle submission box
- o Extra Credit #1

In class: Narrative Speeches!

- o Present your Narrative Speech on your assigned day (2/1 and 2/3)
- o Hand in your physical speaking notes to Lizzy after presenting
- o Complete your peer evaluation during class

Due Friday (2/4):

- o Peer evaluation
- o Self-evaluation

UNIT 2: INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

Week 4: February 6th- 12th [Library Week!]

Due Monday (2/7):

- Readings: CP “Speech 2 Assignment: Informative Speech”, “The Research Process”, “Web Types and Domains”, “Informative Speech Analysis”, and “Attribution Statements”

In class: Introduction to Informative Speaking and Researching Public Topics

- We will be in the library this week! Plan to meet in the library lobby on February 8th and 10th

Due Friday (2/11):

- Informative topic proposal
- Turn in Research Plan assignment

Week 5: February 13th- 19th

Due Monday (2/14):

- Readings: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 (“Types of Messages” and “Patterns of Organization: Informative Speaking”), CP “Working Outlines vs. Speaking Outlines”

In class: Informative Basics

- *February 15th*: Informative Speech requirements, Organizational Patterns, Working Outlines vs. Speaking Outlines

- **Sign up for a meeting time with Lizzy!** You will have the opportunity to meet with me one on one to discuss your informative speech. I want you to feel confident and prepared! You will sign up for a 10-minute meeting time with me. You will come to my office and discuss your progress in the class (I will be available during office hours and additional times on the 16th, 22nd, and 23rd). During this time, you may ask questions about assignments for this unit, practice a small portion of your speech with me and I will give you feedback, or check in with me about any concerns as we reach the halfway point in the semester. *Please keep in mind that this will count for participation points and is a requirement for the class!*

- *February 17th*: **No class! Lizzy will be gone for an academic conference.**

Due Friday (2/18):

- Organizational patterns exercise
- Informative draft outline

Week 6: February 20th- 26th

Due Monday (2/21):

President’s Day: No class!

- Readings: Chapter 7 and 8, CP “Informative Speech Checklist”
- **Please bring a copy of your informative speech draft to class on Tuesday!**

In class: Preparing for your Informative Speech and Understanding Your Audience

- *February 22nd*: Guest Speaker from WPSC, Lecture, Audience Adaptation
 - **Read:** CP Outside Speaker Assignment section and rest of CP Unit 2
 - **HW:** Indicate when you would like to present your speech by Tuesday at 11: 59 P.M.)
- *February 24th*: Overview of Outside Speaker Assignment, Giving Feedback, and Majoring in COMX

Due Friday (2/25):

- Informative Speech Final Outline
- Reminder: Informative Speech presentations begin next week!

Week 7 & 8: February 27th- March 5th, March 6th- 12th [Informative Speech Weeks!]

Due Monday (2/28):

- Speech materials (speaking outline, checklist) uploaded to Moodle submission box
- Extra Credit #2

In class: Informative Speeches!

- Present your informative speech on your assigned day (3/1, 3/3, 3/8 or 3/10)
- Hand in your physical speaking notes to Lizzy after presenting
- Make sure to complete your three peer evals during class

Due Friday (3/11):

- Self-evaluation
- Three peer evaluations
- Turn in CP “Mid Semester Feedback” assignment

UNIT 3: PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

Week 9: March 13th- 19th

Due Monday (3/14):

- Readings: Chapter 9, Chapter 6 (“Persuasive Speech Organizational Patterns” and review “Building an Outline”)

In class: Basics of Persuasive Speaking

- *March 15th*: Basics of Persuasive Speaking, Inventing Your Speech, Organizational Patterns, Speech Requirements
- If you have questions about your outline, email or chat with Lizzy during office hours!
- *March 17th*: Guest speaker, Intro to Claim/Warrant/Impact

Due Friday (3/18):

- Persuasive outline draft

Week 10: March 20th- 26th: SPRING BREAK!

Due Monday (3/28):

- Readings: Chapter 10, CP Persuasive Unit
- Read the Ripley article and the Bowen & Hitt article, and highlight or annotate both for claims, warrants, and impacts (this assignment will be due on Friday!)

In class: Persuasive Speaking in Practice

- *March 29th*: Riley and Bowen & Hitt Discussion, Review of Outlines
 - **HW**: Indicate speech day preference by 11:59 P.M. on Tuesday
- *March 31st*: Review, Speaking activity

Due Friday (4/1):

- Claim / warrant / impact argument exercise

- Persuasive Final Outline

Week 12 & 13: April 3rd- 9th, 10th- 16th [Persuasive Speech Weeks!]

Due Monday (4/4):

- Speech materials (two pieces of evidence, bibliography, checklist) uploaded to Moodle submission box
- Extra Credit #3

In class: Persuasive Speeches!

- Present your persuasive speech on your assigned day (4/5, 4/7, 4/12, or 4/14)
- Hand in your physical speaking notes to Lizzy after presenting
- Make sure to complete your three peer evals during class!

Due Friday (4/15):

- Self-evaluation
- Three peer evaluations

UNIT 4: CEREMONIAL SPEAKING

Week 14: April 17th- 23rd

Due Monday (4/18):

- Readings: Chapter 11, CP Ceremonial Unit

In class: Ceremonial Speaking Basics and Effective Language

- *April 19th*: Ceremonial speaking, invention, speech requirements
- *April 21st*: Effective language, language choices, activity

Due Friday (4/22):

- Submit ceremonial speech topic proposal

Week 15: April 24th- 30th

Due Monday (4/25):

- No readings!

In class: Ceremonial Speaking in Practice and Wrap- Up

- *April 26th*: Speaking activity
HW: Indicate your speech day preference by 11:59 P.M. on Tuesday
- *April 28th*: Activity and Wrap-Up

Due Friday (4/29):

- Ceremonial assignment

Week 16: May 1st- 7th: [Ceremonial Speech Week!]

Due Monday (5/2):

- Speech materials (manuscript, checklist) uploaded to Moodle submission box
- Extra Credit #4

In class: Ceremonial Speeches!

- Present your ceremonial speech on your assigned day (5/3 or 5/5)

- Hand in your physical speaking notes to Lizzy after presenting
- Make sure to complete your peer evals during class

Last Day of Classes: May 6th!

Due Friday (5/6):

- Three peer evaluations
- Self-evaluation

Week 17: May 8th- 14th: (Finals Week!)

*Please note that we **will not** be meeting in person this week! ☺

- *Wednesday, May 11th by midnight:* Outside Speaker Assignment due!