

# *Introduction to Public Speaking*

**Instructor: Terri Main**

**Office Hours: MWF 2:00 p.m.**

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**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 that 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 syllbus stuff. It's boring but necessary.**

**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 Spring Break. (Why? Afraid they'd run out of beer)**
- 4. Came back late from Spring Break (I see you found the beer 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**

## **Grading:**

Grading is based on the following assignments

In class exercises -	100 points
Job Interview -	50 points
Research Assignment	50 points
*How-To Speech -	100 points
*Informative Speech	100 points
*Persuasive Speech	100 points
Textbook Review	100 points
Final	100 points

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Total	700 points
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A=630-700 points

B=560-629 points

C=490-559 points

D=420-489 points

F=0-419 points

**\*One of the speeches may be presented as an *optional* video assignment. This video assignment needs to meet the basic qualifications for the assignment but you may use a variety of multimedia to achieve your objectives. One stipulation: At least 75% of the sound must be the spoken word of the student. I will provide you with a video evaluation form which you will have completed by five people who view your video. These must be submitted with the video. Video speeches must be presented in class on or before the last day of speeches for that assignment.**

### **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)**

**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 25 points of extra credit.

### **Dates and Stuff**

**The following dates are tentative. That means that they are good guesses of when everything will take place within reason. However, they are subject to change because of the variability of the nature of the student presentations and the capriciousness of the instructor.**