

Public Speaking CMST 2060  
Department of Communication Studies  
Louisiana State University

Contact & Class Information

Evan Mitchell Schares (eschar4@lsu.edu)  
Class Times: Section 8 MWF 8:30 – 9:20 AM Coates 126  
Section 12 MWF 9:30 – 10:20 AM Coates 234  
Office Hours MW 10:30 – 12:00 PM Coates 326

**Course Catalog Description**

This is a General Education course. Theory and skills needed by the effective communicator and critical consumer of speech; analysis of other speakers and practice in speaking.

**Additional Course Description**

Effective communication skills frequently rank as the most important factor in nearly every aspect of life. This course is an introductory survey course designed to assist you in increasing your knowledge and skills in employing verbal and nonverbal communication messages in a variety of settings (e.g., intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, and public contexts). By studying the process of communication and applying communication theory and principles to diverse real-life situations, you will have an opportunity to practice and analyze communication skills in various communication contexts. By remaining enrolled in this course you agree to the course policies.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Understand the principles of rhetoric and effectively utilize them in crafting well researched, reasoned, and appealing speeches.
2. Choose topics for public speaking that are timely, relevant, and adaptable given varying situations in which the message may be delivered, and for different audiences.
3. Effectively and critically evaluate message/speech content and delivery, both when examining one's own work as well as that of others.
4. Understand and utilize the verbal and nonverbal elements essential for exemplary speech delivery.
5. Analyze and discuss speeches of historical, political and social significance.

**Required Text & Materials**

Valenzano, et. al. *The Speaker's Primer: LSU Custom Edition*. Fountainhead Press, 2018.  
A 2 pocket folder in which your speech materials will be submitted.

### Assignment Information & LSU Grade Scale

Speeches (4)	50	A+	97-100	C+	77-79.9
Reading Resp (6)	20	A	93-96.9	C	73-79.9
Unit Exam	10	A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
Participation	17	B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
Research Credit	3	B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
		B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
Total	100			F	0-59

### Assignment Information

#### Speeches

Throughout the semester you will deliver four individual speeches (introductory, informative, persuasive, and commemorative) to the class. The speeches may be delivered from an outline, script, or notecards but your grade will be affected by your choice of style. A very formal speech might need a script; an informal speech would look silly delivered from a prepared text. A detailed outline is the usually the best option. Speeches do not need to be memorized however the speech should demonstrate mastery of the content. Persuasive speeches will have a question and answer period immediately following. All speeches and presentations must be given on the day assigned for full credit. Late speeches, to be made up on 3/1 or 4/12, are accepted at maximum 75% credit.

#### Reading Responses

6 times throughout the semester you will come to class with a typed reading response illustrating a theoretical tension or concept in the reading for that day [min. 200 words, max. 500 words] Please come prepared to present your short response to the class and end with 2 questions. Design the questions to propel class in an engaged discussion of the readings. Avoid polarizing (yes or no) questions. These should be grammatically, structurally, and topically sound. In order to receive full points, you must share this in class to receive the points. Late responses (either same-day or a month late) or ones that are not shared in class accepted at 75%. Available response days are labeled with [\*] on the course schedule. See online for a detailed description. 3.33 each. Must do 3 before and 3 after the midtem.

#### Unit Exam

You will sit for a midterm to assess your knowledge of content from the book and the class's reading responses. Tardy students will be allowed to sit for the exam up until the first student has left the room.

#### Participation

I recognize and respect a variety of learning styles and, therefore, do not have a particularly dogmatic approach to participation. That said, this is a discussion-based class. I evaluate your participation on the basis of several factors, which include, but are not limited to, speaking in class, making use of office hours, working effectively in groups, demonstrating improvement over the course of the semester, etc.

## Research Credit

Students enrolled in CMST 2060 have the option to complete a research learning requirement. For each course in which a student is enrolled, they must complete 2 research credits in order to receive points totaling 3% of the final grade. Note: The availability of studies fluctuates throughout the semester. It is best practice to log in frequently to track their availability. Waiting until the end of the semester risks no studies being available. See the CMST website for a detailed description. Students may also attend Hopkins Black Box creative shows or Mixon Lycaeam events sponsored by the department.

## **Class, University, & Federal Policies**

### On Showing Up

Attendance on speech days, even when you are not speaking, is expected and required. Unless it is university-excused, proven through documentation, there is no need to email me about your absence or tardiness. Visits to the student health center are not university-excused absences. The documentation must prove you were too ill or sick to attend class. Students who are constantly late, on their cell phones, or who are falling asleep are not engaged and, as a result, not able to earn discussion points. This is graded both quantitatively (based off discussion records) and qualitatively (your progression throughout the semester, your use of office hours, etc.)

### On Make Up Work

The only assignments available to turn in or complete after their deadline for partial credit are the speeches and the reading responses. In turning in these respective assignment late you accept the late penalty and will not ask for the penalty to be waived. Make up work will not be accepted after the last day of class. The speech analysis, apprehension pre- and post-tests, and midterms will not be accepted except on their respective dates.

### On Technology

Generally, cell phones and other electronics are not to be used. Students who use these inappropriately will be considered absent. Computers are only allowed for in-class workshops. There is zero tolerance for disruptions during speeches. A disruption is any action that distracts the audience's attention or interferes with the delivery of a speech. The penalty for disrupting someone speech will result in a zero for you on that particular speech.

### On Plagiarism

Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) in part or in whole will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students.

### On The ADA

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs so that such accommodations can be arranged. After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations. Accommodations are not enacted retroactively.