

Speech 1

Introduction to Public Speaking

Instructor: Terri Main

Office Hours: MWF 2:00 p.m.

Office: A-3

Phone: 638-3641 x 404

E-Mail: speechone@geocities.com

Web Site: <http://members.tripod.com/~speechone/>

Chat Room (Opening August 24):

<http://members.tripod.com/~speechone/javachat.htm>

**DONT PANIC!!!
YOU CAN DO
THIS!!!**

I always wanted to do that! There is a quirky science fiction book called *The Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy* which is also the name of a tourist guide for interstellar travelers. On the cover of the guide book are just two words in Large Red Letters - DON'T PANIC!!! Sometimes when I see students taking public speaking, I think we should have those words permanently etched on the chalkboard as a reminder that regardless of your apprehensions at this moment, you can do this. You might even find yourself enjoying it. Stranger things have happened.

As you can tell from this unconventional syllabus, this is an unconventional class with an unconventional approach to the subject. Think about this class as rhetorical woodshop. Just as in a woodshop you might learn how to build a china cabinet, in this class you will learn how to build a speech. I know that the prospect of giving that speech though may fill you with apprehension. Again, we are unconventional in that we deal with that fear right off the bat. All in all, the intent of this course is to provide a safe, supportive environment in which to learn this important academic and professional skill.

Okay, now let's go on to the normal syllabus stuff. It's boring but necessary.

Grading:

Grading is based on the following assignments

In class exercises -	100 points
*How-To Speech -	100 points
*Informative Speech	100 points
*Persuasive Speech	100 points
*Multimedia Speech	100 points
Textbook Review	100 points
Final	100 points
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Total	700 points

A=630-700 points

B=560-629 points

C=490-559 points

D=420-489 points

F=0-420 points

How to Get an "F" on a Speech

I'm not sure why you would want one, but some people must because they keep getting them. So, here are a few hints to make achieving an "F" a done deal.

- 1. Don't give the speech. (If you don't give the speech, how can you get a grade on the speech)**
- 2. Don't do any work on the speech. (Believe me I'll know if you are scamming me)**
- 3. Lie. (Making up statistics, quotes, or other evidence in a speech or simply telling a bald-faced lie is a sure route to an "F")**
- 4. Use hate language, racial, ethnic, sexual or gender-based slurs. (I will not tolerate bigotry in language in this class)**
- 5. Use the time for a personal attack on another student. (Don't waste my time with your petty differences)**
- 6. Plagerize the speech. (This is stealing and be happy all I do is fail the speech, I could flunk you in the entire course.)**

Attendance:

Yes, I want you to attend class. I will give your three free unexcused absences to use any way you want. After that, every unexcused absence loses you five points. If you miss on a day when you are scheduled to speak, that absence is worth 10 points deducted from your grade.

Valid Excuses:

- 1. Death in the family. (And remember I can count. I'll allow two grandmothers, after that I get suspicious)**
- 2. Personal illness. (And if it's contagious, just call, don't come to class to tell me in person.)**
- 3. Auto accidents, car troubles, etc. (But please if you have an accident a week, you might consider walking to school.)**
- 4. Family emergencies. (If you have more than three children, let me know so I can determine the full extent of the epidemic)**
- 5. Giving Birth. (No comment necessary)**

Invalid Excuses:

- 1. Too tired. (Aren't we all)**
- 2. Had to clean my house. (I don't have time to clean mine, why should you clean yours)**
- 3. Wanted to leave early for Thanksgiving. (Why? Afraid they'd run out of turkey?)**
- 4. Came back late from the Fourth of July (I see you found turkey was plentiful)**
- 5. Had to study for an *important* class. (And this isn't)**
- 6. Anything that implies you were having more fun than the rest of us.**

Extra Credit:

Okay, for all you obsessive-compulsive types, I do allow you to earn up to 50 points of extra credit in this course. (Although, I wonder why I make this offer, the ones who really need the extra credit rarely do it, and the ones that don't need it overload my box with it.)

You can earn extra credit in a variety of ways:

- 1. Bluelight Specials. Some days I'll announce a surprise extra credit assignment only to those who are in class on that day. It pays to come to class regularly**
- 2. Attend and Critique Speeches. I give up to 10 points of extra credit if you attend a speech and write a two-page critique of that speech. I encourage you to bring in announcements of upcoming speech events, I will post them on my office door.**
- 3. Give a Speech in the "Real World." We all know that school is just Fantasy Island, but if you arrange to give a speech to a community group, another college class, a church or other organization, let me know. Bring written verification by an official of the group, and I will give you 20 points of extra credit. I will also allow you to replace one of your in-class assignments with an outside speaking assignment if you can bring me a VHS videotape of the speech. For full details see the attached sheet entitled "Class Announcements Speech One" or visit <http://members.tripod.com/~speechone/sp1new.htm> .**

Class Announcements

Speech One

Welcome to Fall Semester 1998! We will be incorporating several new features into the Speech One curriculum this semester. These include: Real World Speaking, Mini-Speeches in Small Group Settings, and a brand new Multi-Media Presentaion Assignment.

Real World Speaking

While classroom exercises are useful in learning to speak in public, there is nothing that can compare to speaking in a "real-world" setting. We want to encourage you to be on the lookout for such speaking opportunities. There are two ways you can obtain classroom credit for such speaking.

1. Extra Credit Speaking. I will give you up to 20 points of extra credit for giving an oral presentation at your church, in another class, at work, during a club meeting, before a government agency or wherever. To obtain credit, simply bring a note from the organization stating the date and time of your presentation, and write a short (1-2 page) evaluation of how you believe you did and what you learned from the experience.

2. Assignment Substitution. You can replace one in-class assignment with an out-of-class presentation under the following circumstances.

- a. The presentation is within the same genre as an in-class assignment. In other words it's a demonstration, informative, persuasive or multi-media presentation.***
- b. You bring in a video tape of the presentation.***
- c. You write a short paper providing a self-evaluation of the speech and discuss what you learned doing the presentation.***

Mini-Speeches in Small Group Settings

The only way to learn how to speak is to speak - often. The problem is that we have a very limited amount of time in class. The solution is frequent speaking assignments which are delivered in small group settings. Many of your speeches will be delivered to a group of 5-6 people during the first 10-15 minutes of class. These speeches are 1-2 minute presentations, but should be delivered with as much care as a longer speech.

Multi-Media Presentation Assignment

In business and professional settings most presentations involve the use of various types of visual aids. Increasingly, this means creating multi-media presentations using computers, audio and video recordings. Because of this one of your assignments will be the creation of a 5-10 minute multi-media presentation. Unlike the other assignments this one does not necessarily involve standing in front of the class giving a live presentation. Also it may be done with up to two other students if you wish. (One grade will be given for the assignment so choose your co-workers well) Here are some examples of a multi-media presentation:

- ***A Powerpoint Presentation***
- ***A Videotape Presentation***
- ***A Slide-Tape Presentation***
- ***An Audio Tape Presentation***
- ***A Presentation Combining Live Speaking and Media***
- ***A Presentation Combining Any of the Elements mentioned above.***

The multi-media presentation can be any genre including but not limited to how-to, demonstration, corporate training, informative, persuasive, dramatic, or entertainment. You will need to clear the details of your presentation with me by submitting the form included in your syllabus or found at this [link](#) prior to September 1.

Dates to Remember

(And that doesn't include the guy you went to the prom with)

Fixed Dates (These don't change because, for the most part, they were set by the district)

September 1 or 2 (depending on MWF or TTH schedule) return the Multimedia Presentation Proposal form.)

September 7 – Labor Day

October 16 – Last day to drop a full-term course.

November 11- Veterans Day

November 26-27 – Thanksgiving

December 14-18 Finals Week

Tentative Dates

I would love to be one of those instructors who can tell you what they are going to be teaching on January 27, 2010 at 10:45 a.m. Unfortunately, the nature of my classes and teaching methods tend to make such scheduling impossible. For years I put in a detailed day-by-day schedule which did nothing more than make me feel bad that I was so far behind or wondering how I got that far ahead. So, instead I offer the following list of tentative target dates for certain types of events.

September 15 Textbook Review Due

September 20-October 4 How To Speeches

October 11 – October 25 Informative Speeches

November 8 – November 22 Persuasive Speeches

November 29 – December 18 Multi-Media Presentations

Your Final Date – The Written Final is Due