Course Title: Speech Communication

Course #: 1215

Course Description: Speech Communication students develop self-confidence and speaking skills by researching, writing, practicing, and delivering oral presentations, some utilizing multimedia. Students gain exposure to competitive speaking by performing speeches similar to ones given at forensic events. Class emphasizes combining rhetoric with advanced oratory to change hearts and minds of audience members. Emphasis placed on developing different aspects of verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as research skills guided by the Big 6. Various informal and formal speaking activities and speeches highlight this semester course.

UC/CSU Approval: “g” approved

Grade Level: 9-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Students spend approximately 2-4 hours per week researching, writing, and practicing speeches.

Prerequisite: None

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Prospective speech communication students should appreciate the importance of developing communication skills as a way to understand and to be understood.

Course Grade Categories:
- Speeches (60%)
- Chapter Quizzes (10%)
- Homework/Speech Preparation (20%)
- Final Exam (10%)

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
- Pet Peeve - This speech focuses on developing dynamic delivery as students vent about a topic that upsets, disturbs, or irks them.
- Dramatic Interpretation - This speech challenges students to decipher contextual clues in order to portray the emotions, attitudes, and feelings of a literary character.
• Original Oratory/Persuasive - This speech requires students to use persuasive techniques grounded in pathos, ethos, logos, and Monroe’s Motivated Sequence to change the hearts and minds of the audience regarding a topic of consequence.
• Impromptu - This speech demands that students learn to “think on their feet” as they organize and deliver a speech without prior preparation.
• Expository/Informative - This speech makes use of visual aids/technology as students inform the audience about some object, idea, concept, or process.