Fundamentals of Speech - Online
University of South Dakota
Fall 2017

Syllabus is subject to change.

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Course Description:
This course is based on the study of communication theory as applied to public speaking. The goals are to improve student’s’ public speaking and listening skills. The Fundamentals of Speech course uses a multidisciplinary approach to teach students to master public speaking as a mode of human communication. This course draws upon both humanistic and scientific traditions to teach the practice of speaking and expression, critical thinking, audience analysis, listening, decision-making, persuasion, and argument construction/evaluation.

Description of Instructional Methods:
The University of South Dakota values a student-centered learning environment, which nurtures intellectual and social development. Instructors have designed their general education courses to utilize a variety of instructional methods.

This course includes the following:

Requirements: Textbook, Acclaim, and Digital Recording Device

Textbook:

You must purchase the physical copy of the text directly from the USD campus Barnes and Noble bookstore. It is a custom package designed for specifically for USD students. It is meant to be used as a reference guide throughout your academic career.

Acclaim: Follow the directions provided in the front cover of your textbook. Use the access code in the front of your textbook to sign up for your Acclaim account. You will be required to upload your speech videos into Acclaim. This program allows your instructor to give you time specific feedback on your speeches. Additionally, it provides a safe online environment for you to upload your video assignments.
Digital Recording Device: Students are responsible for uploading high quality video content, meaning that it must convey a clear picture, clear and synchronous sound, and proper alignment. I strongly suggest that students use a digital camera (with a tripod attachment). These can be found online at Amazon.com or other stores selling electronic items. If you are on campus, you may be able to check out recording equipment. Contact USD Equipment Checkout for more details. The quality of the recording and the clarity of the sound will affect your grade.

Supplementary Materials:
Computer access with high-speed Internet connection: On several occasions, you will be asked to download or upload large files. You must have access to an Internet connection that can handle the demands of an online course, especially one that relies on video. You will need to be able to access YouTube videos and PDF’s.

3x5 or 4x6 note cards: For many speeches, you will be able to use a keyword note card to help you stay organized.

Software: Microsoft Word (2010 or 2013). Written work of any kind MUST BE submitted in either doc. or docx. format. Assignments WILL NOT be evaluated if they are submitted in any other format. This software is available for free download on the Office 365 Student Advantage Page in the myU Portal: https://portal.usd.edu/technology/downloads/student/office-365.cfm

If you use a Mac, it is your responsibility to acquire the skills and software needed to CREATE and VIEW MS Word Documents and MS PowerPoint Presentations (including narrated PowerPoints).

Technological & Digital Video Requirements:
Online learners should refer to the specific technological equipment needs and skills listed in the Division of Continuing Education’s Online Orientation Guide (PDF), located on the course home page in D2L.

Speech of the Week: Every module will contain one or two videos of a speech labels Speech of the Week. You will be required to watch each Speech of the Week and offer your opinions or answer questions about them in the Discussion Forum. Some of the Speech of Week discussion posts could earn you bonus points.

Acclaim: You will be using Acclaim to upload your speeches and mini-speeches in this course. You will find an access code in the front cover of your textbook and you will find
more instructions about how to access and use Acclaim posted on the course homepage in D2L.

**YouTube:** Additionally, many YouTube videos will be embedded in the weekly course content. You will need to make sure you have access to YouTube and are able to watch and upload videos to the course YouTube channel. However, you will not be uploading your assignments in YouTube.

**Brief Description of Assignments:**

**Speeches:** Students will be required to prepare and present three (3) individual speeches, one (1) paired speech, and one (1) group activity. Each speech will have different criteria to meet to complete the assignment. **Audiences of AT LEAST 3 adults will be required for all speeches (stuffed animals, children, pets, etc... will not be accepted as a valid audience).** Additionally, each speech must be given in a non-residential setting. This means speeches should not be recorded in dorm rooms, kitchens, basements, bedrooms, living rooms, dining rooms, etc. However, the use of a public library space or classroom would be acceptable. Outlines and outside research are required and will be worth points. Rubrics will be provided for each assignment. Additionally, chapters in the textbook will be assigned to coincide with the speeches. The information you read in the textbook will help you prepare each speaking assignment. Speeches will be uploaded into Acclaim. Grades will be return within 7 to 10 days.

**Quizzes:** Students will be asked to complete 10 (10) short quizzes in this class. The quizzes will be taken on D2L and will be worth 10 points each. Opportunities will be provided for students to see their answers and recover any points that were lost if necessary. Quizzes and point recovery quizzes will be grade immediately and automatically following submission on D2L.

**Exams:** Students will be required to complete one (1) exam in this course. The exam will be taken on D2L and will be worth 50 points. Exam will be graded immediately and automatically following submission on D2L.

**Annotated Bibliography:** Students will prepare one (1) annotated bibliography (in conjunction with the persuasive speech assignment). An annotated bibliography consists of a complete citation for a source of information (book, article, newspaper, etc.), 3-5 sentences that summarizes what the source is about, 3-5 sentences that evaluates the source of information, and 3-5 sentences that reflect about how and where the source will be used within the speech. The purpose of the annotation is to provide a researcher with a critical evaluation of a resource, such as a book or an article, so the researcher can decide whether to consult that source. Specific assignment details will be provided in a separate document. Grades will be returned in 7 to 10 days.

**Discussion Postings:** Students will provide answers, thoughts, and opinions to questions and concepts posted in the discussion forums in D2L. Additionally, students will respond
to the posts of classmates, creating a conversation. Instructions for each post will be provided and each post will be evaluated on a 10 point scale. You should treat all communications in this class as you would in the business world. In other words, I expect communication to be formal, using proper grammar, spelling, and netiquette (refer to the Online Student Handbook, accessible under the Getting Started widget on the course homepage in D2L). Grades will be returned within 7 to 10 days.

**Extra-Credit:** Extra credit opportunities may be offered in this course.