

COMM 1: Introduction to Public Speaking

Fall 2021

Section: 1925 Class Meetings: TTh 12:00 – 1:30 Room: Bussman 1453
Instructor: Julia McDermott Office Hours: TTh 11:30-12 & 3:00-3:30 or appointment
Email: jmcdermott@santarosa.edu

These sections are scheduled to meet in person, subject to public health department approval and conditions. Students who enroll in this class must adhere to regulations agreed to by the college for public health protection, which may include masking, social distancing, vaccination or other measures, up to and including a shift to online learning if circumstances warrant. For details, go to this link: <https://pr.santarosa.edu/fall-2021>

Free Required Text: [*Public Speaking: The Virtual Text*](#) is a free Open Source textbook from The Public Speaking Project. The text is in PDF form and may be downloaded in black and white or color.

Course Description: The study of public speaking. Improves the student's ability to prepare and deliver a public speech. Improves the student's ability to critically evaluate various forms of communication.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Effectively prepare and present public speeches to a live audience using contemporary technology when appropriate;
2. Demonstrate active listening skills;
3. Critically evaluate various forms of communication.

Course Requirements

This course uses the Canvas course management system for all written assignments, testing and out-of-class communication. You should familiarize yourself with the system.

Chapter Quizzes: short multiple-choice quizzes in Canvas on assigned reading; due before the class for which the reading is assigned. Late quizzes receive only half credit.

Final Exam: a cumulative multiple-choice exam.

Speeches: five speeches, of varying lengths and types. Written versions of speeches are due in advance. One speech requires the use of presentation technology. All five speeches are required to pass the class; missed speeches must be made up by submitting video recordings for half credit by an agreed-upon deadline. No exceptions.

Self Observations: all speeches are video recorded; students critique their own performance on each speech in a short essay.

Feedback and Critique: Students participate in feedback sessions for all speeches performed in class and engage in various activities to build their active listening and critical evaluation capability.

Course Policies

Attendance:

This is a participation-oriented class. You are expected to attend all class meetings, and to contact me if something prevents you from attending. All students attending class are required to follow college policies regarding the wearing of face coverings (see page 4). Regular attendance is critical to success in this class. However, you should not attend class if you are ill. Current college policy states that you are not to be on campus if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or if you “have had any exposure or direct contact with COVID-19 suspected or diagnosed individuals in the last 14 days.” In such cases, you need to be prompt in communicating with me and diligent in your efforts to do work for the class without being able to attend in person. For some class sessions, you may be able to attend virtually, using Zoom, but only if you have contacted me in advance to set this up.

If you miss more than four class sessions, district policy is that I may drop you from the class. If you have not been in communication with me and making a good faith effort to keep up, I will do this.

You should do your best not to be absent when you are scheduled to give a speech. If you are absent due to COVID quarantine, you may be able to give your speech via web cam using Zoom. If you are absent due to illness or injury you should be prepared to make up your speech as soon as you return to class. If you are absent for any other reason, you may be able to make up your speech if there is extra time, and if you are present and prepared when the opportunity arises. If you miss a speech entirely, you will need to record yourself giving the speech and submit it for half credit.

Tardy arrival or early departure count as partial absences.

Class Conduct:

We strive for an environment of respect and encouragement. This includes offering constructive feedback, listening and talking when it is appropriate, offering honest but respectful opinions, and respecting the opinions of others. This semester, this also includes maintaining distance as much as possible and wearing your mask in accordance with college policies and my instructions.

This class emphasizes the practice of ethical public speaking. High standards are applied in the preparation and delivery of speeches in regard to the sources of information used and the way in which they are credited. Violation of these standards will impact your grade and may also result in an academic dishonesty incident report being filed with the college.

You should be familiar and comply with the college’s expectations regarding student conduct. Here is the college’s page on [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#); of especial concern for our class are the policies on [Academic Integrity](#) and [Student Conduct](#).

Recording

Speeches given in class will be recorded. Recordings will be posted in Canvas. You will review the recording of each of your speeches for the self-observation assignments, and absent classmates may watch the recording and comment for partial credit. Professionals hired by the college may review videos for the purpose of captioning. See me if you need an exception.

Access and Accommodations

It is the mission of the Santa Rosa Junior College to support inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos—please notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students are also welcome to contact the [Disability Resources Department \(DRD\)](#). DRD is a resource for students that provides authorization for academic accommodations, training and access to assistive technology, and collaborates on strategies for academic success.

Grading

This class uses a positive points grading system. Your grade will be based on the points you earn, using the tables below.

Total Points	Letter Grade
900 points or more	A
800 – 899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
Below 600 points	F

Assignment	Points Possible
Reading Quizzes	100 points
Narrative Speech	50 points
Informative Speech	100 points
Informative Speech with Visual Aids	150 points
Ceremonial Speech	50 points
Persuasive Speech	200 points
Self-Observation Essays	200 points (5 @ 40 points)
Written Final Exam	50 points
Feedback and Critique	100 points
Total	1000 points
Optional Credit Assignments	Up to 50 points total

Physical and Mental Health

Should you experience any physical or mental health issues, know that all of us at SRJC care about your well-being. SRJC's Student Health Services (SHS) has nurse practitioners and mental health therapists available. Confidential sessions are provided via secure Zoom or in-person. Sessions are free for SRJC students taking credit or non-credit classes, and some providers can converse with you in Spanish if you prefer. SHS also has on-site covid rapid testing and vaccinations available also at no cost. To start the process for any type of physical

or mental health appointment contact Student Health at 707 527-4445 or email studenthealthservices@santarosa.edu. More information about all that Student Health Services provides is available at [shs.santarosa.edu.]shs.santarosa.edu.

Facial Coverings

- Face coverings must be worn indoors at all district facilities at all times, except when employees are in a work area in which no others are present. This applies to everyone, whether vaccinated or not until protocols are no longer required.
- While face coverings are not required outdoors for anyone, it is recommended that unvaccinated individuals wear face masks if six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- All face coverings shall be specifically designed for protection as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Individuals exempt from wearing a face covering include, but not limited to, persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, and persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication. If you are unable to wear a face mask, please contact Robin McHale for an accommodation and alternative requirements.
- Facial coverings are not respiratory protective equipment.
- Per direction from Sonoma County Public Health, people working in Sonoma County must wear face coverings indoors except when they are in the following situations:
 - Working alone in a closed office or room;
 - Persons who are actively eating and/or drinking;
 - Persons swimming or showering in a fitness facility;
 - Persons who are obtaining a medical or cosmetic service involving the head or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service;
 - Persons who are specifically exempted from wearing face coverings pursuant to other California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.

All Face Coverings Shall:

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the face;
- Be secured with ties, ear loops or elastic bands;
- Include at least two layers of fabric;
- Allow for breathing with minimal restriction;
- Be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape;
- If employees, students, or visitors do not have a face covering, one will be provided, and must be worn as directed;
- Based on current data, use of neck gaiters are not allowed;
- Any images or graphics that are part of a face covering should be professional in nature, and not offensive, crude, etc.

Individuals that have a medical condition, mental health condition, or a disability that prevent them from wearing a facemask and require an ADA accommodations must contact Robin McHale in Human Resources at 707.524.1507