Public Speaking: SPCH 1315.003  
Fall 2023: Boynton 104, Tuesday & Thursday  2:00-3:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Linda Levitt  
Office hours: Tuesday 10-12:30 / 3:30-5.  
Thursday 11:30-12:30  
Office: Boynton 208D  
E-mail: levittlb@sfasu.edu  
Phone: 936.468.1236

Required Texts:  
Stand up, Speak out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking  
Available on the course page in D2L Brightspace and at https://open.lib.umn.edu/publicspeaking

SPCH 1315 Workbook available through Top Hat (available through the bookstore or the link and instructions provided in class)

Course Description: Theory and practice in oral communication. Analysis of communication as a function of public address.

SPCH 1315 “Public Speaking” (3 credits) typically meets either three times a week (Monday/Wednesday/Friday) in 50-minute sessions or twice a week (Tuesday/Thursday) in 75-minute sessions or once a week (variable days) in a single 2.5 hours session for a 15-week semester with 2 hours designated for final examination. Online delivery of the course replaces face-to-face weekly sessions for text-based and audio-visual content developed in learning modules for students to complete including online, interactive class discussions, online interactive assignments and online speech upload and peer reviews. Students are assigned at least four speeches, readings, unit quizzes, written assignments, formal speech outlines and out-of-class listening activities. These various activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to be prepared to engage in face-to-face class meetings or online activities.

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. Analyze audience and purpose to select appropriate, ethical communication choices.
3. Understand and apply different modes of expression.
4. Listen as an audience member and provide constructive criticism.
5. Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
6. Develop the ability to research, write, orally present, and visually enhance presentations.

Communication Studies Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Applied Theory in Communication: Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to demonstrate their comprehension.
2. Research Methods in Communication: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical, humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in communication.
3. Diversity and Freedom of Expression: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global community.
4. Constitutive Nature of Communication: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the constitutive nature of communication, which includes forces that enable and constrain communication such as technology, ethics, and organizational life.
5. Higher Order Thinking: Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.
6. **Presentational Skills**: Students majoring in Communication Studies will demonstrate the ability to present various topics in a professional manner that includes researching, planning, organizing, and presenting with visual aids and/or multi-media technology.

**University Core Curriculum Objectives**
The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six core learning objectives: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. Last updated by the SFA Core Curriculum Committee April 2021.

By enrolling in SPCH 1315 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the COMMUNICATION SKILLS requirement. The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Evaluating the quality of sources; Persuasive speech outline, presentation, and visual aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Persuasive speech outline, presentation, and visual aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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Social Responsibility

To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.

Acceptable Student Behavior: Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Attendance Policy: Because a significant portion of the learning in this class is based on participation and observation, part of your grade for the course will be determined by your attendance and active participation in class. For each unexcused absence, 5 points (of 1000 course points) will be deducted from your course grade. No absences will be allowed for graded activities such as tests or speeches. However, students will be allowed to make up work for such absences when conditions are clearly beyond the student’s control and these conditions are well documented.

Course Policies

- Promptness is expected. Consistent tardiness or leaving early will adversely affect your grade.
- If you miss a class day it is your responsibility to contact a reliable classmate to get that day’s notes and assignments before you come to me with questions.
- Due to department budget, long distance calls will not be returned. If you don’t have a local contact number, contact me via e-mail or in person.
- Your chance to earn your grade ends when the semester ends.
- Use technology appropriately and with discretion. I reserve the right to call a digital time out in the event that technology becomes a distraction rather than a function of class.
- All technology will be turned off and put away while students are delivering speeches. A grade penalty will be assessed for use of personal technology during speeches.

Academic Integrity: The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.
Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities
To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health and Wellness
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: Corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
Health Services
Counseling Services
Student Outreach and Support
Food Pantry
Wellness Coaching
Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Course Requirements
Over the course of the semester, you will compose and deliver four speeches. Detailed assignments for each speech will be distributed in advance of each assignment. You will also evaluate the performance of your classmates for speeches 2 and 3.

Flex assignments: Ten percent of your grade will come from flex assignments. I will offer about 150 points worth of flex assignments, but you may only earn a maximum of 100 points. Flex points will include select in-class activities (which cannot be made up if you are absent), homework assignments, and on campus activities such as attending and reflecting on speeches and other events. **Flex points count as 10% of your course grade.**

Assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speech 1</td>
<td>Icebreaker Speech</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech 2</td>
<td>Tribute Speech</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech 3</td>
<td>Motivated Sequence Speech</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech 4</td>
<td>Advanced Informative Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
<td>Two peer reviews worth 25 points each</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flex points</td>
<td>Earned through various activities and assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10 summary quizzes @ 30 points each</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 1000 points