



Fundamentals of Speech Communication

Course Title: Fundamentals of Speech Communication (Advanced Speech)

Instructor Email:

Course Number: COM 11400

Office Hours:

Instructor Name:

Semester: Fall 2026

Course Description:

A study of communication theories as applied to speech; practical communicative experiences ranging from interpersonal communication and small-group process through problem identification and solution in discussion to informative and persuasive speaking in standard speaker-audience situations.

Course Prerequisites:

None

Course Access:

All course materials will be available through Echo (New Tech Network SMS).

Course Goals:

Students will better understand how to:

- Speak precisely, clearly, and persuasively
- Listen actively and with comprehension
- Formulate and assess their own arguments as well as the arguments of others
- Discuss the basic principles of small group communication, interpersonal communication and public speaking
- Work in an increasingly diverse society

Student Learning Objectives:

Students in COM 114 will learn to:

- 2.1 Use appropriate organization or logical sequencing to deliver an oral message;
- 2.2 Adapt an oral message for diverse audiences, contexts and communication channels;
- 2.3 Identify and demonstrate appropriate oral and nonverbal communication practices;
- 2.4 Advance an oral argument using logical reasoning;
- 2.5 Provide credible and relevant evidence to support an oral argument;
- 2.6 Demonstrate the ethical responsibilities of sending and receiving oral messages;

2.7 Summarize or paraphrase an oral message to demonstrate comprehension.

Learning Resources & Texts

- **Required Textbook:** Duck, S. & McMahan D.T. (2021). *Communication in everyday life: The basic course edition with public speaking*. Los Angeles, CA: SAGE.
 - ISBN-13: 978-1-5063-1516-4 (3rd Edition)
- **Additional Readings:** Will be provided through Echo.

Assignments

Eagle Tech Academy is a PBL school with weighted School Wide Learning Outcomes. Your tasks will be graded in the following categories:

- **Knowledge and Thinking (140 pts)**
 - Chapters 1 & 3 Quiz (week 2)--35 points
 - Chapters 4 & 5 Quiz (week 4)--35 points
 - Chapters 6, 8, & 13 Quiz (week 7)--35 points
 - Chapter 10 & 11 Quiz (week 12)--35 points
- **Oral Communication (160 pts)**
 - Peer Interview (week 2)--15 points
 - Short Interpersonal Reflection Video (week 3)--15 points
 - Introductory Speech (week 4)--25 points
 - Podcast-Analysis of Relationships (week 7)—25 points
 - Group Solution Presentation (week 12)—35 points
 - FINAL-Persuasive Speech (week 17)—45 points
- **Written Communication (60 pts)**
 - Self-Reflection Journal (week 2)--10 points
 - Written Analysis of Relationships (week 5)—20 points
 - Persuasive Speech Outline & References (week 14)—20 points
 - End of Class Reflection (week 18)—10 points
- **Agency (20 pts)**
 - Community Map Reflection (week 1)—5 points
 - Podcast-Analysis of Relationships (week 5)—5 points
 - Group Dynamics Simulation (week 9)—5 points
 - Audience Analysis Worksheet and Topic Selection (week 13)—5 points
- **Collaboration (20 pts)**
 - Peer Interview (week 2)—5 points
 - Group Debate Over Digital Media (week 6)—5 points
 - Facilitator Observations-Group Simulation Proposal (week 10)—5 points
 - Peer Feedback During Practice Week for Persuasive Speech (Week 16)—5 points

Grading Scale:

Breakdown of Learning Outcomes by Percentage	
Oral Communication-160 points	40%
Knowledge and Thinking-140 points	35%
Written Communication-60 points	15%
Collaboration-20 points	5%
Agency-20 points	5%
TOTAL POINTS: 400 points	100%

Grading Scale	
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-0	F

Course Evaluation:

Collegiate Connection students will be provided a link through Echo This link will be to a form created and managed by the Collegiate Connection office, all data collected is anonymous and will be shared with instructors and their departments at the end of the school year.

Academic Misconduct / Plagiarism / AI:

Academic Misconduct, including plagiarism (using other people's ideas/words and not giving them credit thus implying the work is your own original work) or using your own work from a previous course without the express permission of the instructor, is taken very seriously at any learning institution. It is taken very seriously in this class. Please be aware of what behaviors constitute academic misconduct ([See Bulletin, Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct Part II. A.](#)) If caught cheating or plagiarizing, a student may receive no credit on the assignment and may result in an F for the course. Any instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Care and your Department Chair and may result in expulsion from the University. Additional potential consequences can be found under: potential consequences (See Bulletin, [Code of Students Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, Part III. A.](#): i.e., failure of the assignment, failure of the course and/or dismissal from the university) of such behavior.

The use of AI through Clever-Chat for Schools is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them as a study aid (e.g., brainstorming ideas, grammar and spelling checking). Students should indicate how AI tools informed their process and the final product, including how they checked the validity/accuracy of all AI-generated content Assignment guidelines will provide additional guidance as to how these tools might be part of your process for each assessment this semester and how to provide transparency about the usage. If students are unclear whether an AI use is acceptable or not, assume that it is not and please contact me for a discussion.

Student Support Services

Purdue University Fort Wayne is committed to your academic and personal success. Visit the [Student Support Services](#) page for a list of student support services, including academic services, technology services, health and wellness, and support from administrative offices. For help with technology, including Brightspace, visit the [IT Services Student Technology Support](#) page.

If you observe and/or are made aware of student behavior that leaves you feeling concerned, worried, and/or alarmed, trust your instincts and say something. The CARE Team can assist with the student of concern, whether that's you or someone you are referring. Report the concern through the online CARE referral form. Please note that this form is not for emergencies. If you know of a student who is injured,

is injuring themselves or others, or is threatening injuries to themselves or others, please call 911 immediately.

Your emotional wellness and mental health are important. If you have a mental health disorder, are struggling with your mental health, your stress overwhelms your ability to cope with it, or you find yourself needing emotional support, please talk to someone. If you or someone you know is in a mental health crisis situation, call 911 or go to the local emergency room. Otherwise, please reach out to our Center for Student Counseling (CSC). All currently enrolled PFW and IUFW students have access to free counseling at the center. To make an appointment to talk with a counselor call 260-481-6200 or email csc@pfw.edu.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Foundations of Communication

- **Week 1**
 - Communication Landscape Map and Reflection
- **Week 2**
 - Self-assessment & reflection journals; peer interviews.
 - Chapters 1 & 3 Quiz
- **Week 3**
 - Mini-Skill Workshop: Practice storytelling in pairs.
 - Assessment: Short interpersonal reflection video.
- **Week 4**
 - **Checkpoint Assignment:** 3–4 minute *Introductory Speech* (personal narrative).
 - Chapters 4 & 5 Quiz

Unit 2: Interpersonal Communication

- **Week 5**
 - Task: Students analyze a fictional or real relationship (family, friendship, workplace).
- **Week 6**
 - Group Debate: *Does digital media strengthen or weaken interpersonal communication?*
- **Week 7**
 - Assessment: Podcast analyzing a relationship dynamic.
 - Chapters 6, 8, & 13 quiz

Unit 3: Small Group Communication (Weeks 8-12)

- **Week 8 & 9**
 - In-class: Group dynamics simulations.
- **Week 10 & 11**
 - Activity: Groups assigned a problem (campus, community, or workplace) collaborative work
- **Week 12**
 - Assessment: Group presentation of solution proposal.
 - Chapters 10 & 11 Quiz

Unit 4: Public Speaking & Persuasion (Weeks 13-18)

- **Week 13:**
 - Workshops: Audience analysis & topic brainstorming, selection of persuasive topic.
- **Week 14 & 15**
 - Draft persuasive speech outline with thesis, main points, supporting evidence.
- **Week 16**
 - Rehearsals with peer evaluation + instructor coaching.

- **Week 17-18**
 - **Capstone Presentations:** 8–10 minute persuasive speech (recorded & graded with rubric).
 - Reflection: “What I used to think...Now I think...”

Additional Information:

School/Course Policies (PLEASE READ VERY CAREFULLY)

Respect

Always treat others with respect during class. We will discuss a variety of topics, and as individuals, we will have various experiences and viewpoints on each topic. It is important that we listen and be open-minded to others' views. Disagreement is expected and even encouraged; however, we must be tactful with the way in which we voice our disagreement. Some students may struggle with concepts that come easy for others. We should not create an atmosphere where other students are afraid to ask for clarification. Inappropriate laughing, sighing, mocking, interrupting, and carrying on other conversations during class discussion is prohibited. Students who engage in these activities and are continuously disruptive will be asked to leave the class.

Harassment & Discrimination

Harassment of any sort will not be tolerated during or in association with the activities of this class. "PFW prohibits discrimination against any member of the university community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran."

Technology

We have the advantage of working in a technology-rich environment. While you all have laptops with internet access, I expect you to use them only for academic work. Cell phones are prohibited during class unless instructed to do so.

Attendance

The structure of this class is dependent upon class participation. You are not only missing out on practice and information when you miss class, you are also robbing your classmates of the feedback and perspective you bring to the classroom. Furthermore, you must be here to serve as an audience for all speeches and presentations. **Any unexcused absence on a day when speeches are being presented (not just the days you are presenting) will subtract up to 10% of your grade for that assignment at my discretion.** If there is an emergency, please contact me as soon as possible.

Preparation, Participation, and Assignments

You are expected to have completed and studied all readings assigned for each corresponding class period. Exams will cover both text and lecture material. Some text material may not be covered in class; however, you are still responsible for any of this material that may appear on a quiz or an exam. Also, in order to contribute to class, you need to be familiar with the text and prepared for discussion. I will not accept late assignments. The due date in Echo is the due date. **You will only be allowed to make up speeches, presentations, or quizzes in case of a legitimate, documented emergency.**

Academic Integrity

It is expected that each student will behave honorably throughout this course. According to PFW's Academic Regulations, "Academic honesty is expected of all students. You are responsible for knowing how to maintain academic honesty and for abstaining from cheating, the appearance of cheating, and permitting or assisting in another's cheating."

Academic dishonesty includes:

- Cheating or helping another to cheat on a quiz.
- Using a speech, in whole or in part, authored by someone other than yourself.
- Plagiarizing another's written or oral work, in whole or in part, including insufficient citations or references.
- Falsifying information including, but not limited to, absence excuses, interviews, etc.
- Not citing websites, books, pamphlets, or any other source appropriately.

For an explanation and discussion on plagiarism, see:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/plag.html>

Cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero for that assignment and could potentially lead to a zero in the course if so advised by the communication department

****This syllabus is a binding contract. After the first week of class, your continued attendance in class signifies that you understand these policies and expectations and that you agree to participate in this course in accordance with them.**