

SPC 205 Introduction to Oral Communication

Credit Hours: 3

In-Class Instructional Hours: 3

Labs: 0

Field Work: 0

Catalog Description:

Prerequisite. None

Basics of oral communication; examining the principles and contexts of communication; focus on the communication process, interviewing, public discussion, group problem solving, public speaking, and criticism of public messages.

Reasons for Revision:

(Fall 2005). This course (formerly COM 205) was last revised in 1997 as part of a departmental program restructuring. This new proposal is part of a general program review, through which Communication seeks to update its courses in light of departmental experience with the previous program version, evolving departmental needs, and expanding scholarship in the field. Additionally, the department is undertaking this revision to position itself for accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Note: As part of this overall revision, speech and criticism courses are being re-labeled as SPC rather than COM to distinguish between the humanistic base of the newly labeled SPC courses and the applied nature of the courses that will retain the COM prefix.

Student Learning Outcomes: At the completion of this course, students will be able to:	Course Content References:	Assessment:
1. Identify principles of the communication process and the role of free expression to society	I, II	1. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
2. Evaluate audiences' contexts, attitudes, values and responses, and adapt messages accordingly	I, II	2. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
3. Compare the differences among interpersonal, small group, and public communication settings	II, III, V	3. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
4. Demonstrate competence in speaking skills of invention, disposition, style, and delivery	II, IV, V	4. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
5. Demonstrate understanding of critical thinking to analyze and craft ethical arguments that contribute to active and ongoing discussion of issues	VI	5. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
6. Compose and deliver extemporaneous public presentations of messages that are effectively organized and well supported	IV	6. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations
7. Effectively listen and critically evaluate messages	V	7. Exams, writing projects, oral presentations

Course Content:

- I. Communication process
 - A. Speaker's role and responsibilities
 - B. Listener's role and responsibilities
 - C. Message
 - D. Context
 - E. Channels
 - F. Obstacles to communication
- II. Communication as audience-centered and situational
 - A. Specific audiences
 - B. Changing communication contexts
 - C. Intercultural issues
- III. Group problem-solving/decision-making
 - A. Interpersonal skills and successful group communication
 - B. Group communication as task-oriented
 - C. Roles and responsibilities of group members
 - D. Building consensus
 - E. Conflict management
- IV. Public speaking
 - A. Interpersonal skills and successful public communication
 - B. Invention (identifying appropriate topics for speaker and audience)
 - C. Disposition (organizing and supporting ideas)
 - D. Style (language choices and strategies)
 - E. Delivery (presentational concerns)
 - 1. Physical
 - 2. Vocal
 - 3. Visual aids
 - F. Types of speeches
 - 1. Descriptive
 - 2. Informative
 - 3. Persuasive
 - 4. Motivational
- V. Interviewing
 - A. Interpersonal skills and successful interviewing
 - B. Preparing for an interview
 - 1. Identifying appropriate topics
 - 2. Constructing appropriate questions
 - C. Strategies for adapting to interview situations
 - D. Interview conduct
 - 1. Physical
 - 2. Note-taking/recording
- VI. Critical thinking
 - A. Identification of relevant issues
 - B. Analysis of pro/con arguments
 - C. Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses of arguments
 - D. Development of logical conclusions or recommendations based on arguments

Resources:

Current Scholarship in the Field.

- Beebe, S.A., & Beebe, S.J. (2001). *Public speaking: An audience-centered approach* (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Bovee, C.L. (2003). *Contemporary public speaking* (2nd ed.). Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Brydon, S.R., & Scott, M.D. (2002). *Between one and many: The art and science of public speaking* (4th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
- Bryski, B.G., & Brown, T.J. (2006). *Public speaking for success: Strategies for diverse audiences and occasions*. Plymouth MI: Hayden McNeil.
- DeVito, J.A. (200A). *The essential elements of public speaking*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- German, K.M., & Gronbeck, B.E. (2003). *Principles of public speaking* (15th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Grice, G.L., & Skinner, J.E. (2003). *Mastering public speaking* (5th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Jaffe, C. (2003). *Public speaking: Concepts and skills for a diverse society*. Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- Lucas, S.E. (2003). *The art of public speaking*. New York: McGraw-Hill.
- McLean, S. (2004). *Basics of speech communication*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Samovar, L.S. (2000). *Oral communication: Speaking across cultures*. Los Angeles: Roxbury.
- Sellnow, D.D. (2002). *Public speaking: A process approach*. Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- Truman, J., & Fraleigh, D. (2003). *The St. Martin's guide to public speaking*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Young, K.S., & Travis, H.P. (2004). *Oral communication: Skills, choices, and consequences*. Prospect Heights IL: Waveland.
- Zarefski, D.R. (2001). *Public speaking: Strategies for success* (3rd ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Periodicals:

Applied Communication Research
Communication Education
Communication Quarterly
Communication Monographs
Communication Studies
Critical Studies in Mass Communication
Quarterly Journal of Speech