EXST010: Introduction to Public Speaking and Debate

University of Maryland

Summer 2015

Instructor: Thomas McCloskey
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Course Meetings: Monday – Friday
July 20 – July 31, 2014
9:00AM – 12:30PM
EDU 2102

Goals and Objectives
This course introduces students to basic public speaking and argumentation principles. Students will learn to prepare, organize and deliver a presentation in front of an audience as well as develop and present an argument in the structured format of a debate. Overall, the knowledge acquired throughout the course will enable students to develop better communication and critical thinking skills.

Required Texts
There is no required textbook for this course. Many handouts will be used and all will be provided by the instructor.

Course Expectations
To be successful in this course, students will be expected to:

- Attend class regularly
- Be prepared to discuss readings and handouts
- Participate in class discussion and activities
- Perform satisfactorily on written and oral assignments on their designated due dates

Classroom Behavior
All communication devices (cell phones, laptops, etc.) should be turned off during class time. If students are expecting an emergency call, they should clear it with the instructor at the beginning of class. The use of computers is not permitted during this class, unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Students should not talk, make noise, text message, or otherwise disrupt the class. Eating, sleeping, or engaging in any other distracting activities will not be permitted in the classroom.

Rudeness and inappropriate language or remarks will not be tolerated. Students who do not respect these rules and one another will be required to meet with the instructor separately before being allowed to return to class.
**Attendance**
Students are expected to attend class regularly and promptly. When a student does not attend class, the absence is excused only if it is due to illness, religious observance, or compelling circumstances beyond the student's control. If such a circumstance occurs, the student must bring proper documentation and make-up the missed work.

**Religious Observances**
Students will not be penalized in any way for observing religious holidays. Any student needing to miss class to observe a religious holiday must notify the instructor by the end of the second class meeting.

**Information for Students with Disabilities**
Students who have documented disabilities and who wish to discuss academic accommodation with the instructor should do so by the end of the second class meeting.

**Course Assignments**
*In-class assignments (40%)*: Students will engage in a variety of assignments daily. These may include, but are not limited to, discussion questions, one-minute essays, and impromptu speeches and debates.

*Course Projects (60%)*: At the end of each week, students will deliver an oral presentation that demonstrates their mastery of the course material covered that week. These projects include a Persuasive Speech (30%; delivered at the end of Week One) and a Debate (30%; delivered at the end of Week Two). A detailed description of both of these assignments will be provided separately.

**Schedule**

**Monday, July 20th**
*Themes*: What is communication and why is it important? What makes a speech successful? Who are persuasive speakers and what makes them persuasive?

*In-class assignments*: “Celebrities” impromptu speech! **A visit to the Library.**

*Homework for Tuesday*: Students will bring in an example of successful communication or unsuccessful communication and be prepared to present it to the class.

**Tuesday, July 21st**
*Themes*: Crafting a speech. What is speaker credibility and why is it important? Ethos/pathos/logos are discussed. What types of supporting materials are there?

*In-class assignments*: “The Ummmmmmpossible” impromptu speech! Persuasive Speech brainstorming. **A visit to the Oral Communication Center.**

*Homework for Wednesday*: Students will bring in a news article about a current event and be prepared to present it to the class. Students will bring in a Persuasive Speech topic idea.
Wednesday, July 22nd
Themes: Organizing a speech. What is organization and why is it important? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different types of organization? What parts of speeches are there? What is audience analysis and why does it matter?

In-class assignments: “SLAP” impromptu speeches! Audience analysis survey discussion.

Homework for Thursday: Students will bring in an outline of their Persuasive Speech and be prepared to explain it to the class. Supporting material is encouraged.

Thursday, July 23rd
Themes: Crafting a speech narrative. What is narrative and why is it important? How can it help you form connections with your audience? What is the importance of an introduction and conclusion?

In-class assignments: “Scattegories” impromptu speeches! Persuasive Speech practice.

Homework for Friday: Students will be prepared to deliver their Persuasive Speeches.

Friday, July 24th
Themes: Offering feedback for a speech. What is constructive feedback and why does it matter? Why is it important to be a good audience member?

In-class assignments: Persuasive Speech presentations!

Homework for Monday: Students will bring in their typed evaluations of two classmate presentations. Read the news.

Monday, July 27th
Themes: What is debate and why is it important? What makes a debater successful? How are debates different than speeches? What are the types of debate topics? What is an affirmative debate case and what are its parts?

In-class assignments: News quiz! Topic discussion. Impromptu persuasive speeches!

Homework for Tuesday: Students will bring in two news articles about the chosen debate topic. Read the news.

Tuesday, July 28th
Themes: What is a negative debate case and what are its parts? What is the “burden” of the negative side and what strategies are available to negative debaters?

In-class assignments: News quiz! Impromptu affirmative case speeches!
Homework for Wednesday: Students will bring in an outline of their affirmative and negative cases. Read the news.

Wednesday, July 29th
Themes: What is refutation and why is it important? How can you “clash” with your opponents in ways that are constructive and persuasive? What does cross examination look like and why is it important?

In-class assignments: News quiz! Refutation impromptu speeches!

Homework for Thursday: Students will bring in a final outline of their debate case and three questions and responses for cross-examination.

Thursday, July 30th

In-class assignments: News quiz! Practice debates!

Homework for Friday: Prepare for the final debates.

Friday, July 31st
Final debates! Parents are encouraged to attend.