



## Public Speaking

COMM 1315.0h6

Fall 2025

Hybrid Format

Class Sessions: Fridays 10:00-11:15 AM

ATC 3.205

### INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>Name</b>	<b>Natalie Farr</b>
<b>Email Address</b>	natalie.farr@utdallas.edu
<b>Phone Number</b>	(214) 755-9232
<b>Office Hours</b>	You can contact me without hesitation throughout the week. I prefer UTD email, but phone (call or text) is fine, too. I will be available before and after class for any questions. If we need to have a longer private conversation, let's schedule a meeting.

### GENERAL CORE AREA 010 COMMUNICATION

**Description:** Courses in this category focus on developing ideas and expressing them clearly, considering the effect of the message, fostering understanding, and building the skills needed to communicate persuasively. Courses involve the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience.

**Objectives:**

- Critical Thinking (CT)**—to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information
- Communication (COM)**—to include effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Teamwork (TW)**—to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility (PR)**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making

### GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

**Course Prerequisites:** COMM1315 is an introductory course that does not require prerequisites. It is assumed that students who enroll in the course have the grammatical, logical, and rhetorical skills necessary for university-level writing.

**Course Description:** This course is an in-depth examination of the principles of public speaking, with an emphasis on the preparation and performance of speeches in informative, persuasive, and special occasion contexts. Speeches are presented in virtual and face-to-face settings, and individual speeches and a team presentation are required.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, I am both confident and hopeful that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ethical and critical thinking skills in selecting, researching, and adapting topics for informative and persuasive speeches.
2. Develop proficiency in creating formal speech outlines using audience-centered principles and strategies of public speaking.
3. Deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques in individual and group presentations.
4. Exhibit respect, responsibility, and restraint when collaborating with team members and providing feedback to classmates.

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### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

Steven A. Beebe and Susan J. Beebe, *Public Speaking: An Audience Centered Approach*, 11<sup>th</sup> ed., Boston: Pearson. (10<sup>th</sup> edition can be used.) ISBN-10: **0135709717** ISBN-13: **978-0135709719**

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements on the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage.

A copy of the text is available for in-library use only, on Course Reserves, at the Service Desk, 2nd floor, McDermott Library.

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### **COURSE ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

This course can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the [eLearning](#) website. Please see the course access and navigation section of the [Getting Started with eLearning](#) webpage for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage. UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The [eLearning Support Center](#) includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

### **COMMUNICATION**

This course utilizes online tools for interaction and communication. Some external communication tools such as regular email and a web conferencing tool may also be used during the semester. For more details, please visit the [Student eLearning Tutorials](#) webpage for video demonstrations on eLearning tools. Student emails and discussion board messages will be answered within 3 working days under normal circumstances.

### **DISTANCE LEARNING STUDENT RESOURCES**

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, the AccessAbility Resource Center, and many others. Please see the [eLearning Current Students](#) webpage for more information.

### **SERVER UNAVAILABILITY OR OTHER TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES**

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online [eLearning Help Desk](#). The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Points
<b>Video Conferencing Speech Project</b> Video Conferencing Speech Preparation Video Conferencing Speech Presentation	30 80
<b>Elevator Speech Project</b> Elevator Speech Preparation Elevator Speech Presentation Elevator Speech Self-Evaluation	30 40 40
<b>Informative Speech Project</b> Informative Speech Proposal Informative Speech Outline Informative Speech PowerPoint Informative Speech Presentation Informative Speech Self-Evaluation	30 50 30 100 50
<b>Team Persuasive Speech Project</b> Team Persuasive Speech Proposal (team grade) Team Persuasive Speech Outline (team grade) Team Persuasive Speech PowerPoint (team grade) Team Persuasive Speech Presentation (team grade) Team Persuasive Speech Self and Peer Evaluations (individual grade)	30 50 30 100 50
<b>Final Exam</b> Three Takeaways Video Speech	150
In-Class Workshops Public Speaking Experience Survey Midterm Survey Speech Assignments Quiz	40 20 20 30
<b>Total Points</b>	1,000

## EXTRA CREDIT

**(A maximum of 20 extra credit points can be earned during the course.)**

- Share a meal or have a snack with your teammates before your team presentation and document the event by sending two pictures to your instructor. All teammates must be present. (10 extra credit points)
- Practice or receive assistance on your Informative Speech and/or the Team Presentation with a COMM Lab coach before the presentation is due. COMM Lab appointment: [studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/programs/commlab/](https://studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/programs/commlab/)  
Once there, information is provided for attending in-person and virtual appointments and “pulling” (accessing) your extra-credit report to send to your instructor for confirmation of your visit. (10 extra credit points per coaching visit).  
Want to know more? Watch this! [Welcome to the SSC CommLab.](#)

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attending class regularly is a necessary aspect of a well-rounded learner. Class provides an in-depth look at the concepts and assignments necessary to meet the learning objectives of the course.

However, life happens...cars break down, people get sick, you miss your alarm. This class permits 3 absences prior to penalty.

**After 3 absences, you will receive 10 points deducted off your overall grade for each absence.**

If you have an **excused absence**, you will be permitted to make up any work you missed and will not receive a point penalty. You will be allowed to make up work for full credit if the documentation is provided via excused absence form prior to class time.

Excused absences include:

- Observance of Religious Holidays
- Illness requiring a doctor's visit or hospitalization
- Funeral Attendance (View Student Bereavement Policy here: <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5016>)
- Official University Activities
- Military Duty
- Work trips or shifts (can only be requested once)

**YOU MUST fill out an excused absence form to be considered for make-up work.** The form can be found on eLearning.

## **LATE WORK**

Learning to communicate your needs, manage your time and meet deadlines are all necessary objectives of this course. As a result, meeting deadlines is expected.

### **In-Class Assignments**

There are several in-class assignments that can only be completed in person. **As a result, missing class on these days will result in a zero on the assignment.** These days are as follows: Weeks 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 13 and your assigned speech days by group color.

### **Online Assignments**

There is a seven day grace period for missed online assignments. Once the assignment is late your grade decreases by a letter grade. Learning in this course builds on itself, and turning work in on time allows you to learn at a reasonable rate.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (Printer-friendly version in eLearning)**

<b>COMM 1315   SPRING 2025</b>				
<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>				
<b>Date/Module</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Before Class</b>	<b>In-Class Assignments Due</b>	<b>Assignments Due Sunday at 11:59 pm</b>
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Online Assignments: Aug 25-31</b> <b>Class Session: Aug 29</b>	Intro to COMM 1315/Speech Process	Chapter 1: Speaking with Confidence. Chapter 2: Presenting Your First Speech		Public Speaking Experience Survey

<p><b>Week 2</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Sept 1-7</b>  <b>Class Session: Sept 5</b></p>	<p>Types of Speaking Engagements (Elevator, Online, Informative, Persuasive)</p>	<p>Chapter 13: Speaking to Inform  Chapter 14: Understanding Principles of Persuasive Speaking  Presenting Online Materials</p>		<p>Speech Assignments Quiz</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Sept 8-14</b>  <b>Class Session: Sept 12</b></p>	<p>Speech Process: Topic Selection and Researching</p>	<p>Chapter 6: Developing Your Speech  Chapter 7: Gathering and Using Supporting Material</p>	<p>Topic Selection Workshop*</p>	
<p><b>Week 4</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Sept 15-21</b>  <b>Class Session: Sept 19</b></p>	<p>Speech Process: Outlining</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Organizing and Outlining Your Speech  Chapter 9: Introducing and Concluding Your Speech</p>	<p>Outlining Workshop*</p>	<p><b>Informative Speech</b> Topic Proposal</p>
<p><b>Week 5</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Sept 22-28</b>  <b>Class Session: Sept 26</b></p>	<p>Speech Process: Delivery</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Using Words Well  Chapter 11: Delivering Your Speech</p>	<p>Delivery Workshop*</p>	<p><b>Video Conference Speech</b> Preparation and Outline</p>
<p><b>Week 6</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Sept 29-Oct 5</b>  <b>Class Session: Oct 3</b></p>	<p>Giving Speeches Online</p>		<p>Video Conferencing Speech Presentation Due **Online before class**</p>	<p><b>Elevator Speech</b> Outline</p>
<p><b>Week 7</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Oct 6-12</b>  <b>Class Session: Oct 10</b></p>	<p>Presenting Your First In-person Speech</p>		<p>Elevator Speech Presentation</p>	<p><b>Informative Speech</b> Outline  Midterm Survey</p>
<p><b>Week 8</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Oct 13-19</b>  <b>Class Session: Oct 17</b></p>	<p>Speech Process: Presentation Aids</p>	<p>Chapter 12: Using Presentation Aids</p>	<p>Presentation Aids Workshop*</p>	<p><b>Elevator Speech</b> Evaluation</p>
<p><b>Week 9</b>  <b>Online Assignments: Oct 20-26</b>  <b>Class Session: Oct 24</b></p>	<p>Informative Speeches (12)</p>		<p>Groups Orange, Green, and Yellow  Students: Informative Speeches (and PPTs!)</p>	<p>Groups Blue, Red, and Purple:  Team <b>Persuasive Speech</b> Topic Proposal and Getting Started Form</p>

<b>Week 10</b> <b>Online Assignments: Oct 27-Nov 2</b> <b>Class Session: Oct 31</b>	Informative Speeches (12)		Groups Blue, Red, and Purple Students: Informative Speeches (and PPTs!)	Groups Orange, Green, and Yellow Students: Team <b><u>Persuasive Speech</u></b> Topic Proposal and Getting Started Form and <b><u>Informative Speech</u></b> Evaluation
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Online Assignments: Nov 3-9</b> <b>Class Session: Nov 7</b>	Team Collaboration Day	Chapter 15: Using Persuasive Strategies		All Groups: Team <b><u>Persuasive Speech</u></b> Outline Groups Blue, Red, and Purple: <b><u>Informative Speech</u></b> Evaluation
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Online Assignments: Nov 10-16</b> <b>Class Session: Nov 14</b>	Team Collaboration Day			
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Online Assignments: Nov 17-23</b> <b>Class Session: Nov 21</b>	Team Persuasive Presentations		All Groups Presenting Team Persuasive Speech	
<b>Nov 24-30</b>	<b>Fall Break/Thanksgiving Break</b>			
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Online Assignments: Dec 1-7</b> <b>Class Session: Dec 5</b>	Public Speaking in the Future			Team Persuasive Speech Evaluations
<b>Final Exam Week FOLDER OPENS FRIDAY 12/1</b>	<b>Final Assignments due Sunday, December 14th at 11:59 pm</b>	My Three Takeaways Final Speech		
*One total percentage grade will be awarded for all 4 workshops based on attendance and participation. The workshop grade is 40 total points.				

**COURSE POLICIES**

<p><b>Grading</b></p>	<p>Grading is based upon the UTD Undergraduate Catalog. Points are accumulated for a total of 1,000 points possible for the semester. Your grade will be based upon the total number of points you earn, not the percentage of points acquired. As a result, there is no “rounding up.”</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="342 342 808 873"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>Total Points Earned</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>970-1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>930-969</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>900-929</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>870-899</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>830-869</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>800-829</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+</td> <td>770-799</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>730-769</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C-</td> <td>700-729</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+</td> <td>670-699</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>630-669</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D-</td> <td>600-629</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>Less than 599</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Total Points Earned	A+	970-1000	A	930-969	A-	900-929	B+	870-899	B	830-869	B-	800-829	C+	770-799	C	730-769	C-	700-729	D+	670-699	D	630-669	D-	600-629	F	Less than 599
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<p><b>Classroom Citizenship</b></p>	<p>Take ownership of your education. Purpose to learn in every class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check email daily (M-F) and read the weekly announcements.</li> <li>• Study and apply all course materials to your work. Complete all readings and assignments by deadlines and with excellence. Submit your work per instructions.</li> <li>• Attend all class meetings and engage with me and your classmates with respect.</li> <li>• Attending class physically but not mentally will be detrimental to not only your success, but the success of those around you. Please come to class ready to pay attention, participate, and be available to your peers.</li> </ul>																												
<p><b>Assignment Submission</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All written work must be typed and attention should be paid to form (including grammar, punctuation, spelling, and general appearance) as well as content.</li> <li>• All written assignments will be submitted via Blackboard.</li> <li>• Submit all documents in MS Word, MS PPT, or PDF formats. Documents saved as Google Docs or as a keys or pages file are not acceptable and will need to be submitted again in the proper format.</li> <li>• Workshop assignments will be submitted via paper during class. This is the only assignment type that follows this format.</li> </ul>																												
<p><b>Plagiarism and AI</b></p>	<p>All drafts and final works will be written by students themselves, working individually or in groups as directed by assignment instructions. You may not use writing services, another’s work, your work from other classes, or AI writers to write content for you. More detail on UTD’s research policies can be found in <a href="#">the UTD Student Code of Conduct</a> and <i>Generative AI Use in Academic Work policies at UTD <a href="#">Academic AI Work Policy</a></i> More detail on the specific writing expectations for this class can be found in “Plagiarism Policy” at the course eLearning site.</p> <p>Turning in a paper generated by AI will not be tolerated. Practically, this means you should never cut and paste from an AI platform. There are ethical and unethical ways to use AI platforms. While you might use these services to help form ideas--the words, sentence structure, application, critical thought and complexity should be entirely your own.</p> <p>If you are suspected of generating a paper using AI or suspected of plagiarism, I will hold you to the UTD Student Code of Conduct which is linked above.</p>																												

<b>Class Materials</b>	Class materials will be available to all students registered for this class to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded during the course; however, these materials are for registered students' use only. Classroom materials may not be reproduced or shared with those not in class or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> .
<b>Class Recordings</b>	Unless the AccessAbility Resource Center has approved the student to record the instruction, students are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course. Recordings may not be published, reproduced, or shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments except to implement an approved AccessAbility Resource Center accommodation. Failure to comply with these University requirements is a violation of the <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> .
<b>Comet Creed</b>	<i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i>  <i>"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."</i>
<b>Academic Support Resources</b>	<i>The information contained in the following link lists the University's academic support resources for all students. Please go to <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources">http://go.utdallas.edu/academic-support-resources</a>.</i>
<b>UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures</b>	<i>The information in the following link shows the University's policies and procedures segment of the syllabus. Please review the sections regarding the <a href="#">credit/no credit</a> grading option and withdrawal from class at <a href="http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies">http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies</a></i>

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the Professor's discretion.*