**REEDLEY COLLEGE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**SPRING 2024**

| **Semester:** Spring 2024 | **Department of Fine Arts, Reedley College, Reedley ca.**  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Name:** COMM-8-53080 | **Instructor:** Karla Silva  |
| **Time:** 8:00 AM - 9:15 AM**Location:** Social Science Rm. 36  | ***Preferred methods of contact:****Canvas inbox*  |

***My Teaching Philosophy***

This class is meant to empower you. I aspire in all my classes to build a safe space where we can express and challenge our understanding of the world within bounds. You’re expected to talk to each other and build connections from your readings. This is a communication course; therefore, we practice what we read. Additionally, if you’re having an issue academic or nonacademic, please feel free to reach out. Meet me halfway and let’s try to get in front of any problems that may arise during our time in this class. Lastly, I enjoy a little bit of chaos as well… (you’ll understand what this means later). ☺

**Course Overview & Learning Outcomes**

COMM-8 In an introductory course to Group Communication. This course explores the principles of communication in a variety of group contexts, Theories, applications, and evaluation of group communication processes, including problem-solving, conflict management, decision-making, and leadership. The student will learn group dynamics, structures, the importance of maintaining structured agendas to complete tasks, oriented group discussion, and how to use substantive conflict to meet both the needs of the group and individual group members.

**Course objectives**:

• Students will be able to demonstrate effective conflict management and problem-solving

communication skills.

•Students will be able to engage in sound reasoning to reach a well-reasoned

decision, including the ability to discover, critically evaluate, and accurately report information.

•Students will be able to identify communication skills that contribute to effective leadership.

•Students will be able to organize presentations effectively.

•Students will be able to effectively prepare for and deliver presentations within small group

settings.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

I recommend having several index cards on hand for speeches (3x5) or half of a sheet of paper for notes. **No tech allowed for notes while giving speeches.**

**Textbook:** Linabary, J.R. (Ed.). (2021). *Small group communication: Forming and sustaining teams.* Pressbooks. <https://pressbooks.pub/smallgroup/>**.**

In addition to the open **FREE** web version, this textbook is available in alternative formats, including PDF versions for electronic use or printing. Click [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q6EHMTtgUj-pp9Xxh1EK8a5yHWYsYGUj?usp=sharing) to access a downloadable PDF or epub version. Various other e-reader versions are also available upon request.

**Student Support**

Students with Disabilities: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (e.g. Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. Additionally, you should reach out to student services to further help with accommodation needed for in-class.

**Instructions for significant assignments:**

⇒ Personal Speech (Pick Me): Since most fear of public speaking derives from the unknown

(e.g., “What does the audience think of me? What if I don’t know the content well enough?”), the first graded speech will give a chance to reduce the uncertainty from both perspectives. Select 2-3 items and be prepared to explain how the three items describe you. Additionally, somewhere in your speech, you must mention a quality that can help others choose you as a team member. You must demonstrate that effort went into the assignment. This speech will be **3-5 *minutes***. no sources are required.

⇒ Meet the Band (Informative Speech): This speech will apply concepts learned in the course to present an extemporaneous address about a student-selected band involving processes, events, places, people, objects, or concepts. No repeat topics. This speech will be **8-10 *minutes*.** **A minimum of three sources**.

⇒ Shark Tank (Persuasive Speech): Think of something you’d like to create/ sell. Pitch it to the class and convince us to invest in your product. This speech could be creating/selling a product that is fun or serious. Regardless you need a **minimum of three sources**. No repeat topics. Your timeframe should be **10-15 *minutes*.**

⇒ Address Problem/Solution (Persuasive Speech): This speech will compile what the students have learned thus far about delivering a speech while allowing students to attempt to persuade their audience to change their perceptions, adopt new habits, alter their worldviews, etc. You must present a problem and a solution for such. This speech will be **12-18 *minutes***. A **minimum of four sources**.

⇒ Outlines: All outlines will follow a specific format. To assist students in preparing a solid outline a template will be provided through Canvas. When Outlines require references you will follow APA format style. Outlines that don’t follow APA will be docked accordingly. These speeches are required to be properly researched with the use of appropriate sources.

⇒ Speech Critique: This assignment provides you with an opportunity to reflect on your progress in your speech plus reflect on other speeches. The critiques follow the APA style format. Please be honest about your teammate’s evaluation.

⇒ Reading Quizzes: Self-explanatory… We are making sure we are prepared for class with our readings in mind.

**Students are unable to pass this course without participating in a group. If you miss a speech your group will go on and you will take a zero.**

**Assignment and Examination Schedule**

| **Assignment** | **Points/Percent**  |
| --- | --- |
|  Participation (peer evals.\*) |  75  |
| Group Contract (2) |  10 |
|  Personal Speech Outline  |  25  |
|  Personal Speech  |  80 |
|  Meet the Band Outline  |  40 |
|  Meet the Band Speech  |  150  |
|  Shark Tank Outline  |  40 |
|  Shark Tank Speech \*\* |  150  |
|  Address Problem/Solution Outline |  40 |
|  Address Problem/Solution Speech \*\* |  200 |
|  Peer Evaluations (3) |  75  |
|  Quizzes (3) |  75  |
| Self-reflection paper |  20  |
| Final SP |  20 |
| **Total Points Possible**  |  **1000**  |

Grading scale

o 900—1000 A

o 800—899 B

o 700—799 C

o 600—699 D

o 600—below F

# **COURSE POLICIES**

# **Attendance/Participation Policy**

Attendance on speech and workshop days, as well as active participation, are required to do well in this course. I expect you to talk, to listen, to laugh even! Therefore, your active participation only makes this more vital. If you miss a day that’s okay. LIFE HAPPENS. I am no judge of what situation constitutes “a valid reason for not showing up to class” therefore you have **two free days.** Take a trip or recover from the flu. Whatever the occasion you have the agency to use these two days before it begins to affect your attendance and participation.

**Additionally, you will be marked late to class if you arrive ten minutes or more into class. You will also be marked late if you leave class early.** *This will be 10% of your grade for the day.* If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check on announcements made while you are away.

# **Late Work and Incomplete Grade Policy**

All assignments are to be submitted on Canvas according to their specific due date, *most* assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. but to ensure you stay on top of the deadlines they are explicitly detailed in our course schedule. You will be allowed a **12-hour grace period on most assignmentswith a 20% deduction( two letter grades)*. SPEECHES & QUIZZES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE.*** If you do not show up for your designated slot you will be given a zero and your group will go on. If you experience problems with Canvas, send your assignment **BEFORE the deadline via Canvas inbox** to receive credit for the assignment. You will not be allowed to make up in-class assignments/participation.

 **When submitting documents for any assignment they must be in a PDF or word doc. If you submit the assignment in a different format it will not be graded and therefore you will earn a zero.**

**CANVAS**

Canvas - Canvas will be utilized in this class for EVERYTHING. Therefore, I recommend familiarizing yourself with all the modules, links, pages, etc. I am here to help too! If you would additional help please seek out the library or other campus resources. **Keep in mind when reviewing grades in Canvas the point total is the ONLY thing that matters, percentages do not reflect your true grade.**

*P.S>>>Technical difficulties are NOT a valid excuse. All deadlines are final plan ahead and submit early.*

**Plagiarism Detection & AI USE:** The campus subscribes to Turnitin, a plagiarism prevention service, through Canvas. You will need to submit written assignments to Turnitin. Student work will be used for plagiarism detection and no other purpose. **If any of your assignments are flagged with 35% or higher for plagiarism you will only be able to earn 50% on the assignment.** *There are some notes if you use our outline template, inaccurately referenced, etc. Regardless, just to play it safe keep it under 30%. If you have more than one assignment flagged for plagiarism future academic probation measures may be taken.* Per your agency, you may opt out of using Turnitin but these rules still apply. The student may indicate in writing to the instructor that he/she refuses to participate in the plagiarism detection process, in which case the instructor can use other electronic means to verify the originality of their work. Use of an AI Generator such as ChatGPT, iA Writer, MidJourney, DALL-E, etc. is explicitly prohibited unless otherwise noted by the instructor. The information derived from these tools is based on previously published materials. Therefore, using these tools without proper citation constitutes plagiarism. Additionally, be aware that the information derived from these tools is often incomplete. All work submitted must be your own. **Any assignment that is found to have been plagiarized or to have used unauthorized AI tools may receive a zero and/or be reported for academic misconduct.**

# **Classroom Respect**

This is a lecture, discussion, and performance course; open participation in this learning environment requires that we all respect the rights of students and the instructor. We are here to engage in discourse, create a safe space, present different viewpoints, and have a great time. **Bigotry, hate speech, violence, etc. any commentary that promotes violence or hate speech will not be tolerated.** ***Student conduct that disrupts our safe space may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.*** *I ask you kindly to think before you speak. We are here to learn and uplift one another.*

A few notes on student conduct:

(1) You should not be playing video games, online shopping, engaging in social media, or otherwise be distracted when in class, especially during speeches. You will lose points from speech if you are texting while someone is giving a speech.

(2) You should come to each class on time, have your course materials organized, and be prepared to learn and engage in classroom activities. Hence be prepared to talk!

(3) You should not interrupt another student’s speech. For example, by yawning loudly, asking questions/ commentary, walking in/out of class (in case of emergency), or having sidebar conversations, etc. all while a student is giving a speech.

(4) Your presence in class (both physically and mentally) is expected. Texting during class is not acceptable. Students will be marked late or absent.

# **COURSE SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS**

The schedule breaks down which topics will be covered and the chapter that correlates to that topic. The schedule indicates the chapters that are due according to the topic. The days that we have class meetings will include the entire class engaging in discussions about the week's topics as well as covering the upcoming assignments This schedule is also subject to change to fit the needs of both the instructor and students.\*

| **DATE** |  **TOPIC**  | **ASSIGNMENTS DUE** |
| --- | --- | --- |

| **Week 1** | **TUE. 01/09** | Introduction to the course  -syllabus and expectation |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **THUR.** **01/11** | Define Small Group & Formation (ch.1 & Ch.2)* Assign Pick Me Speech
* Assign Outline
 |  |
| **Week 2** | **TUE. 01/16** | ***Read before class:***  **Wheatley; Willing to be disturbed** **Dweck; Brainology**  **Elbow; The believing**  |  |
|  | **THUR.** **01/18** | Facilitating group meeting (ch.14)* Outline deconstruction
 | Quiz #1 due @11:59 PM |
| **Week 3** | **TUE.** **01/23** | Working in Diverse Teams + Group Roles (ch.5 & Ch.3) * SB Activity
 |  |
|  | **THUR.** **01/25** | 4 Corners Activity |  |
| **Week 4** | **TUE.** **01/30** | Workshop Pick Me Outline* Signup order
* Assign next speech
* Assign group contract
 | **Pick Me Outline due 11:59 PM**  |
|  | **THUR.** **02/01** | **Pick Me Speech** **(3-5mins)** |  |
| **Week 5** | **TUE.****02/06** | **Pick Me Speech** **(3-5mins)** |  |
|  | **THUR.****02/08** | **Pick Me Speech** **(3-5mins)** |  |
| **Week 6** | **TUE.****02/13** | Speech debrief ***Read before class:*****PSP Ch.12: Delivering your Speech****PSP Ch.15: Informative Speaking**  |  |
|  | **THUR.****02/15** | Finding and Using Evidence* How to do research/citations
 | Peer Evaluation (self) #1 due by 11:59 PM Group Contract #1 due by 11:59 PM  |
| **Week 7** | **TUE.****02/20** | Presenting as a Group (ch.16)* Using visual aids and other elements
 |  |
|  | **THUR.****02/22** | Identify Leaders + Leading in groups (ch.12 & ch.13) |  |
| **Week 8** | **TUE.****02/27** | FW Activity | Quiz #2 due @11:59 PM |
|  | **THUR.****02/29** | Workshop Meet the Band Outline * Assign ST Speech
* Sign up order
 | **Meet the Band Outline due by 11:59 PM** |
| **Week 9** | **TUE.****03/05** |  **Meet the Band Speech** **(8-10 mins, 3 references, Q&A)** |  |
|  | **THUR.****03/07** | **Meet the Band Speech** **(8-10 mins, 3 references, Q&A)** |  |
| **Week 10** | **TUE.****03/12** | **Meet the Band Speech** **(8-10 mins, 3 references, Q &A)** |  |
|  | **THUR.****03/14** | Speech Debrief Negotiating power in Groups (Ch.6) |  |
| **Week 11** | **TUE.****03/19** | How to be Persuasive * Artistic Proofs
 | Peer Evaluation #2 due by 11:59 PM  |
|  | **THUR.****03/21** | HTN Activity  |  |
| **Week 12** | **TUE.****03/26** | **SPRING BREAK** |  |
|  | **THUR.****03/28** | **SPRING BREAK**  |  |
| **Week 13** | **TUE.****04/ 02** | Workshop Shark Tank Outline * Sign up for speech order
* Assign last group speech
 | **Shark Tank Outline due by 11:59 PM** |
|  | **THUR.****04/04** | **Shark Tank Speech** **(10 - 15mins, 3 references, Q&A)**  |  |
| **Week 14** | **TUE.****04/09** | **Shark Tank Speech** **(10 - 15mins, 3 references, Q&A)**  |  |
|  | **THUR.****04/11** | **Shark Tank Speech** **(10 - 15mins, 3 references, Q&A)**Speech debrief * Assign PS speech
 |  |
| **Week 15** | **TUE.****04/16** | Cultivating Group Climate & Negotiating conflict (ch.7 & Ch. 8) | Peer Evaluation #3 due by 11:59 PM  |
|  | **THUR.****04/18** | **Group Check-IN** | Group Contract #2 due by 11:59 PM Quiz #3 due @11:59 PM |
| **Week 16** | **TUE.****04/23** | **IP Activity** |  |
|  | **THUR.****04/25** | Workshop Problem/ Solution Outline* Assign final reflection paper
 |  |
| **Week 17** | **TUE.****04/30** | Workshop Problem/ Solution Outline* Sign up speech order
 | **Problem/Solution Outline due by 11:59 PM**  |
|  | **THUR.****05/02** | **Problem Solution Speech** **(12-18 mins, 5 references, Q & A)** |  |
| **Week 18** | **TUE.****05/07** | **Problem Solution Speech** **(12-18 mins, 5 references, Q & A)** |  |
|  | **THUR.****05/09** | **Final debrief** * **Final instructions/ Review**
 | Peer Evaluation #4 due by 11:59 PM  |
| **Week 19** | **Finals week** **13-17th**  | Final TBD | **Self Reflection Paper due before Final Day/Time** |