SPCH 1010
Fundamentals of Speech Communication
3 Credit Hours

Course Information

Course Description:

An introductory communication course that explores the basic concepts of interpersonal, small group and public communication.

After studying the basic concepts in communication, students will select a specific aspect of communication for further research and exploration. Students are encouraged to select or combine aspects that are particularly relevant to their areas of interest, career goals or personal needs. The project will culminate in a written report that details the communication skills acquired and their application. The topic and research for the self-improvement project will also be used as the content for an informative speech. Students will also prepare and deliver a persuasive speech designed to promote a nonprofit organization. Speeches are delivered to approved audiences, videotaped, and submitted to the instructor digitally using the Dropbox or as Unlisted videos on YouTube.

Course Objectives:

The goal of the Communication requirement is to enhance the effective use of the English language essential to students' success in school and in the world by way of learning to read and listen critically and to write and speak thoughtfully, clearly, coherently, and persuasively.

Course Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze and evaluate oral and/or written expression by listening and reading critically for elements that reflect an awareness of situation, audience, purpose and diverse points of view.
2. Distill a primary purpose into a single, compelling statement and order and develop major points in a reasonable and convincing manner based on that purpose.
3. Develop appropriate rhetorical patterns (i.e. narration, example, process, comparison/contrast, classification, cause/effect, definition, argumentation) and other special functions (i.e., analysis or research) while demonstrating writing and/or speaking skills from process to product.
4. Understand that the writing and/or speaking processes include procedures such as planning, organizing, composing, revising and editing.
5. Make written and/or oral presentations employing correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.
6. Manage and coordinate basic information gathered from multiple sources for the purposes of problem solving and decision-making.
7. Recognize the use of evidence, analysis, and persuasive strategies, including basic distinctions among opinions, facts and inferences.
8. Develop interpersonal skills necessary for personal and professional success.

Prerequisites and Corequisites:

Prerequisite - Students must have completed ENGL 1010 English Composition I

Course Topics:

Orientation Module
Module I - Foundations of Communication
    A. Elements of Communication
    B. Perception
    C. Language
    D. Nonverbal Communication
Module II - Interpersonal Communication
    A. Building Relationships
    B. Listening Skills
    C. Conflict Management
    D. Small Group Communication
Module III - Self Improvement Project
Module IV - Informative Public Speaking
Module V - Persuasive Public Speaking

Specific Course Requirements:

During the Public Speaking portion of the course, students will prepare an informative and persuasive speech following the assignment criteria listed in Modules IV and V. The two speeches must be delivered in front of approved audiences, videotaped, and submitted to the instructor as a compressed video in the Dropbox or as an Unlisted video on YouTube.

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

Required Materials:

Please visit the **RODP Virtual Bookstore** for information concerning required textbooks for this course.

Supplementary Materials:

Please visit the **RODP Virtual Bookstore** for information concerning supplementary information for this course.

Hardware Requirements:

Please visit the RODP Website for a listing of **hardware requirements.**

Software Requirements:

Please visit the RODP Website for a listing of **software requirements.**

Instructor Information

Please see the separate page inside the course to find instructor contact information as well as a statement of virtual office hours and other communication information.

Testing Procedures:

In the Orientation Module and Modules I & II, timed multiple choices quizzes are used to assess understanding of the concepts in the course and in the text. Quizzes must be completed by the dates on the Calendar.

Grading Procedures:

The exercises and discussions in Modules I & II provide students an opportunity to apply concepts from the course to everyday situations. The exercises are graded on completeness and integration of the concepts.

In Module III, students will complete a Self Improvement Project with components that are graded on completeness and thoroughness of research.

In Modules IV & V, assignments and discussions are designed to help them prepare for the two speeches. Students are graded on completeness and ability to follow the formats provided. The evaluation forms provided in Modules IV & V are used to provide feedback regarding the speeches.

Grading Scale:

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

Grades:	Points
A	689-770
B	612-688
C	535-611
D	458-534
F	457 & below

Assignments and Participation

Assignments and Projects:

Assignments/Projects for this course are as follows:

Assignment Title:	Point value:
Orientation Module Quiz	10 points
Orientation Module Discussion	10 points
Orientation Module Exercise	10 points
Module I Quiz	50 points
Module I Discussion	20 points
Module I exercises (A., B., C., D. @ 20 points each)	80 points

Module II Quiz	50 points
Module II Discussion	20 points
Module II Exercises (A, B, C, D @ 20 points each)	80 points
Module III Topic Selection	20 points
Module II Research	30 points
Module III Self Improvement Project Report	50 points
Module IV Informative Audience Analysis	20 points
Module IV Informative Outline	30 points
Module IV Discussion	10 points
Module IV Informative Speech	100 points
Module V Persuasive Audience Analysis	20 points
Module V Persuasive Research	20 points
Module V Discussion	10 points
Module V Persuasive Outline	30 points
Module V Persuasive Speech	100 points

Total   **770 points**

Class Participation:

You are expected to participate in Discussion forum. You must post at least twice for each question in order to be eligible to receive full credit. You must post once to answer the question yourself and again to respond to the postings of at least one classmate. You are expected to communicate with your instructor on a regular basis to ask for any needed assistance and check the course frequently for announcements. You will be responsible for meeting all deadlines as listed in the Calendar.

Punctuality:

All coursework is due by the date indicated on the Calendar. You should become familiar with the Calendar to determine when materials are due and adjust your study schedule accordingly. Because it is important for you to complete all work in the course, you will be allowed to submit coursework up to one week late with a 50% late penalty. Work will not be accepted more than one week past the due date. The late submission option does not apply to the persuasive speech which is due the last week of class. This speech must be submitted by the due date to allow time for grading before grades are due. An occasional late submission will affect your grade, but repeated late submissions will jeopardize your ability to successfully complete the course.

Course Ground Rules

- You are expected to learn how to navigate in D2L, and stay aware of course announcements.
- You should use your assigned D2L email addresses for all communication.
- You should address any technical problems immediately.
- You should observe course etiquette at all times.
- You must follow the guidelines for preparation and submission of the two speeches in order to be able to receive credit for them.
- You must complete the two required speeches in the course in order to receiving a passing grade for the course.
- Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. For further clarification see the **RODP Statement of Academic Honesty**.

Guidelines for Communication

Email:

- Always include a subject line.
- Remember that without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.
- Use standard fonts.
- Do not send large attachments without permission.
- Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.
- Respect the privacy of other class members.

Discussion Groups:

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be a lurker, and then a discussant.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather than starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Chat:

Chat rooms may be available in some courses for student communication but will not be a required part of the course. If you utilize the chat tool, please keep the following in mind:

- Introduce yourself to the other learners in the chat room.
- Be polite. Choose your words carefully. Do not use derogatory statements.
- Be constructive in your comments and suggestions.

Web Resources:

Web links will be posted and updated throughout the class. An email or announcement will be made when a new link is available to students. Please review the *Disclaimer of Offsite Content* within D2L for more information.

Library

The **Tennessee Virtual Library** is available to all students enrolled in the Regents Online Degree Program. Links to library materials (such as electronic journals, databases, interlibrary loans, digital reserves, dictionaries, encyclopedias, maps, and librarian support) and Internet resources needed by learners to complete online assignments and as background reading must be included in all courses.

Students with Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by the appropriate disability services staff at their home institution. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff at the home institution. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with their home institution's disability services staff and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Student Support

Student Services:

For questions regarding registration or course enrollment, please contact your **RODP Campus Contact**.

For questions and issues related to the Regents Online Campus Collaborative or the Tennessee Board of Regents, please contact the RODP Helpdesk at 1-888-223-0023.

Technical Support:

For assistance with the Desire2Learn system or other technical issues, please contact the Student Technical Support Helpdesk at **1-866-550-7637**. Staff members are available 24/7.