

SYLLABUS

COMM 51A: Practical Experience in Public Speaking

Meets: MW 12:00-1:30
Instructor: Laura Ainsworth
Phone: (707) 861-0372

Office Hours: M 9:00-10:00, TTH 1:30-4:00
Location: Maggini 2820, **Team Room**
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Course Description:

Comm 51A is a three-unit course designed to develop proficiency in the practical application of public speaking. The course examines how speaking in public cultivates leadership skills and assists participants in developing communication strategies for applied contexts *of their own choosing*. The nature of advocacy, including exigent and precipitating conditions, as well as historical examples, will be explored. The recommended preparation for this course is eligibility for ENGL 1A. This course fulfills requirements for the SRJC AA degree and is transferable to the CSU. **Student Learning Outcomes:** *Upon completion of the course, students will be able to (1) Deliver a speech to a public audience; (2) Explain how public oration is a form of advocacy and leadership, and (3) Identify and develop leadership speaking skills.*

Course Objectives:

The overall objective of this course is to obtain public speaking experience in an applied communication setting. You may decide to produce a podcast, deliver a business training, engage in debates (competitive, assistant coaching, or non-competitive via facilitation with the Forensics Team), or learn to address varied audiences within the community (i.e. the City Council, Toastmasters, or the Board of Trustees). This includes assessment of the communication context, determination of the role of influence, analysis of the intended audience, construction and delivery of content, and reflection regarding strategic effectiveness. You will also learn about the conditions that foster advocacy and situations that compel leadership. We will explore the idea of the leadership “moment” and theories about what leadership is and how it operates through the communication exchange. By the end of the course, you should be able to identify leadership styles, the primary theories about leadership, and the transformative periods in history that were shaped by orators.

Course Requirements:

- ◆ Leadership: Theory and Practice 8th Edition, Peter G. Northouse 2018 **ON RESERVE** (old editions work) www.alibris.com
- ◆ The Leadership Moment Michael Useem 1998 **ON RESERVE & CANVAS**
- ◆ TouchPoints Douglas R. Conant and Mette Norgaard 2011 **ON RESERVE & CANVAS**

Course Expectations:

“If this fall into thy hand, revolve. In my stars I am above thee; but be not afraid of greatness: some are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon ‘em.’”

I begin with the understanding that oratory occurs within a time period; as a result, I do not alter quotes, statements, historical interpretations, or facts. I will be showing many speeches and discussing many events that cannot be sanitized or modified for modern preferences. We will be dealing with controversial subjects and engaging in **many** simulations. We will be discussing events that determined the fates of individuals and entire nations; unpalatable details cannot be omitted. I actively welcome and encourage disagreement, and I will foster an environment that encourages civil discourse. I am committed to the principles of Free Speech and don't waver from them. By remaining enrolled in this particular course, you have agreed to co-create a hospitable learning experience wherein we can all practice respectfully agreeing to disagree. At the same time, as a free human, you may enter and exit each class period at will; I do not require an explanation.

Grading:

Grading will be based on a point system. Your grade is an individualized assessment of the skills you are to demonstrate in class; therefore, final grades will not be curved. There is a direct correlation between attendance and grades, and this is a very interactive course; as a result, failure to attend or participate will affect your ability to acquire necessary information.

Points:

Skill Demonstration #1	200	_____
Skill Demonstration #2	200	_____
Skill Demonstration #3	400	_____
Class Participation	100	_____
Written Work	100	_____
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<u>Total Points</u>	1,000	=My grade

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	90-100% = A	900-1,000 points
	80- 89% = B	800-899 points
	70- 79% = C	700-799 points
	60- 69% = D	600-699 points
	Anything Below is Failing	

Although I encourage you to keep track of your grades, you may also view your grades in Canvas

<https://santarosajc.instructure.com/login/canvas>

No one should fail this course. This is supposed to be an enjoyable course for individuals who want to learn more about Communication Studies. The goal is to provide you with the tools you need for incorporating the principles and skills of this discipline into your daily lives. As a result, you can always contact me with any concern before or after class, via email, text, phone, CANVAS, and by appointment: **anytime**. I am here to make this a worthwhile endeavor. **The Drop period is available until February 2nd. You have until April 19th to Withdraw (W on transcript). I will not drop you from the course; it is your responsibility to meet the College's deadlines. I also follow the attendance policy of the College. **FINAL: 5/20/2020 10:00-12:45****

Important College Policies:

This course adheres to Santa Rosa Junior College's **Health & Safety Regulations:**

<https://police.santarosa.edu/health-safety-regulations> By remaining enrolled in the course, you agree to the Campus' **Drug and Alcohol Policy**, and the **Student Standards of Conduct**, including the provision that applies to **Sexual Harassment & Unlawful Discrimination**.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, conduct that is motivated on the basis of a person's race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, marital status, ancestry, service in the uniformed services, physical or mental disability, medical condition, or perceived membership in any of the classifications.

You also understand that SRJC does not tolerate Academic Dishonesty, most notably, plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability, or will need accommodations, I am more than happy to make any arrangements for you. This course abides by the principles of Universal Design and allows for the completion of student-generated projects that are consistent with supporting diverse learning styles and needs. Additionally, you can contact Disability Resources at **<http://drd.santarosa.edu/>** (707) 527-4278, or **disabilityinfo@santarosa.edu**.