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

## Comm 1: Spring 2022

### Introduction to Public Speaking

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**Consultation Hours:** Mon/Wed, 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. and 4:20 to 4:50 p.m.  
or by appointment

### Course Description

**Catalog 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.

**Instructor's Description:** This class is a learn-by-doing "communication laboratory" where we experiment with various types of presentations and delivery styles, observe and analyze the results, and reflect on ways we can improve our public speaking skills for a live audience. We also experiment with ways to deepen listening abilities and to refine the analysis of oral presentations so we can convey honest evaluations with respect and kindness as useful feedback for our classmates. Live, synchronous presentations and exercises are supplemented with lectures and discussions. Asynchronous reading, writing, research, and speech preparation-rehearsal are completed by students on their own time.

### 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 to assist each student in developing your own unique voice, your own style, and your own message. Your task is to exercise your voice and 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 (*For more on Grading, see pages 3-4 below*).

### Textbooks

[Stand Up. Speak Out.](#) **FREE**, no cost, open source, online textbook. Required.

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

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

May be available via Library Curbside pick-up. Details to be provided in class.

# 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.

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

- I. Introduction to Public Speaking as a Communication Process
  - A. Elements of the Communication Process
  - B. Managing Communication Apprehension and Speech Anxiety
  - C. Active Listening
    1. Critical Listening (listening to analyze and evaluate)
    2. Empathic Listening (listening so others feel heard)
- II. Types of Public Speaking
  - A. Neo-Aristotelian Rhetoric
    1. Three speech purposes (inform, persuade, entertain/inspire)
    2. Five canons (content, organization, style of language, delivery, preparation)
    3. Three modes of proof (ethos, pathos, logos)
  - B. Invitational Rhetoric
    1. Four conditions (safety, openness, freedom, value)
    2. Five core assumptions
- III. Speech Preparation Skills
  - A. Audience Analysis, Adapting to Audience
  - B. Topic Selection
  - C. Research Skills
    1. Library and electronic research techniques
    2. Evaluation of supporting materials
  - D. Speech Organization
    1. Outlining and notes
    2. Patterns
  - E. Style/Use of Language
- IV. Presentation Skills
  - A. Practice Skills
  - B. Delivery
    1. Vocal qualities
    2. Body language, nonverbal messages
    3. Presentational aids
- V. Critical Evaluation Of Live, In-Class Student Presentations & TED Talks
  - A. Evaluation of Source Credibility (Ethos)
  - B. Evaluation of Emotional Appeals (Pathos)
  - C. Evaluation of Logical Appeals (Logos)
  - D. Constructive Feedback, Appreciative Analysis & Entelechy

# Grading

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; 2-step; 3-step (see list on next 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 steps)

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 (5%, 10%, etc.)***

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

- **Creative risks** could involve multi-sensory or multi-cultural choices in speech delivery, or an unusual or innovative 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; or being open and authentic about yourself.
- **Interactive risks** could involve engaging with listeners; inviting our active 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; or incorporating all of the above.

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

**Class Participation:** In speech classes, everybody serves as the audience for each other and provides feedback on each others' presentations. In addition, this section emphasizes experiential learning of oral communication through face-to-face interaction, group discussions and class activities. ***Missing class lowers your Active Listening grade. Missing no class time raises semester grade one step.***

**Attendance:** College policy 8.1.5 stipulates that **students who miss more than 10% of total class hours are subject to being dropped** from the class. For this class, 10% = 280 minutes. If you expect to miss more than 3 days during semester, consult instructor ahead of time. **If you miss class 4 times, schedule an appointment with instructor** to negotiate make-up work and avoid being dropped.

# Assignment Guidelines & Course Materials

Specific guidelines and grading criteria for each assignment will be provided in class as we go along. You may also download guidelines at any time (see links on next page).

## Speeches & Oral Assignments (50%)

- 5% 1-step [Voice of the Voiceless Speech](#) (1 to 2 minutes)
- 10% 2-step [Personal Experience Narrative Speech](#) (3 to 4 minutes)
- 15% 3-step [Informative Speech](#) (6 to 8 minutes)
- 10% 2-step [Persuasive Speech](#) (10 minutes)
- 5% 1-step [Interview Panelist](#) (Interviewing Questions)
- 5% 1-step [Impromptu Speech/Interview](#) (to be determined)
- Gateway: [Choosing a Career Focus for Impromptu Speech](#)

## Outlines & Speech Preparation Writing Assignments (10%)

- 5% 1-step [Informative Outline: Instructions](#)  
[Informative Outline: Worksheet](#)  
Gateway: [Research Sources & Topic for Informative Speech](#)  
[Citing Sources during Informative Speech](#)
- 5% 1-step [Persuasive Outline: Instructions & Worksheet \(Motivated Sequence\)](#)

## Exams (15%)

- 5% 1-step Midterm Exam
- 10% 2-step Final Exam/Take-Home Essay

## Critical Evaluation & Constructive Feedback (25%)

- 10% 2-step [Active Listening](#)
- 10% 2-step [Oral Feedback](#)  
[Grading Criteria for Oral & Written Feedback](#)
- 5% 1-step [Written Feedback](#)  
[Feedback Form \(Personal Experience Speech\)](#)  
[Feedback Form \(Informative Speech\)](#)  
[Feedback Form \(Persuasive Speech\)](#)  
[Feedback Form \(Impromptu Speech\)](#)

Students are responsible for analyzing specific criteria when evaluating classmates' presentations. These criteria vary for each assignment, and are included on the required feedback forms, which students may download at any time by clicking on the links above.

***Students are expected to refer to the feedback criteria on speech days as they listen to and critique that day's speakers. Feedback is a graded activity.***

## Assignment Guidelines & Course Materials *continued*

Click on the links below to view or download guidelines and instructions for **graded assignments** and **gateway assignments** (ungraded required homework).

Assignment Guidelines & Basic Expectations	Grading Criteria & Feedback Forms	Grade Weight
<a href="#">Active Listening</a>	<a href="#">Active Listening</a> scroll to bottom of page	10%
<a href="#">Written Feedback</a>		5%
<a href="#">Oral Feedback</a>	<a href="#">Grading Criteria for Written &amp; Oral Feedback</a>	10%
<a href="#">Voice of the Voiceless Speech</a>		5%
<a href="#">Personal Experience Narrative Speech</a>	<a href="#">Feedback Form (Personal Experience)</a>	10%
<a href="#">Informative Speech</a>	<a href="#">Feedback Form (Informative Speech)</a>	15%
<a href="#">Informative Outline: Instructions</a> <a href="#">Informative Outline: Worksheet</a>	<a href="#">Informative Outline Grading</a>	5%
<a href="#">Citing Sources in Informative Speech</a>		5%
Midterm Exam		5%
<a href="#">Persuasive Speech</a>	<a href="#">Feedback Form (Persuasive Speech)</a>	10%
<a href="#">Persuasive Outline: Instructions &amp; Worksheet (Motivated Sequence)</a>		5%
<a href="#">Impromptu/Interview Speech</a>	<a href="#">Feedback Form (Impromptu Speech)</a> <a href="#">Gateway: Choosing Career Focus</a>	5%
<a href="#">Interview Panelist</a>		5%
<a href="#">Final Exam/Take-Home Essay</a>		10%
		100%
<b>Extra Credit</b>		
<a href="#">Speech Reflection Paper (Self-Evaluation)</a>		5%
Missing No Class Time		5%
Research Appointment with Librarian		2.5%

## Expectations

This section emphasizes experiential learning of face-to-face live communication. Therefore, students are expected to

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

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

## 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 audience energy and dynamics. Cell phones offer many useful tools, but cell phone activity unrelated to class needs interferes with the fundamental focus of this course.

Please program *Do Not Disturb* during class meeting time for duration of semester. During class time, *phone use unrelated to course activities will lower your Active Listening grade*. Repeated phone use will trigger a referral for addiction counseling.

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

## Academic Honesty & Student Conduct

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 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](mailto:studenthealthservices@santarosa.edu). More information about student health services available to you can be found at [shs.santarosa.edu](https://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.