**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Department of Mass Communication**  
**Communication Studies** ([www.sfasu.edu/commstudies](http://www.sfasu.edu/commstudies))

**Public Speaking**  
**SPCH 1315 004**  
**Online Course**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sudeshna Roy, Professor  
**Office:** BOYT 205  
**Phone:** (936) 468 1033  
**Office hrs:** Tu/Th 12.30-2.30 - f2f+Zoom  
**Email:** Through D2L *(always preferred)*  
**roys@sfasu.edu** *(only for emergency)*

*(I reserve the right to make any changes to this syllabus during the course.)*

**Course description, contact hours and study hours**


Public Speaking/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.

**Required textbooks**

There are **TWO** required texts for this course. Here are the options for downloading/buying them:

1) Top Hat SPCH 1315 Workbook *(electronic/online)* available for purchase through Top Hat's direct link [https://app.tophat.com/e/246225](https://app.tophat.com/e/246225) or the SFA Barnes and Noble bookstore *(required)*, and

2) the open source textbook entitled *Stand Up, Speak Out*.

**Additional Required Materials**

1. 3 x 5 or 4 x 6 note cards for speaking notes when recording speeches.
2. “Business or professional” attire and an appropriate speech setting are required for recorded speech performances. Must have a quiet, no clutter background.
3. It is important that you dress professionally.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

*Higher Order Communicative Thinking:* Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.  
*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 presentations with visual aids and/or multi-media technology.

**General Education Core Curriculum**
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. By enrolling in SPCH 1315 – Public Speaking, you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the COMMUNICATION SKILLS requirement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How it will be Addressed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
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Student Learning Outcomes
This is an introductory course in research, composition, organization, and delivery of speeches for various purposes and occasions. The emphasis is on using audience analysis while demonstrating informative and persuasive techniques.

After completing SPCH 1315 students should be able to:
1. Understand and demonstrate speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing, and presentation.
2. Understand the importance of specifying audience and purpose and to select appropriate communication choices.
3. Understand and appropriately apply modes of expression.
4. Understand and apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving, and technical proficiency in the development of exposition and argument.
5. Develop the ability to research, write & deliver an effective oral presentation.

Academic Integrity (4.1)
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 (5.5)
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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, and 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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.
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.

D2L and Online Coursework
ALL students are expected to use D2L in this course to perform and keep up with graded activities and scheduled readings. Students can take Brightspace D2L Tutorials at https://www.sfasu.edu/d2lsupport. Students are responsible for using the platform correctly, using reliable technology, and using reliable internet services. The University supplies these tools in the Library and other Lab locations. More information on Brightspace D2L can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/d2lsupport
Should you have technical questions regarding part of the course requirements, please
visit https://www.sfasu.edu/d2lsupport. If you still need help, please contact SFA Online at 936.468.1919.

Participation and Grades
Course participation is important for the success of the class. Sharing your experience and perspective with the rest of the class improves the quality of class discussion and makes the class more meaningful and enjoyable for everyone.
You are expected to complete all class activities and assigned reading.

Late work will NOT be accepted. At the instructor’s discretion, works may be accepted only for unavoidable and extenuating circumstances that can be backed-up by written evidence, and only within one week of missing the assignment.

Grades are not negotiable. Every student is graded by the same rubric, so never ask me to raise a grade, as it would create an issue of discrimination. See grading criteria later in this syllabus. **No office hours during finals week.**

- **Attendance:** Attendance is expected and will be checked daily. You are expected not only to be present, but also to contribute to class discussions and participate in all class activities. Each student will be allowed two unexcused absence. After that absence, every absence will result in a lowering of your grade at the rate of 5 points per day. 7 or more days of absence in the semester results in automatic failure of the course. Arriving late or leaving early will be counted as an absence, unless prior acceptable arrangements have been made with me. This includes returning late from class breaks.

- **You will be assigned a speech date for all your speeches.** If you miss class on your speech day you will not be allowed to make up for that speech and an additional 10 points will be deducted. Excused absences will be granted only when the reason for the absence is noted in advance or is extenuating.

Documented of absence is required in writing (doctor’s notes, obituary notices, etc.).

*** NOTE: If you have University Sanctioned Events during this course that will require you to be absent, set up a meeting with me during the first week. Bring your calendar.

Learning Assumptions and Expectations
I have a number of assumptions about your participation in this course.

- It is my belief that what you as a student get out of this course depends upon what you put in it as well as the extent to which you are willing to critically assess your own beliefs and assumptions.

- **Respect** is one of the foundations of an environment conducive to learning. In this class, I have a commitment to creating a positive and respectful learning environment. I expect all of us to contribute to a productive and thought-provoking learning environment, valuing each of our strengths and differences. In discussions, everyone should be courteous and respectful of others; no rude, sexist, racist, or other disrespectful or offensive comments or behavior will be acceptable.

- I have **high standards** for excellent work. To earn good grades you will need to work hard and do excellent work. Hard work is necessary, but not sufficient to receive good grades.

- One of the most important aspects of learning is being able to listen. As you listen to your classmates, you should be attentive and supportive. Everyone has
something valuable to contribute to the class learning.

- The assignments in this course are designed to challenge you and help you learn. PLAGIARISM, USE OF ONLINE TOOLS, OR USE OF CHAT GPT/AI-ASSISTED work/writing IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. There are significant consequences for failing to maintain academic integrity.
- Discussions will build from lectures and readings. So, it is necessary that you complete the readings by the date due. We will not be able to discuss everything covered in the readings. You will be responsible for the content at all times.
- You are responsible for obtaining lecture notes and announcements presented in the class session you missed. Please ask your classmates to obtain any missed information. Obtain contact information from your classmate in advance.
- I am committed to helping you to learn. Please ask questions and let me know how I can support you. However, also recognize that there is some inherent ambiguity in education - there is no one right way to do most things! I may not always give you a concrete definitive answer to your questions.

Course Requirements
*All assignments are subject to revision, deletion, change as per the instructor’s discretion as and when needed.

General Assignment Guidelines for all major assignments prepared outside of class:
- Page guidelines listed are based on 1” margins, double-spaced with a 10 to 12 point font in Times New Roman unless otherwise specified.
- All work should utilize APA style (7th edition) unless otherwise indicated. This includes format for references and headings.
- All assignments are due on the due dates listed. You are responsible for planning ahead and balancing the requirements of this class with your other classes and outside responsibilities.
- I am very happy to provide support to you as you work on your assignments, however please see me early! If you come at the last minute, there may not be much I can do to help.

The following descriptions are provided for your reference. At a later time, you will be provided with a more detailed description of each assignment.

1. **Class Participation and Discussion (10 points each):** The class participation includes your active participation in class/group discussions and activities, as well as contribution to your group. In-class assignments are a significant part of participation.

2. **Exams (50 points):** There will be 2 exams. The tests are designed to verify that you have completed the reading. The questions on quizzes will be objective (multiple choice and/or true/false) and focus on recognition and recall of ideas. Further information about the exams will be given at a later date.

3. **Introduction Speech – What’s in a Name (25 points):** This assignment is to give your audience members a chance to get to know a little about each other. More information is available through D2L. Concentrate on relaxation and the fundamental techniques of speech delivery. The speech is 3 mins in length.

4. **Informative Speech - Vacations (75 points):** In this assignment, you will be required to inform your audience on a topic related to vacations for a speech
length of **5-6 mins.** You must have visual aid accompanying your speech. More information is available through D2L.

5. **Special Occasion/Entertaining Speech – Many choices (50 points):** This is a **4–5 mins** speech suitable for a special occasion. You must have visual aid accompanying your speech. More information is available through D2L.

6. **Persuasive Speech – Civic oriented/Controversial (100 points):** In this **5-7 mins** speech, you are required to focus on a single issue/assertion and convince your listeners of your position. The topic should be socially relevant, civic-oriented, contemporary, significant, controversial/debatable in nature and of interest to both the speaker/audience. More information is available through D2L. Speech presentation requirements:
   - You must use and cite a minimum of five credible published sources.
   - You must use at least 3 different types of research sources. For example, if you choose to use the minimum five sources, the requirement might be demonstrated by using two magazine articles, two newspaper articles, and one web site.
   - You must have visual aid accompanying your speech.

7. **Speech Outlines/Essays (15, 25, 20, 30 points respectively):** You must turn in a complete, formal outline of your Introductory, Informative, Special Occasion/Entertainment and Persuasive speeches prior to your speech. Please include references in **APA style (7th).**

8. **Assignments (10 points each):** Throughout the semester, students will be asked to give 4 written assignments. This is a mandatory part of class. Unlike other classes you may take at the college level, this class has a hard time functioning unless all students are present to give suggestions, offer praise, and get help/advice from peers throughout the semester.

**Course Evaluation:**

**The final grade will be based on the following:**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speeches</td>
<td>250 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Themed/Group Informative</td>
<td>75 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive</td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Occasion/Entertaining</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tests</strong></td>
<td>100 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<td>Test 2</td>
<td>50 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlines/Fully Typed Speeches</td>
<td>90 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Speech</td>
<td>15 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Themed Informative</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Occasion/Entertaining</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive</td>
<td>30 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Aid Power Point</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Point Development</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listener Report</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasive Speech Peer Review</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Participation &amp; Discussion</strong></td>
<td>20 points</td>
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Informative Speech Outline Peer-Review 10 points
Participation 10 points
**Total points** 500 points

**How to calculate your grade:**
Please keep a record of your grades including quizzes and outlines as well as attendance. Use the formula below to assess your work and grade. Please keep all graded assignments until after you have received your final grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90% and above</td>
<td>500 - 450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 89.99%</td>
<td>449 - 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 79.99%</td>
<td>399 - 350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69.99%</td>
<td>349 - 300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>299 or below</td>
</tr>
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**Grading Criteria for speeches:**
For a grade of **A** (a superior speech):
- All requirements of B speech must be satisfied.
- Demonstrate imagination and creativity in topic selection development.
- Develop and sustain strong bonds between speaker, topic and audience.
- Reflect an even greater depth of research. Demonstrate artful use of language and stylistic techniques.
- Make a polished presentation integrating a variety of communication skills.

For a grade of **B** (an above average speech):
- All requirements of a C speech must be satisfied.
- Select a challenging topic and adapt it appropriately for your audience.
- Reflect a greater depth of research (such as more references).
- Clearly identify sources of information and ideas. Create and sustain attention throughout the speech.
- Create an effective flow. Demonstrate poise and confidence. Present your speech with style.

For the grade of **C** (an average speech):
- The speech must be original. The speech must be appropriate to the assignment.
- The topic must be appropriate for the audience and sufficiently focused.
- The speech must fit the time restrictions assigned. The speech must be presented on the assigned date.
- Main idea or ideas must be supported with facts, examples, or testimonies.
- The speech must have a clear sense of purpose.
- The speech must be complete, with an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- The presentation must be extemporaneous. The speech includes the required outline.

For a grade of **D** (a below average speech):
- Does not meet one or more of the standards for a C speech.
- It is unprepared & it is based on biased information or unsupported opinions.

An **F** speech (a failing speech):
- Does not meet three or more of the standards for a C speech & shows the problems of a D speech.
- It uses fabricated supporting materials & it deliberately distorts evidence.
- It is plagiarized & it uses inappropriate information or actions.
Writing discussion posts
There are five things I look for in the discussions.
1. The discussion posts address the questions raised in that discussion adequately including relevant definitions and examples from the course perspective. Remember, whenever you are talking about an issue in the discussions, you are always doing so in the context of this course – public speaking.
2. Whether the student is responding to other students' posts in a meaningful manner. If the student simply agrees with another student, then that is not meaningful. The student needs to demonstrate understanding of the issue raised by fellow student and has to make clear WHY he/she agrees or disagrees with the post of fellow student. At least two responses other than your own post is required.
3. Whether the example given is creative, relevant and demonstrates outside research to the issue or tangential. Sometimes, students would give examples that are far-fetched and don't really address the question or issue being discussed. You need to show that you are bringing in your own experiences and other researched material to the discussion.
4. How does your post compare with those of your group's posts. If you write a post that satisfies all the things I have mentioned in the first three points and yet falls far below the depth and quality of posts by other members in your group, those members will earn higher grades than you would.
5. In order for your group members to respond to your posts, you need to post in a timely manner. Your first post must be made a day ahead of the deadline. You need to also respond to at least two other posts. If you post your first post on the day of deadline before noon, you will lose 20% of points. If you post your first post on the day of deadline after noon, you will lose 50% of points. If you respond to only one classmate, you'll lose 20% of points.

Note: If no one else posts, you'll be graded on the quality of your own post. Your grades will not suffer due to the non-participation of other group members. :)

Also, make sure you type the post in a .doc file and then copy and paste it on the discussion board. This practice protects you from losing your work in case of any technology failure.

Assignments/Activities/Reflections
As you go through the modules, the instructions for the assignments/short papers/activities will be embedded in those modules.
For these assignments, you need to make sure that
- you read the instructions carefully,
- provide adequate definitions and explanations of the concepts you are writing about or identified, referencing the lectures and your textbook, as well as outside research
- provide adequate examples of the concept and their relevance for the topic being discussed (remember that your examples must relate to public speaking phenomenon), and,
- for enhanced quality of work, try to identify some outside reference about the topic. What are other scholars/experts talking about regarding this issue/concept?
I also look for how your assignment compares to the standards set by your peers in the course.
Also, make sure you type the assignment/reflection in a .doc file and then upload that document. This practice protects you from losing your work in case of any technology failure.

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

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

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