



Louisiana State University ✦ Department of Communication Studies

Public Speaking – Sections 23, 35, and 38

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*As a form of poetics, as a creative venture, as a generative process,
performance is fundamentally about possibilities, inquiry and hope.*

- Dell Pollock

*The mark of a free man is that ever-gnawing inner
uncertainty as to whether or not he is right.*

- Saul Alinsky

Statement of Purpose:

Public Speaking is taught in the Communication Studies department because of its intrinsic value to your civic life as a member of a democracy. You have a voice, and it should be heard, but communicating that message effectively and clearly is not something that comes naturally to everyone. Thus, while it may perhaps be surprising to some, this means that 2060 is, first and foremost, a class in practical political involvement. While I try to avoid foisting my own political positions onto students, please be aware that I do expect you to have more than some sense of major and minor political issues and to have the ability to form your speeches taking those issues into consideration. You don't need to agree with me to do well in this class, but you do need to have an opinion and you need to communicate that opinion to a group of your peers using the skills and criteria that I'll ask of you in this class. I will do my best to make the grading criteria as clear and easy to follow as possible. In return, I ask for your willingness to play with the unfamiliar. In my experience, the courage that this requires is seldom exercised in vain. You will likely find that the more time and energy you invest in preparing your speeches, the more you will get out of them.

Course Description/Goals:

CMST 2060 is a *General Education Humanities Course* designed to familiarize students with the study of public speaking. The act of public speaking is the culmination (and often the beginning) of a long process of critical dialogue between oneself, language, and the imagined responses of the audience. In other words, it takes being confident in who you are, what you want to say, how you are going to say it, who you want to say it to, and why you should say anything at all. Throughout the semester, students will be introduced to the fundamental concepts of rhetorical public speaking.

As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2060 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

As a result of this course, students should:

1. Understand the principles of rhetoric and effectively utilize them in crafting well researched, reasoned, and appealing speeches.
2. Choose topics for public speaking that are timely, relevant, and adaptable given varying situations in which the message may be delivered, and for different audiences.
3. Effectively and critically evaluate message/speech content and delivery, both when examining one's own work as well as that of others.
4. Understand and utilize the verbal and nonverbal elements essential for exemplary speech delivery.
5. Analyze and discuss speeches of historical, political and social significance.

Students who successfully complete the course will be prepared for more advanced courses in public speaking and debate, speech and activism, and rhetorical analysis.

Participation:

This course approaches speech collectively and kinesthetically, i.e. with a "hands on" approach. To fully engage with a speech, you must read, rehearse, and show up alert and ready for action. In addition, you must be willing to fully embrace public speaking by *taking chances*, even when it feels silly, scary, or awkward. We will collectively support each other and ourselves as we take these purposeful risks in these activities and presentations by collectively creating a safe, supportive environment. By joining this class, you are making an **ethical commitment** to approach your work and each other with **care** and **respect**. Collectively, we will create an environment that fosters deep explorations of speech theory and practice.

Successful completion of CMST 2060 requires a serious time commitment. Due to the highly participatory nature of the course material, your presence is a critical component of any successful public speaking class. You are expected to show up for EACH course meeting fully prepared to apply concepts and methods (reading done, text prepared, thoughtful questions ready, etc.). If a unique situation arises, please make an appointment to discuss your situation with me. Understand that this does not guarantee an excused absence. Even if your absence is excused by the university you will have to find another way to make up the points that you missed. Please obtain any notes and announcements from another student, and/or from Moodle. You are responsible for all information sent to you via e-mail, posted on Moodle, and discussed in class. Short of a death in the immediate family or a highly contagious illness attendance is **MANDATORY** on all performance days whether you are the performer or an audience member. **If you do not come on a day where speeches are taking place, you will be docked 15% on your speech, regardless as to whether or not you were scheduled to speak that day.**

While there are no points allotted specifically to participation, in-class activities will offer insight into what is expected of you for major graded assignments. It will, quite frankly, be next to impossible for you to do well on the course assignments if you do not regularly attend class.

Rehearsal:

Any performance is a cumulative process, so begin rehearsing your speeches as soon as possible. Your best work will result from active, full body rehearsal. In other words, move, speak aloud, use props (if applicable), invite an audience to join you, and get feedback from others. Rehearsals are a time to play and discover your best ideas. Repeat what works,

discard what doesn't, and refine your speech to maximize your goals for each assignment. Working on your speech over time will result in a stronger performance than work done at the last minute. Allotting plenty of time to rehearse is a great way to ensure a strong and memorable speech.

Working with fellow CMST 2060 students throughout the semester both in and out of class will also enhance your rehearsal process. You will serve as each other's audiences and collaborators as you discover your individual performances. During these meetings, *engage* with the assignment, *discuss* the subject, *brainstorm* the performance, *rehearse* for each other, and *critique* each other's work. Note your partner's strengths as well as where s/he could explore further to improve their work. Take the opportunity to challenge each other to do your respective best work. When possible, schedule time to rehearse in the classroom.

Performance Etiquette:

On Speech days, please make an extra effort to arrive on time. If you arrive during someone's speech, do not enter the class until their presentation is complete. Also, please refrain from making any unnecessary noise during speeches. Try to limit any chewing/sipping/shuffling of papers to the breaks between performances. If you need to be excused, please leave and return between speeches.

Also, please *engage with* and *respond to* the speeches. Please feel free to laugh, cry, gasp, or experience other responses as appropriate. Please respond courteously, and try to avoid creating a distraction or an interruption, but do feel free to react. Performance thrives on the energetic exchange between performer and audience, so please bring your attention and your energy to share with others whether you are speaking or watching.

Missed Speeches:

If you miss a speech, you will not be automatically granted a makeup date. If an emergency arises, you may petition to reschedule your performance. You must submit your request at least 24 hours **before** your scheduled speech (unless circumstances render this physically impossible), and provide documentation verifying the date and reason for your absence. **Following these guidelines DOES NOT guarantee that you will be granted a makeup date.**

Grading:

The breakdown of assignments is listed below. Specifics about the criteria for each assignment will be available on moodle and discussed in class. Fully understanding the assignment and asking any necessary questions is **your** responsibility so clarify any uncertainties **before** the assignment is due. Please consider the following guidelines when reviewing your grades:

A = Excellent (exceeds expectations in multiple ways, i.e., creative, intelligent, committed and prepared). General rule: If you want an A, shoot to make the speech or assignment your own. An A speech is committed, full of energy, and it leaves the audience seeing the world just a little bit differently than they did before they encountered your speech. An A paper is thoughtful, well organized, and considers counter arguments: it builds an idea that leaves the reader seeing the world just a bit differently than she or he did before reading the paper. The reader doesn't have to fill in any blanks for the writer to infer what she/he means because the writer has made her or his idea alive on the page.

B = Very Good (demonstrates work beyond the expected level of competence and preparation). General rule: If you want a B shoot to cover everything the assignment asks you to do as competently as possible. Dot your i's, cross your t's. Make sure that you hit

every element of the speech or paper assignment guideline and that you clearly demonstrate your understanding of the concepts and or ability in the skills asked for. Make sure to point your reader/audience in the right direction every step of the way so that they have a pretty good idea where you are taking them and how all the pieces fit together.

C = Satisfactory (fulfills requirements with average competence and preparation)

General rule: If you want a C, check off everything on the assignment guidelines. Make sure that you have a working knowledge of the concepts and/or skills involved. In speeches: Be memorized. Rehearse enough that you can get through the piece without blanking. Hit every single thing on the assignment list in at least a cursory way. Make at least a couple of strong committed choices. In a paper: basically cover the idea asked for. Fill up the requisite number of pages. Proofread for errors.

D = Needs Improvement (falls short of several criteria and/or presents major deviation from assignment)

General Rule: If you want a D, do your work at the last minute when you don't have enough time to cover everything the assignment asks for. Don't proofread. Don't rehearse (or if you do, make sure to do it alone and not with someone to watch and give you feedback). Make weak choices and don't commit to them. Make sure that your writing meanders and leaves the reader unsure what you are saying.

F = Failing/Unsatisfactory (work that fails the requirements of the assignment or course)

General Rule: If you want an F, just do nothing. It will take care of itself.

For each assignment, you will receive written feedback as well as the number of points that you have earned. If you wish to discuss your grades, please contact me for an appointment. Please request a meeting within three days of receiving your grade. Grading will not be discussed via email. Please also feel free to make an appointment to discuss your work **before** your assignment is due. I am glad to help you create your best work!

Office hours:

Come to office hours or make an appointment to see me. I like to have conversations about the course outside of class. I am especially happy to talk with you EARLY in the semester and more than 24hrs before assignments are due.

The end of semester temporary empathy lapse:

The last two weeks of the semester are stressful for us all. While I will always do my best to help you out of a jam, please keep in mind that I am significantly more able to help you raise your grade early in the semester than I am later on. A lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.

Know thine honor code:

Particularly as it relates to plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing a speech, or cheating on an exam, it is grounds for FAILING the course. Period. Don't do it. If you're not sure how to properly cite something, ask a librarian. They are experts and extremely helpful.

Schedule:

The schedule is available on moodle. It is subject to change as we adapt to each other. Be sure to check your e-mail regularly and get notes from a friend if you miss class so you will be aware of any changes.

ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS POSSIBLE
Speeches	42%
Introductory Speech	5%
Identification Speech	10%
Advocacy Speech	12%
Ceremonial Speech	15%
Writing and Participation	48%
Peer Reviews	15%
Identification Outline	5%
Advocacy Outline	5%
Video Quizzes	20%
Research Participation	3%
Evaluations	10%
Mid Term Exam	5%
Final Exam	5%
	Total = 100%

All graded material will be calculated on the following scale:

92-100% = A
90-92% = A-
88-89% = B+
82-88% = B
80-82% = B-
78-79% = C+
72-78% = C
70-72% = C-
68-69% = D+
62-68% = D
60-62% = D-
Below 60% = F

All speeches and some other material will be graded on Media Share. During the first week of class you will be given detailed instructions on how to enroll.

Please join Media Share as soon as possible. **Failure to do so by the due date of the first Video Quiz will result in a score of 0 for that quiz. Failure to do so by the due date of the Introductory Speech will result in a score of 0 for that speech. And so forth.**

ASSIGNMENTS:

All assignments and supplemental materials will be posted on moodle.

Texts:

Required:

1.Crick, Nathan. *Rhetorical Public Speaking*. 2nd ed. Boston: Pearson, 2014. Print.

2. Assignments, and supplementary information will be made available on moodle as noted in class and on the syllabus.

You will also be required to bring your own notecards for each speech.

The American with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:



If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a Coordinator in the Office for Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations may be arranged. After you receive your accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations within the first two weeks of class.

Research Participation Requirement:

The material you will learn in this course is the product of research. The goal of the research learning requirement is to help you to gain knowledge about the process by which scholars attempt to understand human behavior. All students taking CMST 1061, 2010, 1150, and 2060 must complete a research learning requirement. For each course in which a student is enrolled, he or she must complete 2 research credits. You can fulfill your requirement by

1. Participating in research studies conducted in the Department of Communication Studies. All studies that last between 0 and 30 minutes will count as one credit. Any study that lasts between 31 and 60 minutes will count as two credits. Each study will specify the number of credits a student can earn for completion. There will be several survey and experimental studies conducted throughout the semester. These studies are held on campus at various times and in various locations or are administered through online survey software. All available studies are approved by the Institutional Review Board at LSU.
2. Participating in an organized departmental function such as debate or public speaking competition. Only departmental sanctioned events will count toward a student's research learning requirement; thus, no credit will be given for a student attending an outside speaker or performance.
3. Serving as a research assistant for a faculty member in the Department of Communication Studies. The number of units and requirements for those units will be set by the researcher and either accepted or rejected by the student.

The research learning requirement is worth 3% of your total grade; you will receive your 3% if you accumulate 2 research credits during the given semester. Please note that all research learning credits must be completed and allocated by Tuesday April 22nd at 11:59 PM (the Tuesday prior to the start of the concentrated study period).

ALL available options to earn credit are posted on an electronic bulletin board located at <http://lsuhumanresearch.sona-systems.com/>. When you go to this website, you will first

have to request an account. Once you have secured an account, you will be able to log in and see the options available to you for your various CMST courses.

Please note that various ways to fulfill your research learning requirement will appear on this bulletin board throughout the semester. You are encouraged to check the system on a regular basis for current credit options that fit your interests as well as your schedule. It is very important that when you sign-up for a credit option that you attend that option or cancel your sign up. Failure to show up twice during one semester will result in your access to the system being restricted and you being unable to complete your research learning requirement. Valid excuses for failing to cancel a sign up and missing a credit option are the same as those found in LSU Policy Statement 31.

Detailed instructions on how to request an account and to navigate the system once logged in can be found on the homepage of the Department of Communication Studies. Go to <http://www.lsu.edu/cmst>. Then click on RESOURCES and RESEARCH PARTICIPATION SYSTEM. Scroll down to find the document titled "RPS – Instructions for Students."

You are encouraged to create an account during the first week of classes so that any problems that arise can be remedied before it is too late. If you have questions about this requirement or the online system that keeps track of credits, please email researchadmin@lsu.edu

Do you have a major?

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, "To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education – literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills." We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change, experience, and make sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, and the arts.

A major in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A minor requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above.

More information is available at www.lsu.edu/cmst or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel (kfilli@lsu.edu), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.