



Common Syllabus for SPC 2608 Public Speaking

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY – COMMUNICATION ARTS DEPARTMENT

The study of human speech is the study of the ethics, practical philosophy and eloquent expression of the human spirit. These are the elements of rhetoric and as such the course examines (1) rhetorical and communication theories, (2) the history and causes of rhetoric, and (3) the ethical decisions that rhetoricians face. In addition, the students in the course will put rhetoric into action through public presentation and rhetorical analysis.

The faculty of the Communication Arts Department of Florida International University wants you to have a valuable and rewarding experience in Public Speaking. Therefore, we have developed this syllabus to insure that all sections have common scope and requirements. Your instructor will likely have requirements in addition to those found herein; however, what follows are the requirements common to all sections.

1. Syllabus: In addition to this common syllabus, your instructor will post your individual section's syllabus online. It will outline the course goals, assignments, point distribution, and attendance policies of your specific instructor. Should you perceive a discrepancy between this standardized syllabus and your instructor's syllabus, please discuss it with your instructor or with the Department Chair, Joann Brown at brownj@fiu.edu

2. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for all class sections. Students who are late or do not attend the first class will be dropped from the course at the instructor's discretion. The maximum number of students in each class is 30.

Students are permitted one unexcused absence during the semester. An excused absence is defined as one that can be documented in writing and is due to a medical problem with the student or immediate family, death in the student's immediate family, or an officially recognized university sponsored event.

Missing more than 3 hours of class time may result in your failing the course.

3. Tardiness: Tardiness is not accepted and will result in a reduction of your grade. Two "lates" are the equivalent of 1 absence, and each student is only permitted 1 unexcused absence.

4. Examinations: You will have a minimum of two (2) written examinations, including a written final given during the official final examination week. The final examination will be administered according to the Registrar's Office final exam schedule for your particular section. The total number of points available by examination will not exceed 30% of the total points available for the semester.

5. Graded Presentations: You will give a minimum of three (3) graded presentations during the semester. One will be an informative speech (using the Standard American Format) and one will be a persuasive Claim of Policy speech (using Monroe's Motivated Sequence). The minimum length for each graded presentation is four minutes. The total number of points available for these formal presentations will be 50% of the total points available during the semester. The remaining speech(es) will be at the discretion of the instructor.

6. Rhetorical Criticism: Rhetorical theory and the rhetorical tradition are key components of the course and are both integrated into all lectures and assignments. To show your competence in rhetoric, you will

complete a short written rhetorical analysis of an assigned rhetorical situation. The total number of points available by examination will not exceed 10% of the total points available for the semester.

7. Homework: The number of homework assignments are up to your individual instructor and are posted on a special website that accompanies your textbook. The total number of points available by examination will not exceed 10% of the total points available for the semester.

8. Evaluation: Your instructor will state the specific point value for each assignment, exam, or speech of your syllabus. Examinations and presentations will be evaluated consistently with a university-level course. The following point scale will be used to determine final grades. It is shown as a percentage of the total points available during the semester.

A	94 - 100%	B-	80 – 83%	D+	67 – 69%
A-	90 -93%	C+	77 – 79%	D	64 – 66%
B+	87 – 89%	C	74 – 76%	D-	60 – 63%
B	84 – 86%	C-	70 – 73%	F	<60%

Your instructor will provide you with copies of specific criteria and forms used to evaluate your speeches in advance of your presentations.

9. Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course you will know the following:

- a) How to analyze an audience
- b) How to research a search
- c) How to organize various types of presentations
- d) How to prepare and use a speech outline
- e) How to make and use appropriate visual aids
- f) How to evaluate and critique presentations
- g) How to deliver a speech in a conversational manner without memorizing or reading the information

10. Visual Aids: Proper selection and use of visual supporting materials are required for a minimum of two formal presentations.

11. Proper Attire: All students are expected to dress appropriately for ALL graded speeches.

12. Code of Academic Integrity: This Code of Academic Integrity was adopted by the Student Government Association on November 28, 2001. All students are deemed by the university to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions as outlined in the Student Handbook.

PLEDGE: As a student of this university:

I will be honest in my academic endeavors.
I will not represent someone else's work as my own.
I will not cheat, nor will I aid in another's cheating.

13. The FIU Learning Center is available to assist you in the organization and writing of your speeches. They **cannot**, however, assist with the practicing of your delivery. The website for the Learning Center is: <http://learningcenter.fiu.edu>.

14. The Oral Presentaion Lab in VH 212 is available for you to practice your speech and perfect your delivery. You may wish to videotape yourself to see any flaws before presenting your speech in class. The website for the Oral Presentation Lab is <http://oralpresentationlab.fiu.edu> to make an appointment visit <http://fiuspeechlab.timetrade.com>. **Every student is required to visit the lab for their first speech and last speech of the semester.**