
SRJC's Mission is to cultivate learning through the creative, intellectual, physical, social, emotional, aesthetic and ethical development of our diverse community.

Comm 60: Spring 2022 Survey of Communication

Section 5490: January 20 - May 26
Days/Times: Tues/Thurs 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m.
Final Exam: May 26, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: 1288 Barnett, Santa Rosa Campus

Instructor: Cassandra Shafer, M.A.
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(707) 527-4239 (Dept.)
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Virtual Office: Zoom Meeting ID Number (sent separately as needed)
Consultation Hours: Tues/Thurs, 1:20 to 1:50 p.m., or by appointment

Course Description

Catalog Description: This class focuses on four areas: public speaking, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication, and communication in groups, with special emphasis on career-focused skills.

Instructor's Description: This class is a learn-by-doing "communication laboratory" where we experiment with various modes of communication, observe and analyze the outcomes, and reflect on ways we can refine our skills and extend/deepen our knowledge in four areas: presentational speaking, interpersonal communication, intercultural communication and group process. Through experiential learning of oral performance and interaction, this course cultivates career-focused communication skills. In-class presentations, exercises and projects are supplemented with lectures, discussions and readings.

Grading Philosophy

You are not competing against other students. As the instructor, I do not compare students with each other, and I ask that you not judge yourself in comparison to your classmates. My task is to share communication tools, and assist each student in discovering and developing your own unique voice, your own style and your own message. Your task is to exercise your voice and to listen to the voices of others. It is highly likely you will learn more from your classmates than from your instructor or textbook. Improvement is expected; consequently, assignments are worth more as the semester progresses.

Textbook

Foss, Sonja, and Karen Foss. *Inviting Transformation. Presentational Speaking for a Changing World*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, 2016. (3rd or 4th edition)

Library Reserve Call Number: HF5718.22 .F67 2012 PC Shafer

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Conceive, research, organize and prepare coherent oral presentations incorporating qualified sources and effective verbal and nonverbal delivery.
2. Express and identify concepts of intercultural communication.
3. Develop effective listening and interpersonal skills for various communication contexts.
4. Develop skills and strategies to work effectively in small groups.

Course Objectives

During this course, students will have the opportunity to

1. Acquire a foundation of basic terminology, concepts and theories of communication.
2. Demonstrate awareness of and sensitivity to issues of gender and cultural diversity and its implications for communication.
3. Recognize ethical dimensions of communication.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in preparing and delivering presentations using an outline format.
5. Manage communication apprehension.
6. Critique presentations and develop feedback skills.
7. Demonstrate listening skills.
8. Demonstrate interpersonal communication skills.
9. Demonstrate small group and/or team-building communication skills.

Topics & Scope (link to [Course Outline of Record](#))

The units of this course are interwoven over the entire semester as many of the concepts and skills overlap. Course assignments have been designed to integrate interpersonal, group and/or intercultural communication skills with presentational speaking skills.

Group and interpersonal skills are integrated into the oral and written feedback component of the course, as students assume progressively more responsibility for sharing analyses of classmates' communication in a way that is both honest and supportive.

Public Speaking:

Communication Apprehension, Managing Speech Anxiety

Modes of Rhetoric: Conquest, Conversion, Benevolent, Advisory, Invitational

Neo-Aristotelian Rhetoric

Five Canons: Content, Organization, Style, Preparation, Delivery

Modes of Proof: Logos, Ethos, Pathos

Entelechy

Topic Selection

Audience Analysis, Adapting to Audience

Speech Research and Support

Speech Purpose

Outlining and Notes

Visual and Presentational Aids

Listening to Analyze & Evaluate (Critical Listening)

(continued on next page)

Interpersonal Communication:

Listening So Others Feel Heard (Empathic Listening)
Communicating in Relationships
Self-Disclosure & Self-Concept
Non-Violent Communication
Constructive Feedback & Appreciative Analysis

Intercultural Communication:

7 Dimensions of Cross-Cultural Communication
Language, Sensitivity to Gender and Cultural Diversity
Nonverbal Communication Variation Across Cultures
Perception of Cultural Identity

Career-Focused Persuasion:

Persuasive strategies
Preparing for Interviews
Conducting Interviews
Interview Questions
Nonverbal Messages in Interviews

Group Process:

Group Development
Group Members' Roles and Functions
Decision-making
Leadership
Types of Power
Problem-solving in Groups
Conflict Resolution

Expectations

This section emphasizes experiential learning of oral communication skills through face-to-face interaction. Therefore, students are expected to

- Attend every class meeting.
- Be "present" (awake, alert and engaged) during class.
- Do all the assignments.
- Be open to communicating with classmates and the instructor.

Email is useful for sharing information. Face-to-face communication tends to work better for personal concerns. Students are invited to speak informally with the instructor after class as needed and/or to schedule appointments during office hours for sensitive matters. If you have a concern about me, the instructor, that you are uncomfortable talking about with me directly, please contact the Chair of Communication Studies Department at (707) 527-4238.

Students who do well in this course meet the expectations above, and also

- ◆ participate with an open mind & an open heart
- ◆ take risks (*creative, intellectual, social, interactive-participatory, and/or design thinking*)

Class Participation & Attendance

In speech classes, everybody serves as the audience for each other and provides feedback on each others' presentations. In addition, a group culture unique to this section will develop during the semester. Analyzing and working within this group dynamic is key to the Group Project.

Participation & Active Listening counts for 10% of your semester grade. Missing 10% of class time drops semester grade 10% of total points (i.e., a full letter: A to B). For this section, 10% of class hours is equivalent to 3½ absences or a combination of absences, late arrivals and early departures equaling 280 minutes.

Students may “erase an absence” and restore lost participation credit through extra credit assignments offered during the semester.

College policy 8.1.5 stipulates that **students missing more than 10% of total class hours are subject to being dropped from the class**. When a student has missed 10% of class time, *this* instructor is more likely to drop the student if you have also

- not attempted one or more of the assignments; and/or
- missed classmates' presentations.

Course Materials & Assignment Guidelines

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for each assignment will be provided during class as we go along (also emailed and posted in Canvas). Assignments in **boldface type** are weighted twice as much as the remaining assignments and are designated 2-step.

Oral & Interactive Assignments (50%)

- 1-step Narrative/Personal Experience speech (*3 minutes*)
- 2-step **Informative speech** (*6 to 8 minutes*)
- 2-step **Persuasive Pitch with follow-up Interview** (*10 minutes*)
- 1-step Interview Panel (*one class period*)
- 2-step **Group Project** (*2 to 4 class days*)
- 2-step **Oral Feedback** on classmates' presentations

Written Assignments & Tests (40%)

- 2-step **Interpersonal Communication Journal/Blog**
- 1-step Informative Outline with Sources
- 1-step Reflection paper on Narrative Speech
- 1-step Reflection paper on Pitch and Interview
- 1-step Written feedback on classmates' presentations
- 1-step Midterm
- 1-step Final Exam

Active Listening & Participation (10%)

Group discussions, experiential exercises, class activities, classmates' speeches

Gateway Assignments (required but ungraded)

- Research Sources for Informative Speech
- Career-Focus/Published Job Description for Pitch/Interview

Gateway assignments must be completed before students will be scheduled with a date to deliver the Informative Speech or allowed to conduct interviews.

Late work. Being late with oral assignments disrupts the course for your classmates and is strongly discouraged. ***Re-scheduling a speaking date requires advance consultation with the instructor and is not guaranteed.*** Written assignments will be accepted late, but may not be graded promptly. Exceptions to these late work guidelines are addressed on a case-by-case basis. Have a one-on-one conversation with the instructor.

Feedback Forms. Students are individually responsible for reproducing feedback forms to use in evaluating classmates' presentations. The instructor will provide both a printed and electronic version of the required feedback forms, which vary for each assignment. Students are expected to arrive in class on speech days with the correct version and correct amount of feedback forms for that day's speakers.

Grading

The course assignments count for 90% of your semester grade. Participation and Active Listening count for the remaining 10%.

Students begin the semester at the level of B minus (80%). Assignments are weighted more and less heavily in 5% increments and are designated 1-step and 2-step (see list on previous page). Assignments are assessed as follows:

- + takes a risk: raises semester grade designated step(s)
- ✓ satisfies guidelines: maintains semester grade at same level
- does not fulfill basic guidelines: drops semester grade designated step(s)
- 0 assignment not attempted: drops semester grade triple its designated step(s)

It requires "plus grades" on assignments worth 6 steps to raise semester grade a full letter (i.e., B to A). "Minus" grades cancel out "plus" grades and reverse upward progress.

A **"Zero 0" grade**, as its shape suggests, opens a black hole in the Holistic Learning Universe, potentially sucking the student into oblivion. More concretely, not attempting an assignment lowers semester grade by its percentage grade weight (i.e., 5%, 10%).

Missing class may affect your grade. Missing 0% of class time raises semester grade a one-step "plus." Missing 10% of class time drops semester grade by 10% (a full letter).

If your personal situation or personal philosophy compels you to miss class, please note that this course requirement may be completed online and consider enrolling in a different section that affords you more flexibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: In your grading system, what do you mean by "take risks"?

A: Risks may be creative, intellectual, social, interactive-participatory, and/or design thinking. The following explanations are by no means exhaustive, and students are encouraged to think outside the box and stretch beyond your comfort zone.

Creative risks could involve multi-sensory or experimental choices in speech delivery, or an unusual, innovative or multi-cultural approach to a topic.

Intellectual risks could involve choosing cutting edge, controversial, or fringe speech topics that challenge both speaker and audience to consider new ideas, re-consider deeply held beliefs, or question our biases.

Social risks could involve listening empathically as well as critically to others' speeches; offering honest constructive feedback; discussing sensitive topics; or being open and authentic in sharing personal beliefs and personal experiences.

Interactive-Participatory risks could involve engaging with listeners; participating productively in group projects; and/or inviting our participation in your presentations beyond the use of a rhetorical question to open your speech.

Design Thinking risks could involve planning your presentations to integrate beginning, middle and end with visual or verbal repeating motifs; and/or incorporating all of the above risks into communication activities, exercises and projects.

Cell Phone Activity Unwelcome in Classroom

This section focuses on face-to-face real-time oral communication. More than simply speaking, communication entails listening, attention to body language and nonverbal messages, and awareness of group energy and dynamics. Cell phone activity unrelated to class needs interferes with the fundamental focus of this course.

Kindly exit classroom before viewing or using cell phones. Inside classroom, having your phone out lowers your active listening grade. Phone expectations:

Sound Off	Out of Reach
Vibrate Off	Out of Sight
Signal Off	Out of Mind

Academic Honesty

Honesty and integrity are encouraged in this course and among the relationships that develop in this classroom. To paraphrase author and radio host Caroline Casey in her interpretation of philosopher George Ivanovitch Gurdjieff:

Knowledge tends to degrade from one generation to the next, especially when we take on somebody else's original work without doing our own. A Tibetan saying goes, "Knowledge must be burned, hammered, and beaten like gold. Then, one can wear it like an ornament." When we passively, hence uncritically, receive teaching of any kind, our learning is degraded and our grade is merely fool's gold.

College Policy 3.11 states: "Academic dishonesty is regarded as any act of deception, benign or malicious in nature, in the completion of any academic exercise. Examples of academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, impersonation, misrepresentation of idea or fact for the purpose of defrauding, use of unauthorized aids or devices, falsifying attendance records, violation of testing protocol, inappropriate course assignment collaboration, and any other acts that are prohibited by the instructor." Students are responsible for adhering to [academic honesty guidelines](#) and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

COVID Protocols, Health Services, Emergency Plan, and Disability Accommodations

COVID Protocols at SRJC:

- 1) Masks are required indoors at SRJC;
- 2) Everyone must perform a [symptom self-check](#) before coming onto campus;
- 3) Students must obtain a daily wristband from a safety monitor; and
- 4) Students must scan a QR code every time you enter a different building on campus.

Each building has its own different QR code. Safety monitors will help students with these codes during the first few weeks of the semester. Safety monitors will also have surgical masks available for students who need them.

Physical and Mental Health Services Available: All of us at SRJC care about your well-being. Should you experience any physical or mental health issues, know that 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 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 student health services available to you can be found at shs.santarosa.edu.

Emergency Evacuation Plan: In the event of an emergency during class that requires evacuation of the building, please leave the class immediately and calmly.

To make sure everyone got out of the building safely and to receive further instructions, our class will meet at the following location:

▶ ***In the parking lot north of the classroom building***

If you are a student with a disability who may need assistance in an evacuation, please see instructor during office hours as soon as possible to discuss an evacuation plan.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you need disability-related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., please provide the Authorization for Academic Accommodations (AAA letter) from the Disability Resources Department (DRD) to the instructor as soon as possible. You may also speak with the instructor privately during consultation hours about your accommodations. If you have not received authorization from DRD, it is recommended that you contact them directly at <https://drd.santarosa.edu>. DRD is located in Bertolini (3rd Floor, Room 4842) on the Santa Rosa campus, and Jacobs Hall (Room 101) on the Petaluma Campus.