Course Instructor: Stephen A. Furlich, Ph.D.
Course Title: Honors Fundamentals of Communication
Speech 1315/1321-01H
Class Time: Tues./Thurs. 9:30-10:45 Ed. S. 127
E-Mail: Stephen.furlich@tamuc.edu
Office Hours: (Tues/Thurs. 8:00-9:30; 10:45-12:00; W. 2:00-3:00).
Office: PAC 120
Prerequisites: None

**Course description:** Theories and related skills for planning, organizing, rehearsing, presenting and evaluating a variety of types of speeches. Includes a survey of rhetorical traditions, principles, and strategies used in informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speeches. Emphasis on student performance and evaluation of oral and written models of classical and contemporary speeches. Recommended for students pursuing careers in teaching, law, the ministry, politics, or other professions involving making public presentations. May be taken to meet the general education communication requirement.

**Required:** 3 GREEN Scan Trans

(Electronic copy information purchased at bookstore)

Students **MUST** have access to the **INTERNET**.

**Course outcome competencies:**

**Learning Outcomes:** This course explores theory and principles of effective public speaking while providing an emphasis on skills development. Specific attention is given to the preparation, delivery, and evaluation of public speeches. General student learning outcomes include the following:

1. Students will understand theory and practice in public speaking.
2. Students will learn and develop various fundamentals and tools of effective speech delivery.
3. Students will be able to critically analyze the content, organization, and delivery of their own speeches and the speeches of others.

4. Students will become competent and confident public speakers.

5. Students will synergize theories and principles of communication into the successful preparation and delivery.

**Attendance** - Punctual attendance is expected at all class sessions, especially on presentation and test days. Excessive absences are defined by the instructor as more than one day, excused or unexcused. If you participate in University sponsored activities (e.g., intercollegiate sports) you must check with the instructor with appropriate documentation before you are absent. Students are responsible for all missed work.

**Course Assignments/Assessments**: The department of Mass Media, Communication, & Theatre supports university policies of academic excellence as noted in the student handbook. Interpretation of grades should be considered within the university framework: A=excellent, B=good; C=average; D=inferior; and F=failure. Final grades in this course will be based on:

* **Tests** - (70%)

  20% Test 1
  25% Test 2
  25% Test 3

* **Presentations** - (30%) Note: Encyclopedias and dictionaries do not count as sources.

  10% Presentation 1: Informative - Emphasis on Content and Structure with Library Sources.
  10% Presentation 2: Persuasive - With Library Sources
  10% Presentation 3: Group Presentation with interview and library sources (Individual=10%)

**ALL SPEECHES MUST BE PAPERLESS. THIS MEANS NO PAPERS USED DURING THE PRESENTATION. STUDENTS CAN CREATE AND USE A POWER POINT. STUDENTS SHOULD SUBMIT THEIR OUTLINE & REFERENCE PAGE ELECTRONICALLY THROUGH ECOLLEGE FOR THIS COURSE IN DOCSHARING. DO NOT CHOOSE A TOPIC LISTED ON THE UNACCEPTABLE LIST.**

Presentation 1: Each student will deliver an informative speech of 4:30-5:30 minutes. The purpose is to inform the audience and not persuade them. The presentation will consist of gathering at least 3 credible outside sources for your presentation. Internet web-site sources will not count as part of the required 3 sources. Using books and journal articles are encouraged to be cited during your presentation. Each student will turn in an outline and a reference page of sources.

Points will be deducted for not abiding to the time limit.

Presentation 2: Each student will deliver a persuasive speech of 4:30-5:30 minutes. The purpose is to persuade the audience to accept the speaker’s ideas about a particular issue. It is imperative for the speaker to demonstrate why his or her side of an issue is superior to the opposing one. The presentation will consist of gathering at least 3 credible outside sources for your presentation. Internet web-site sources will not count as part of the required 3 sources. Using books and journal articles are encouraged to be cited during your presentation. A visual aid is also required for the presentation. Each student will turn in an outline and a reference page of sources. Be sure topics are appropriate for the class. Points will be deducted for not abiding to the time limit. A list of Unacceptable speech topics is in ECollege.
Presentation 3: This presentation entails groups of 4-5 students working together. Each group will choose a particular topic related to public speaking NOT covered in class. It is essential for the topic to be different from the topics covered in class about public speaking. Each member of the group will present one aspect of the project to the class in a 5 minute presentation for each group member’s speech. **Points will be deducted if it is not between 4:30-5:30 minutes long.**

Hence, if you have 5 group members each group member will speak for 5 minutes and have 3 sources. Hence, there will be 5 different speeches, outlines, and 3 sources for each speech. The focus of the presentation is to support each presentation from **3 credible sources. Internet web-site sources will not count as part of the required 3 sources.** Using books and journal articles are encouraged. **The key is to synthesize the material together as a group presentation.** Each presentation can build upon, compare contrast, etc. with the other topics for the group. Each student will **present their presentation based upon how that area is related to the other areas and also uniquely contributes to the overall topic.** Each student will receive a grade based upon their individual presentation. A **visual aid** is also required for each presentation. Each student will **turn in an outline and reference page of their 3 credible sources.**

**Note:** Point deductions will be given to students who do not fully participate with their group members throughout the entire process. Hence, it is imperative for students to show up to group meetings.

* Activities - (+2%)

A number of activities will be assigned to demonstrate or apply content from the text and class discussions. **You cannot get credit for activities that are done on days you are absent, you leave early, or come in 10 minutes late.** Late activities will not be accepted. You are expected to keep up with your own grades. You should know your standing in the course at any time during the semester. Students will receive 2% additional points to their final grade if they miss no more than 1 day. **Students may lose 10% of their final grade or will be dropped from the class for any class that they are disrespectful the first time. This includes but is not limited to any cell phone activity, doing work for other classes, talking out of turn in a disruptive manner, sleeping, etc.**

**Course Procedures**

**Assignments** - Assignments must be completed on time. Late work will result in loss of points. Academic integrity is expected on all course assignments and activities. Violations of academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are serious offenses and will be dealt with according to university policy.

**Make-Up Assignments and Examinations** - If you miss an exam or presentation it must be for one of the following types of documentable reasons: death in the family, severe personal illness, university sponsored activities, etc. If you have an unexcused absence on a day you are scheduled to make a presentation or take a test, you cannot make up that presentation or test. Additionally, because of time constraints, the instructor may elect not to grant make-up speeches for any reason. In order to take a make-up examination you must submit verifiable and official documentation to your instructor (e.g., a doctor’s note for the specific day missed). If your request is approved, you may take a make-up test on the appointed day. All make-up exams must be given for qualified persons within 2 weeks of the missed test.

**Extra Credit** - Extra credit can be earned for participation in departmental research conducted in or outside of class, if the opportunity arises. Extra credit points awarded will be determined by the nature of the project.

**Cell Phones** – All cell phones must be turned off before class starts.

**Observance of a Religious Holy Day** – Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student
shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

**Course Schedule**

Please note that this is a tentative schedule for topics that will be explored this semester.

Slight changes may be made as the semester progresses.

Always bring your syllabus with you to class to record any changes.

**An important reminder:**

All **speeches** and **exams** are in bold. Notice how these are only weeks apart.

Therefore, it is imperative for you to plan ahead and prepare in advance so you don’t fall behind.

Keeping up with the readings and coming to class are the best ways to stay afloat in this class.

**ADA Statement**

Disability statement: Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
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<th>Tues.</th>
<th>Thurs.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 20, Syll., Intro.</td>
<td>Jan. 22, ch. 1 (Public Speaking rationale &amp; Definitions,)</td>
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<td>Jan. 27, ch. 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 (Outlining)</td>
<td>Jan. 29, ch. 6</td>
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<td>(Audience Analysis) ch. 7, 28, 30</td>
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<td>(Topic Selection, 5, 21 Informative Speech.)</td>
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<td>Feb. 3, Test 1</td>
<td>Feb. 5, LIBRARY INSTRUCTION</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:Megan.beard@tamuc.edu">Megan.beard@tamuc.edu</a></td>
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<td>ch. 8, 15, 16, 27</td>
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<td>(Support Material), ch. 9 (credibility)</td>
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<td>Feb. 10, Practice Speech (2-2.5)</td>
<td>Feb. 12, Watch Informative Speech Video, Groups Chosen for Speech 3</td>
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<td>Feb. 17 (Guest Lecture stress instruction  <a href="mailto:Shannon.Moseley@tamuc.edu">Shannon.Moseley@tamuc.edu</a> Ch. 4 (Anxiety)</td>
<td>Feb. 19, History, ch. 2 (Listening) ch. 32 (business comm)</td>
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<td>Feb. 24, Speech 1</td>
<td>Feb. 26, Speech 1</td>
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<td>March 3, Group Preparation Sp. 3</td>
<td>March 5, Group Preparation Sp. 3</td>
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<td>March 10, (Organizational Patterns) &amp; (Verbal) ch. 17</td>
<td>March 12, Impromptu 1</td>
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<td>March 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Spring Break No Class</td>
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<td>March 24, ch. 23, 25, 26 (Delivery.)</td>
<td>March 26, Test 2</td>
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<td>April 1, ch. 3, (ethics) ch. 31(Classroom comm.)</td>
<td>April 3, ch. 22 (Persuasion) (Different Context)</td>
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<td>April 7, Impromptu 2</td>
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<td>April 14, Speech 2</td>
<td>April 16, Speech 2</td>
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<td>April 21, Nonverbal Communication Post-Test</td>
<td>April 23, Interviewing, Deception Lecture, videos</td>
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<td>April 28, (Groups Lecture) ch. 33, 34, 35 &amp; ch. 20, Environment from Nonverbal</td>
<td>April 30, Perception</td>
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<td>May 5, Speech 3</td>
<td>May 7, Speech 3</td>
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Test III Thurs. May 14 at 8:00 AM

I’m looking forward to getting to know each one of you!

Have a great semester!