



Division of Liberal Arts

SPCH1315 – Public Speaking 3 Credit Hours

Semester: Fall 2025*102 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11am-11:50am

Instructor: Bethany Thompson, M.A.

Office location: Instructional Building 111

Email: bethany.thompson@clarendoncollege.edu

Office Hours:
Monday: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Tuesday: 12:30pm-1:30pm
Wednesday: 12:00pm-3:00pm
Thursday: 12:30pm-3:00pm
Friday: 12:00pm-2:00pm
*Appointments for other times are available, just discuss it with me.

Course Description:

Application of communication theory and practice to the public speaking context, with emphasis on audience analysis, speaker delivery, ethics of communication, cultural diversity, and speech organizational techniques to develop students' speaking abilities, as well as ability to effectively evaluate oral presentations.

This class is face to face.

It is the policy of the Liberal Arts Division at Clarendon College that any student enrolled in a face-to-face Liberal Arts course must remain in the scheduled face-to-face course through the end of the semester unless the student chooses to drop the course. No student may choose to transition from face-to-face to remote or online. Extenuating circumstances that warrant a transition to online learning can override this policy if determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Division Chair and the course instructor. This transition will be communicated in writing to all parties: student, instructor, Division Chair, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Statement of Purpose

Public Speaking partially satisfies the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: This course will be using Prepare, Practice, and Perform: Public Speaking for the 21st Century. This textbook comes at no charge to the students, and the instructor will provide the textbook as an electronic PDF file in the course Open LMS site.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The chart provided below indicates the course objective, the foundational component required of Core objectives by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and how the course objective will be assessed.

Objective	THECB Skill	Assessment
Recognize and identify the interactive model of communication	Critical Thinking	Question on exams
Develop and improve listening skills	Communication (oral)	Assessed through 4 public speeches
Analyze audience characteristics and adapt a topic appropriately for a particular audience.	Critical Thinking	Assessed through 4 public speeches
Identify how culture, ethnicity, and gender influence communication	Team Work	Assessed through a group project
Improve both verbal and nonverbal delivery skills.	Communication (Oral and Visual)	Assessed through all 4 public speeches, but particularly through informative speech requiring a digital presentation
Develop research and library skills necessary for acquiring supporting materials for speeches	Personal Responsibility	Assessed through 4 public speeches
Locate and analyze supporting material from Internet sources as to their usefulness and credibility.	Critical Thinking	Assessed through speech outlines and reference lists for 4 public speeches
Organize speech materials in outline form	Communication (written)	Assessed through written outlines submitted for 4 public speeches
Demonstrate the process of oral footnoting and how to avoid plagiarizing material.	Communication (oral) and Personal Responsibility	Assessed through 4 public speeches
Gain skill in evaluating a public speech or performance by writing a 2-page critique analyzing speaker delivery	Communication (Written)/Critical Thinking	Assessed through 2 page essay
Gain skill in using a digital presentations as part of a public presentation.	Communication (visual)	Assessed through the digital presentation prepared by students for the informative speech

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication (CT, PR).
2. Apply elements of audience analysis (CT, COM)
3. Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations for evidence and logic (CT, COM, TW, PR).

1315*102

4. Research, develop and deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques (CT, COM, PR).
5. Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting speeches (COM, PR).
6. Identify how culture, ethnicity and gender influence communication (CT, COM, TW).
7. Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g. narrative, informative or persuasive), (COM, TW).

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction in this course will include assigned readings, lectures, videos, demonstrations, and class discussions.

Student Requirements

Most assignments for this course will be submitted through Open LMS, so you will need computer access to submit most of your assignments. Also, be sure to check your Clarendon College email regularly.

Methods of Assessment

GRADING POLICIES

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Percentage	Assignment
40%	All Speeches (introduction, group, informative, persuasive)
20%	Midterm Exam and Final Exam
15%	Participation/Daily Work
25%	Assignments
Total Percentage: 100%	

Letter grades will be assigned on the following basis:

Grade	Percentage
A	90 — 100%
B	80 — 89%
C	70 — 79%
D	60 — 69%
F	0 — 59%

Guideline for Major Speeches:

Introduction Speech (Brown Bag Speech) – a 3 minute speech of introduction with no required sources.

Impromptu Speech (Um Olympics) – a “popcorn” style classroom activity to practice avoiding verbal fillers.

Group Presentation (Historical Newscast) – a 10-15 minute group speech (informative or persuasive) with sources.

Informative Speech (Career you’re interested in) – a 3-5 minute informative speech with at least 5 sources required.

Persuasion Speech (Common CORE) — a 4-6 minute persuasive speech with at least 5 sources required. Slide presentation is required.

Impromptu Speech (Storytelling) – a 3-5 minute impromptu speech to work on delivery.

Special Occasion Speech (Eulogy) – a 2-3 minute speech to appeal to an audience emotions and make them feel a certain way in response to the situation or occasion. The occasion is a Eulogy for a character.

Guidelines for Analysis of Speaker Delivery:

You will choose a speech and write a two-page essay analyzing it. Rubric and further explanation will be provided closer to time.

CLASS POLICIES:

Please carefully read the following class policies:

- 1. Attendance Policy:** Since this is a performance course, regular attendance is essential.
- 2. Speaking Schedule:** Speeches are to be delivered on *the assigned day*. Speakers who are absent on the assigned speaking day will receive a zero unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Speaking order will be assigned randomly unless decided otherwise.
- 3. Make Up Policy:** If make-up speeches are allowed, they must be scheduled within a week of your original speech date.
- 4. Late Policy:** As students, you learn about life. Part of life is learning that things unfortunately occur outside of your control and I understand and respect that, which is why I try to allow time for you to complete your assignments within reason. If something happens and you are unable to complete and turn in your assignments on time, my late policy is as follows;
 - Up to 48 hours late – no penalty
 - 2 days to a week late – starts at 10 point penalty
 - A week or more late – 20 point penalty
- 5. Cell Phone Policy:** Please turn your cell phones off during class. Inform your instructor if circumstances are such that require you to have access to your phone during class. **No texting** is allowed in class (wait until you walk out the door after class to send your messages.)
- 6. Respect:** In this class, we will discuss speeches and communication techniques from people you may not agree with. Sensitive, divisive topics may come up. As adults, you are expected to treat your fellow classmates, instructor, and guests of the classroom with respect no matter if you agree with their opinions or stances on a topic. Being disrespectful to anyone will result in you being asked to leave and not receiving credit for class that day.
- 7. Academic Resilience:** College throws curveballs at us, as life is known to do. I understand that things happen and you may have to miss class because of family emergencies, prolonged illnesses, things that are wholly unplanned and I respect that. I ask that you make the decision to jump back in and try to catch up the best you can. Your resilience relies on your willpower. I will do my best to ensure you succeed – but you have to meet me there.

College Policies

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion;
2. discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;
4. using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. taking an examination for another person;
7. completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person;
8. altering grade records;
9. using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or,
10. plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved,

for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated “Drop and Add” period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrollment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of “F” for that class.

Grievance/Appeals

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Final Exams

The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Final%20Exam%20Schedules%2024-25.pdf>

Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams.pdf>

Accommodation Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with

the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at:

[www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

-