

Public Speaking: Course Syllabus



Public Speaking

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The art of public speaking is one which underpins the very foundations of Western society. This course examines those foundations in both Aristotle and Cicero's views of rhetoric, and then traces those foundations into the modern world. Students will learn not just the theory, but also the practice of effective public speaking, including how to analyze the speeches of others, build a strong argument, and speak with confidence and flair. By the end of this course, students will know exactly what makes a truly successful speech and will be able to put that knowledge to practical use.

Unit 1: Introduction to Rhetoric

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain what is meant by "rhetoric."
2. Identify rhetoric as a particular form of utterance.
3. Describe Aristotle's three rhetorical proofs.
4. Explain how those proofs impact the persuasiveness of a speech.
5. Describe Cicero's five canons of rhetoric as well as what each one refers to.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #1.1

Homework

10 points

Public Speaking Assignment #1.2	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #1.3	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Introduction to Rhetoric: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 1 Quiz – Introduction to Rhetoric	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 2: The Influence of Rhetoric

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain how rhetoric influenced the development of the first democracy and the Roman Republic.
2. Explain how the Roman Republic influenced the development of many other political systems throughout Europe and the rest of the world.
3. Explain why Hitler's rhetoric was biased and illogical.
4. Explain why Hitler's rhetoric was successful despite its biased and illogical nature.
5. Define bias, prejudice, and propaganda.
6. Identify some of the basic manipulative techniques used in advertising.
7. Explain how an emotional effect can be created in a speech through repetition.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #2.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #2.2	<i>Homework</i>	5 points
The Influence of Rhetoric: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 2 Quiz – The Influence of Rhetoric	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 3: Listening & Analyzing**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Define active listening.
2. Demonstrate various strategies for active listening including repetition, note-taking, and mental imagery.
3. Identify your own tendencies to distraction to guard against them.
4. Describe the three different types of public speech and their characteristics.
5. Explain the intention of each type of public speech.
6. Deconstruct a speech to examine the purpose of each section.

7. Explain how the structure of a speech can inspire emotions in the listener.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #3.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #3.2	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #3.3	<i>Homework</i>	15 points
Listening & Analyzing: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 3 Quiz – Listening & Analyzing	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 4: Speaking Strategies

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain how the purpose of your speech affects subject and tone.
2. Identify the purpose of your speech.
3. Identify the audience's expectations and your own aims.

4. Choose an appropriate subject and tone.
5. Identify the persuasive angles of other people's speeches.
6. Find your own persuasive angle.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #4.1	<i>Homework</i>	15 points
Public Speaking Assignment #4.2	<i>Homework</i>	20 points
Speaking Strategies: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 4 Quiz – Speaking Strategies	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 5: Building an Argument

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between a primary and a secondary source.
2. Describe the different characteristics of studying, reading, and research.
3. Describe the differences among various information sources.

4. Assess the quality of a piece of information.
5. Weigh pieces of factual evidence to come to a conclusion.
6. Consider the implications of a piece of information.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #5.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #5.2	<i>Homework</i>	20 points
Building an Argument: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 5 Quiz – Building an Argument	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Public Speaking Midterm Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

Public Speaking Midterm Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
Midterm Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points

Unit 6: Inductive & Deductive Reasoning

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Define inductive and deductive reasoning.
2. Demonstrate logical reasoning.
3. Recognize an illogical or invalid argument.
4. Structure an argument according to the Toulmin Method.
5. Describe the various common organizational forms of speeches.
6. Demonstrate how to choose an organizational form according to the purpose of your speech.
7. Prepare a speech outline including an introduction, main body, and conclusion.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #6.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #6.2	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Inductive & Deductive Reasoning: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points

Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 6 Quiz – Inductive & Deductive Reasoning	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 7: Speech Writing

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain what "language register" means.
2. Correctly choose a register to use.
3. Describe the most important principles of speech writing.
4. Describe the qualities Aristotle believed were essential in good speech writing.
5. Use emotive language subtly.
6. Avoid overly "loaded" and propagandist content.
7. Use various literary techniques to create an emotional effect.
8. Define "amplification" and "anaphora."

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #7.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #7.2	<i>Homework</i>	25 points
Speech Writing: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points

Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 7 Quiz – Speech Writing	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 8: Self-Efficacy & Self-Esteem

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Define both self-efficacy and self-esteem.
2. Demonstrate how to develop your sense of self-efficacy through achievable goals.
3. Demonstrate how to develop your self-esteem by challenging negative perceptions.
4. Demonstrate how to improve your confidence by "faking it."
5. Demonstrate how to control your thoughts and emotions using mindfulness techniques.
6. Demonstrate how to use positive thinking and visualization techniques to control nerves.
7. Describe various visual aids that can be used for a presentation and explain why and why to use them.
8. Describe the three most important delivery techniques for a presentation and demonstrate how to practice them.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #8.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #8.2	<i>Homework</i>	5 points

Public Speaking Assignment #8.3	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Self-Efficacy & Self-Esteem: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 8 Quiz – Self-Efficacy & Self-Esteem	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 9: Body Language & Vocal Techniques

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Define "body language."
2. List some of the behaviors that commonly signal deception and nervousness.
3. Explain why nervousness can be fatal to rhetorical speech.
4. Define "resonance."
5. Explain how to use body language effectively in a public speech.
6. Explain how to use pauses effectively in a public speech.
7. Explain how to effectively interact with the audience during a public speech.

ASSIGNMENTS:



Public Speaking Assignment #9.1	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #9.2	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #9.3	<i>Homework</i>	20 points
Body Language & Vocal Techniques: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 9 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 9 Quiz – Body Language & Vocal Techniques	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Unit 10: Speech Evaluation

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Determine the success of a speech in terms of its purpose.
2. Determine the success of the presentation of a speech, including the appearance of a speaker and his/her vocal technique, body language, and visual aids.
3. Determine the success of the organization of a speech.
4. Determine the success of the argument of a speech.
5. Determine the success of a speech's introduction and conclusion.
6. Determine how well-written a speech is and how appropriate to its purpose.

7. Critically examine your own work.

8. Identify areas of strength and areas for improvement in your own work.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Public Speaking Assignment #10.1	<i>Homework</i>	15 points
Public Speaking Assignment #10.2	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Public Speaking Assignment #10.3	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Speech Evaluation: Text Questions	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 1	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 10 Discussion Assignment 2	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
Unit 10 Quiz – Speech Evaluation	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

Public Speaking Final Exam

Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last five units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

ASSIGNMENT:

Public Speaking Final Exam	<i>Exam</i>	50 points
Class Reflection Discussion Assignment	<i>Discussion</i>	10 points

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