



Sophia Learning

COMM1002: Public Speaking (3 semester credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sophia's Public Speaking course will take the learner through all of the stages of developing a speech, from preparation to rehearsal to presentation. Along the way, they will learn how to become better listeners, manage their anxiety, and incorporate feedback effectively. Students will apply their knowledge to analyzing their audience, conducting research, presenting a speech, and revising a speech based on feedback.

COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: July 2020 - Present

PREREQUISITES: No prerequisites

LENGTH OF COURSE: This is a self-paced course. Students may use as much or as little time as needed to complete the course.

ACE CREDIT® RECOMMENDATION: In the lower-division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in public speaking (6/20).

GRADING: This is a pass/fail course. Students must complete 12 Challenges (formative assessments), 4 Milestones (summative assessments), and 4 Touchstones (project-based or written assessments) with an overall score of 70% or better.

Challenges	Points Possible
Challenge 1.1	10
Challenge 1.2	10
Challenge 1.3	10
Challenge 2.1	10
Challenge 2.2	10
Challenge 2.3	10
Challenge 3.1	10
Challenge 3.2	10
Challenge 3.3	10
Challenge 4.1	10

Challenge 4.2	9
Challenge 4.3	9
Total	118

Milestones	Points Possible
Milestone 1	69
Milestone 2	75
Milestone 3	75
Milestone 4	69
Total	288

Touchstones	Points Possible
Touchstone 1	50
Touchstone 2	75
Touchstone 3	100
Touchstone 4	150
Total	375
Grand Total	781

Touchstones are projects that illustrate comprehension of the course material, help refine skills, and demonstrate application of knowledge. Read further for information on the touchstones in this course:

- **Touchstone 1 (50 points):** Students will select a topic of their choice to present for a special occasion speech and answer a set of questions related to their audience, purpose, and thesis.
- **Touchstone 2 (75 points):** Students will select a topic of their choice to present for an informative speech and answer a set of questions related to audience, purpose, and thesis. Students will find three credible sources that are relevant to their speech. Students will then identify five pieces of evidence that support their thesis.
- **Touchstone 3 (100 points):** Students will select a topic of their choice to present for a persuasive speech and record this presentation. Students will plan and organize a speech, including creating notes that can be used during the presentation. Students will then film themselves presenting the speech.
- **Touchstone 4 (150 points):** Students will revise the speech created in Touchstone 3 based on graded feedback and submit a new version with at least one visual aid.

For more general information on assessments, please visit the Student Guide located on the course dashboard.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Articulate the responsibilities of ethical communication.
2. Examine the history of public speaking and rhetoric.
3. Analyze best practices in effective public speaking.
4. Evaluate speech topics, considering focus and audience appropriateness.
5. Generate a speech outline.
6. Generate a topic, thesis, and main ideas for a speech.
7. Write effective introductions, conclusions, and transitions for speeches.
8. Conduct research to identify support for a speech topic, evaluating source credibility.
9. Effectively utilize supporting evidence in a speech.
10. Identify characteristics of informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches.
11. Prepare speeches on a variety of topics with a range of purposes.
12. Differentiate between ethos, pathos, and logos.
13. Employ language that is inclusive, accurate, and audience appropriate.
14. Analyze the importance of tone, pronunciation, and articulation.
15. Identify the impact of nonverbal communication on public speaking.
16. Develop audience awareness and perform audience analysis.
17. Apply techniques for rehearsing a speech.
18. Effectively incorporate visual aids.
19. Identify techniques for reducing anxiety and building confidence.
20. Develop listening skills.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

- Benefits of Public Speaking
- Components of Communication
- Informative Speeches
- Persuasive Speeches
- Speeches for Special Occasions
- Ethics in Public Speaking
- Avoiding Plagiarism
- Effective Listening
- Audience Analysis
- Choosing a Topic
- Organizing and Outlining the Speech
- Managing Anxiety
- Researching for your Speech
- Using Supporting Evidence
- Getting Attention and Interest
- Establishing Credibility
- Using Transitions

- Variations in Directness, Abstraction and Objectivity
- Cultural and Gender Biases
- The Ethics of Persuasion
- Using Appeals in Persuasive Speaking
- Speech Patterns: Volume, Rate, Pitch, and Pauses
- Nonverbal Communication
- Interaction in Public Speaking
- Rehearsing your Speech
- Q&A Sessions
- Using Visual Aids
- Creating Effective Presentations
- Feedback and Criticism
- Special Occasion Speeches