

THE 170 Public Speaking

Theater department fall 2024

Instructor Info
Harlan Baker

Phone:

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Meetings

Payson Smith Hall room 301 a

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 pm-3:15 pm

Academic Services & Policies¹

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1. Course Information

1A. Course Description

An introductory course in the art of public discourse. Primarily a lecture-performance course, students will learn the basics of informative and persuasive speaking by writing and giving a variety of speeches. Constructive feedback will assist students in identifying, developing, and strengthening the physical and vocal skills needed to engage an audience and communicate effectively.

1B. Course Materials & Books

There is no required textbook. Online reading assignments will be posted on Brightspace.

For Brightspace tech requirements, see the Academic Services & Policies page2. Supplemental

1C. Course Format

The class meets twice a week. Throughout the course you will deliver six speeches using a manuscript. The class will be divided into four groups. Each group will present their speeches on an assigned date. All speeches will be delivered in class. You must submit a typed copy of your speech outline on the date that it is due (See schedule for dates). Each outline must have a heading with your name, speech assignment number, date due. All outlines must be stapled if they are more than one page. Outlines that are not stapled will not be accepted.

For speeches 2- 6 outlines must have a bibliography of the appropriate research of the topic. At least two sources other than yourself and **Wikipedia** must be used, and those sources must appear in the bibliography at the end of your outline. Failure to include a bibliography will result in 15 points taken off your speech grade. Bibliographies will be written in either MLA format or APA format. **YOU MAY NOT READ YOUR SPEECH ON YOUR CELL PHONE.**

Speeches will be critiqued in class by students and the instructor.

1D. Program Learning Outcomes

This course meets the Core Requirement: Creative Expression.

1E. Course Learning Outcomes

Students will learn the fundamentals of preparing and delivering a speech for an audience.

2. Coursework & Grading

2A. Grade Scale

100-93% = A

92-90% = A-

89-87% = B+

86-83% = B

82-80% = B-

79-77% = C+

76-73% = C

72-70% = C-

69-60% = D

59% or lower = F

2B. Course Grade Breakdown

Assessment Name and point value

Pet Peeve speech
100 points-

Speech about a job or occupation
100 points

Election speech
100 points

Speech about a place you have visited with a visual aid
200 points

A problem- solution speech #2
200 points

Quiz
100 points

Class participation
200 points

Total: 1000 points

1000 points

All grades are final and not subject to negotiation. Speeches are graded based on content, objective, delivery, clarity, and effort. An incomplete grade will only be allowed at the discretion of the instructor. Speeches 2- 5 are graded on the following point system:

Content- 30- points. This includes having the proper heading, objective, and bibliography.

Volume- 10 points Speech outline 10 points, Rate 10 -points, Eye Contact- 10 points, Vocal variety- 20 points, Preparedness-10 points. Failure to present a speech because of not being prepared will result in a failing grade.

2C. Assessment Descriptions & Requirements

Speech # 1- A pet peeve speech. - a pet peeve is a minor annoyance that an individual finds particularly irritating to them. Cite at least three examples. There is a 450 maximum word count. A bibliography is not required.

Speech # 2- A job or occupation. Describe a job or occupation. It does not have to be your job. Describe the requirements for the job and what the work experience is like. Cite three main points about the job. A bibliography is required. There is a 500 maximum word count.

Speech # 3- A speech in support of a candidate running for office in the 2024 elections. You may speak in support of a Presidential candidate, or a candidate for U.S. Senate or House of Representative. You can also speak on candidate for the state legislature in the district that you live in. You are not allowed to make a speech against a candidate. Give at least three reasons you are in support of your candidate. There is a maximum of 600 words.

Speech # 4- Describe a place you have visited. It could be where you had a vacation, or it could be your hometown. Describe at least three distinctive things about this place. You can use a visual aid. A bibliography is required. There is a maximum of 600 words.

Speech # 5- a problem -solution speech. Describe a societal problem that affects all of us. Examples could be global warming, hunger, homelessness, government spending, inflation Describe the problem and propose a solution to it. A bibliography is required. There is a maximum of 600 words.

2E. Final Examination/Final Project

THERE IS NO FINAL EXAMINATION OR PROJECT FOR THIS COURSE.

3. Class Schedule will be on a separate paper and posted on Brightspace.

4. Course-Specific Policies

4A. Attendance

In each semester there are a defined number of classes for any given course; you are expected to be at every class. An absence not only undermines your ability to learn from the course but may impact other students as well. There is NO such determination as “excused or unexcused” absence. You are allowed two absences without any effect on your grade. Any absence after that will result in a loss of 10 points from your class participation grade for each absence. Missing the final class will result in a loss of 20 points from your class participation grade. Tardiness will result in loss of 2 points from your class participation grade for each day you are tardy.

4B. Late Work

Late work will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor and only for extenuating circumstances.

4C. Class Cancellation

Students will be notified of any class cancelation on Brightspace. Any work due on the day a class is canceled will be made up the on following class.

4D. Personal Device Usage and Class Protocol

Laptops are not permitted in the classroom unless it is for academic reasons and must be cleared with me in advance. Use of cellphones is not allowed. Texting during class will result in a zero for the day. Please refrain from entering or leaving the class in the middle of a student’s speech. Persistent walking in and out of the room while class is in session will result in a lower-class participation.

4E. Use of AI Chatbot. You can use AI Chatbot for research generating topics. You may not use it for writing your speech. I want you to use your own brain and express your own thoughts. Use of AI for writing your speech will result in a failing grade.

5. Academic Services & Policies

Below you’ll find information for our most crucial student services and supports. For USM’s most complete and current information on services available to students, as well as academic policies, see The Academic Services & Policies Overview webpage.³

Request disability accommodations | (207) 780-4706 | dsc-usm@maine.edu
Report Interpersonal violence | (207) 780-5767 | usm.titleix@maine.edu
Report On-Campus Emergencies and Safety Concerns | (207) 780-5211 or your local police agency.
Get academic help | mycampus.maine.edu/group/usm/learning-commons1
Get technology help | usm.maine.edu/computing/helpdesk
Meet with an Advisor | usm.maine.edu/advising

Scan the QR Code to go to the Academic Services & Policies webpage4

- 1 <https://mycampus.maine.edu/group/usm/common-syllabus>
- 2 <https://mycampus.maine.edu/group/usm/common-syllabus#treq>
- 3 <https://mycampus.maine.edu/group/usm/common-syllabus>
- 4 <https://mycampus.maine.edu/group/usm/common-syllabus>

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