The ability to communicate effectively is essential to success in contemporary society. This course is designed to develop students’ abilities to construct and deliver responsible public speeches. Although many students will have had no prior public speaking experience, at the end of this course students should be able minimally to do the following: 1) analyze an audience and adapt to it; 2) select a topic; 3) establish their credibility as speakers; 4) research and organize relevant material; 5) begin and end a speech appropriately; 6) deliver an informative speech effectively to one’s peers; and 7) deliver a persuasive speech effectively to one’s peers.

This course is a General Education Course (GEC) and addresses GEC Student Learning Outcome 15 (“Students will use appropriate strategies to speak effectively in professional, social, or personal contexts.”)

Textbook

General Course Requirements

1. Every student is required to complete three (3) graded public speaking assignments that are explained in subsequent pages. These speeches build on material and concepts presented in class and the text. The three speeches constitute 65% of your final grade, with the value of each speech indicated below:

   Informative speech = 20%; Persuasive speech = 20%; Final speech = 25%.

   Topics for the informative, persuasive, and final speeches must be of state, regional, national, or international importance. They must meet criteria presented in class. If a topic is not appropriate to the assignment, even the best prepared and presented speech will receive a low grade.

2. Each student is required to take three (3) examinations over material covered in class and in the text. These examinations may include multiple-choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, and essay questions. Each examination is worth 10% of your final grade.

3. 5% of your final grade is based on homework assignments, pop quizzes, participation, and / or other work assigned by the instructor. You are expected to keep up with reading assignments and to be prepared to discuss the material in class.
Course Policies

1. Attendance. Regular attendance is required. A student's final grade may suffer after four unexcused absences from Tuesday-Thursday classes or Monday-Wednesday afternoon classes, six unexcused absences from Monday-Wednesday-Friday classes, or two unexcused absences from night classes.

   You will have missed a class if you are not there for the entire class period. That is, staying for only half of the class, coming in five minutes before the end of class, or consistently coming in 5-10 minutes late does not mean that you attended that class session. **For a medical absence to be excused, it must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from a health care professional or verified by the Office of Student Support Services. Other non-medical excuses must be submitted to the Office of Student Support Services for verification.**

   Speeches require an audience. Therefore, it is essential that you be present when others are presenting their speeches. **Failure to be present may result in a lowering of either your grade on a particular speech or your final course grade.**

2. Late examinations. If you miss an examination and have a legitimate reason for doing so, you must make it up within a reasonable time (normally 1 week or less). All arrangements for missing an examination must be made prior to the time the examination is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then no make-up examination will be given and you will receive a zero for that examination.

3. Late speeches. If you are not present when scheduled to make your speeches and do not have a legitimate reason for being absent, then you will receive a zero for that presentation. All arrangements for missing a speech assignment must be made at least one day prior to the time the speech is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then you may not be allowed to make up the speech and you will receive a zero for that presentation. All medical excuses must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from a physician or verification by the Office of Student Oriented Services. **There are no make-up speeches for unprepared speakers. Even if you make arrangements, your grade on a late speech assignment may be reduced by at least two letter grades. If you are allowed to make up a speech, it also must be made up before the next speech assignment begins.**

4. Leaving an exam. You are not allowed to leave during an exam. If you leave the classroom, you must turn in your exam and your exam will be considered finished.

5. Public speeches are given in appropriate attire. Students are required to dress professionally for all speeches.

6. Cell phones, beepers, and any other electronic devices are to be turned off in class. This is particularly true while students are giving speeches and during exams. Failure to do so may in a reduction of your grade.

7. The grading scale for determining grades is:
8. Speeches are to be the original composition of each student. Although you must use outside sources in preparing a speech and cite them appropriately, students should not plagiarize such material.

9. Academic Honesty: The following is from the USM Undergraduate Bulletin: “When cheating is discovered, the faculty member may give the student an F on the work involved or in the course. If further disciplinary action is deemed appropriate, the student should be reported to the Dean of Students. In addition to being a violation of academic honesty, cheating violates the Code of Student Conduct and may be grounds for probation, suspension, and/or expulsion. Students on disciplinary suspension may not enroll in any courses offered by The University of Southern Mississippi.”

10. If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

   Address:
   The University of Southern Mississippi
   Office for Disability Accommodations
   118 College Drive #8586
   Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
   Voice Telephone: (601) 266-5024 or (228) 214-3232
   Fax 601-266-6035
   Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1-800-582-2233 (TTY) or email Suzy Hebert at Suzanne.Hebert@usm.edu

11. The University of Southern Mississippi offers a Speaking Center, with consultations available at no cost to all students, faculty, and staff. Communication Studies undergraduate and graduate students serve as consultants, working one-on-one with individuals. They are available for advice on all kinds of oral communication—formal individual presentations, group presentations, improving class discussion, class debates, interviewing, campus speeches, etc. Additionally, they work with all levels of speakers, from beginner to experienced speakers. Come to the center to work on brainstorming, organizing and outlining, editing and revising, and practicing delivery. The center also offers a practice room in which individuals can record their presentations, practice with delivery aids (PowerPoint and internet access are

A = 92-100%
B = 84-91%
C = 76-83%
D = 68-75%
F = 67% and below
available), and view their recorded presentations. Visit the center in Cook Library 114 or www.usm.edu/speakingcenter. Centers hours can be viewed and appointments can be made on the Speaking Center web site. Email the center with any questions at speakingcenter@usm.edu.

12. Student Conduct. Students are expected to adhere to the following statement from the USM Student Handbook.

“The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) has delegated the power and authority to the USM President to maintain standards of academic achievement and student conduct. The University has the authority to protect its own educational purposes and community by taking suitable action against any student under university regulations.

Good manners provide the foundation for proper classroom behavior. Stated another way, USM students, regardless of the many perspectives they may bring to a given class, are expected to be courteous while in the classroom. Notably, students must be open to and respectful of the learning process in the classroom, even if, at times, their own beliefs or views about the material being presented are different. Although all students are expected to exhibit appropriate conduct, some simply do not know what constitutes proper classroom behavior. Some unacceptable classroom behaviors occur regularly on campus. Misconduct—which instructors are asked to bring to a halt—includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Students continuing to talk after being asked by the instructor to stop.
- Students conducting side conversations during instruction.
- Students nonverbally showing disrespect for others.
- Students using vulgar, obscene, or other inappropriate classroom language.
- Students making disparaging remarks or making slurs based on age, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, disability, or sexual orientation.
- Student tardiness and disturbing classroom entrances.
- Students getting up during class, leaving, and then returning.
- Students packing up books and/or belongings before class is dismissed.
- Students using their cell phones, allowing them to ring, or text-messaging during class.
- Students inappropriately using computer or other technology in a disruptive way.
- Students verbally indicating dissatisfaction with an activity, assignment, or grade.
- Students sleeping in class and other inattentive behavior.

More serious classroom transgressions include, but are not limited to:

- Students coming to class under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Student-to-student anger*
- Student-to-faculty anger*
- Verbal assault*
- Physical assault*
- Sexual harassment *
*Physical threats or violence are a violation of the University’s Code of Student Conduct and could be a violation of the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy. Such incidents must be referred to the University Police, the appropriate Campus Security Authority (see www.usm.edu/police/clery-act), the dean of students and the Title IX Coordinator immediately. Please consult the University Police (www.usm.edu/police) and the Title IX Coordinator (www.usm.edu/sexual-misconduct) for further information."
### Meeting     Topics and Assignments

1. Course overview / Communication Competence and Public Speaking / Speech Anxiety / Delivering Your Speech / Text—Chpts. 1, 2, 3

2. **Introductory Speeches** / Audience Analysis / Attention: Getting People to Listen / Text—Chpt. 4, 5

3. Introductions and Conclusions / Outlining and Organizing Speeches / Text—Chpt. 6, 7

4. **Exam 1** (covers chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) / Gathering Material / Text—Chpts. 8

5. Skepticism: Becoming Critical Thinking Speakers and Listeners / Argument, Reasoning, and Evidence / Informative Speaking / Text—Chpts. 9, 10, 14

6. **Informative Speeches**

7. **Informative Speeches**

8. Presenting Supporting Materials / Foundations of Persuasive Speaking / Persuasive Speaking Strategies / Text—Chpts. 11, 15, 16

9. **Exam 2** (covers chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16) / Speaking Style / Text—Chpts. 12

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**Friday, October 30**—Last day to drop and receive a grade of withdrawal. After this date you will receive a letter grade for the class and will not be able to withdraw. In cases of a personal or family emergency after this date, students should provide appropriate documentation to Alfreda Horton in the Office of Student Support Services (Union 221, 601-266-4025). Note: This is a new university policy.

10. **Persuasive Speeches**

11. **Persuasive Speeches**

12. Visual Aids / Text—Chpt. 13 / Preparing for the Final Speech: Supporting Materials / Preparing for the Final Speech: Organization, Outlining, and Delivery

13. **Final Speeches**

14. **Final Speeches**
CMS 111 SPEAKING ASSIGNMENTS

General Comments
Depending on class size, allotted speaking time varies. The course instructor may add additional requirements if desired. **Students are to speak in an extemporaneous mode.**

An outline must be turned in with all speaking assignments. On this outline you are to include a bibliography of sources (in proper bibliographic form) used in the speech.

Speaking within the time limits is very important, not only for the efficient running of the class but also because speakers in the "real world" are expected to adhere to time limits. If you are severely over or under the time limit (one minute or more), your speech grade will be penalized.

Introductory Speeches

Students are to present a 2-minute speech introducing a classmate. In the speech you will need to provide basic information such as the name of the person you are introducing, his or her home town, academic major, personal interests, hobbies, aspirations, and the like. However, also try to make the speech more than a routine recitation of biographical data. Be creative in your interview questions and in your speech.

Informative Speeches

Students are to present a 6-8 minute informative speech on a current, controversial topic of state, regional, national, or international importance. The topic should be one about which the class needs to be informed. The speech should present a balanced (i.e., unbiased) presentation of both sides of the topic. For a grade of “C” at least four (4) different sources of information are to be used and cited in the speech, and at least three (3) different types of supporting material (see text, chapter 7) are to be used. The 4 different sources and 3 types of supporting material should be indicated or highlighted on the outline submitted to the instructor. A complete preparation outline is required.

Persuasive Speeches

Students are to present a 7-8 minute persuasive speech on a current, controversial topic of state, regional, national, or international importance. The speech should contain from two to three main points designed to persuade the audience for or against a question of fact, value, or policy (specified by your instructor). Speakers may seek either passive agreement or immediate action from the audience. For a grade of “C” at least four (4) different sources and three (3) types of supporting material are to be used and cited in the speech. They are also to be indicated on the outline submitted to the instructor. A complete preparation outline is required.
Final Speeches

Students are to present a 7-9 minute persuasive speech on a current, controversial topic of state, regional, national, or international importance. The speech should be designed to persuade the audience to accept your thesis on a question of policy, should deal with all three basic issues of policy speeches—need, plan, and practicality, and for a grade of “C” should contain at least 4 different sources and 3 types of supporting material. These sources must be cited in the speech. A complete preparation outline is required. Delivery of the speech is to be extemporaneous.