

Fitchburg State University
Introduction to Speech Communication (3 credits)
Summer Semester (2019)

Professor: Shane Martin

Phone: TBD

Email: sjmartin@fitchburgstate.edu

Office: TBD

Office hours: TBD

***This syllabus is subject to change throughout the duration of the semester. All revisions will be announced in class and/or via email. The student is responsible for attending class and/or checking email to be aware of these changes.**

Course Description:

This class focuses on theory and practice of interpersonal and public communication, including communication theory, self-concept, perception, language, listening, non-verbal communication and public speaking. **3 credits.**

Communication is natural to all of us, yet some people are not capable of communicating effectively while others communicate with the greatest of ease. Why do some people start to blush, sweat, or stutter in front of a classroom full of 20 students? Why are others so calm, confident, and cool in front of a fully packed auditorium? These are only a couple of the questions this course will help you answer.

There are many forms of communication you must learn and **practice** in order to become an effective communicator in all facets of your life. This course will develop your ability to communicate well in various scenarios and you will have ample opportunities to practice what you have learned during class.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will:

- Employ strategies for managing speech anxiety
- Analyze audience demographics and adapt speech material accordingly
- Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal elements of delivery
- Organize and outline speech content within assigned time parameters
- Employ research techniques for locating supporting materials
- Develop critical thinking skills to incorporate supporting materials into effective arguments
- Demonstrate visual aids and technology as presentation tools

Course Text: O'Hair, Stewart, and Rubenstein, *A Speaker's Guidebook - 7th Edition*
ISBN: 9781319059415



Course Work: Your written assignments are due on the same day as your speech.

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|--|---|
| <p>I. Speech Assignments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grab Bag speech Narrative Speech Informative speech Impromptu (4) Persuasive | <p>75% Total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% 10% 15% 20% (5% each) 20% Final Speech |
| <p>II. Written Assignments (typed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informative Self-Analysis Paper Persuasive | <p>25% Total</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% 10% 10% Final Outline: Keyword |

Class Performance:

Your speeches and written assignments are due on the day they are scheduled or you will receive a grade of zero (**NO EXCEPTIONS!**). In case of emergency or illness (properly documented) you will be able to present assignments on another day or during office hours at my discretion.

Fitchburg State Grading Scale:

| | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| A | (4.0) = 95-100 (superior) | C+ | (2.3) = 74-76 |
| A- | (3.7) = 92-94 | C | (2.0) = 71-73 (average) |
| A-/B+ | (3.5) = 89-91 | C- | (1.7) = 69-70 |
| B+ | (3.3) = 86-88 | C-/D+ | (1.5) = 67-68 |
| B | (3.0) = 83-85 (good) | D+ | (1.3) = 64-66 |
| B- | (2.7) = 80-82 | D | (1.0) = 60-63 (poor, but passing) |
| B-/C+ | (2.5) = 77-79 | F | (0.0) = 59 and below |

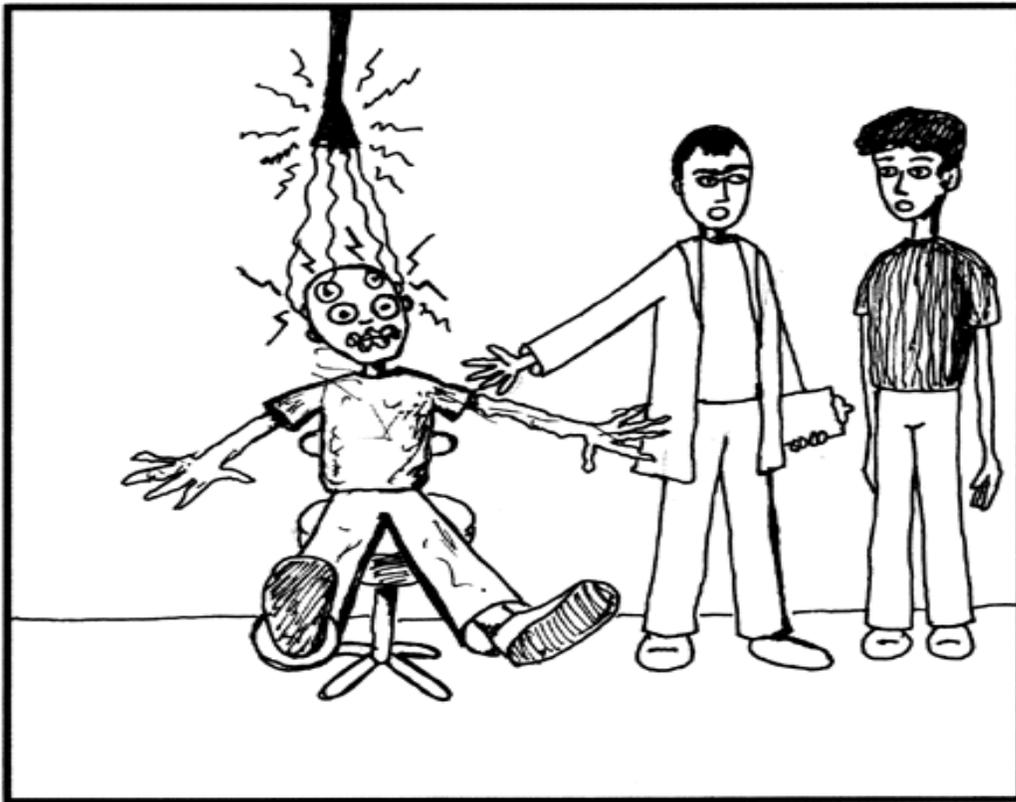
Students with Disabilities:

If you require accommodations for this class, please meet with me as soon as possible so that we can discuss your specific needs. Any information that you share with me will be held in the strictest confidence, unless you give me permission to do otherwise.

Academic Integrity Policy:

You are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic integrity in a course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. A student's lack of understanding of academic integrity is not a valid defense to a charge of academic dishonesty.

Violators will receive a zero for any assignment where the work turned in is not the student's own work.



**Sure, it looks painful but I guarantee
that your friend will stop saying
"Ya know" constantly.**

<http://www.aperfectworld.org/9940.htm>

Introduction to Speech Communication

Calendar of Assignments - Summer Semester (2019)

| Date | Subject | Assignment |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Week 1 | Class begins/Introduction | Syllabus/Welcome |
| | Grab Bag speech discussion | Grab Bag Speech |
| | Getting Started with Confidence | Text: Ch. 1, 2 |
| | | |
| Week 2 | Anxiety Management | Text: Ch. 3, handouts |
| | Narrative speech discussion | Lecture, Narrative Speech |
| | Introductions and Conclusions | Text: Ch. 14, 15 |
| | Audience Analysis and Topic Selection | Text: Ch. 6, 7 |
| | Impromptu speech discussion | Impromptu Speech 1 |
| | | |
| Week 3 | Informative speech discussion | Text: Ch. 23 |
| | Organizing and Outlining | Text: Ch. 11-13 |
| | Supporting the Speech | Text: Ch. 8-10 |
| | Self-Analysis discussion | |
| | | Impromptu Speech 2 |
| | | |
| Week 4 | Persuasive Speech Discussion | Text: Ch. 24-6, handouts |
| | Presentation Aids | Text: Ch. 20-22, PowerPoint Presentation |
| | Verbal/Non-Verbal Communication | Text: Ch. 18, 19, video, Lecture |
| | | Informative workshop, group work |
| | | Impromptu Speech 3 |
| | | Informative Speech and Outlines |
| | | |
| Week 5 | Persuasive Speech | Lecture, group work |
| | Course Conclusion | Persuasive workshop |
| | | Self-Analysis Paper |
| | | Impromptu Speech 4 |
| | | Persuasive Speech and Outlines |
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