HU 2830: Introduction to Speech Communication

Meeting: MWF 3:05 - 3:55 pm
Professor: Jnan Blau
E-mail: jablau@mtu.edu
Office: Walker 344
Office Hours: MWF 12:45 - 2:45 pm
Telephone: Office, 487-1084; Dept. of Humanities, 487-2008

Required Text:
Additional readings, including web-based readings may be assigned.

Course Description:
This class is designed to improve your skills and enhance your confidence as a public communicator. The goal of the course is to build on your strengths and improve on your weaknesses so that you may develop your competence as a communicator in public settings.

The course's main emphasis is public speaking. However, we will also consider related concepts such as civility, civic service, cultural awareness, and social justice, as these will encourage you to direct your public speaking skills toward enhancing the health and vitality of democratic dialogue.

You will prepare and deliver five different speeches as part of your study of public speaking principles and skills. Additionally, many of the class sessions will be devoted to doing exercises that apply these insights and skills (so your participation will be critical).

Course Graded Requirements:
There are four components that will yield the grade you earn in this course:
1. Three Quizzes that will ask you to demonstrate your understanding of the class material
2. Five Speeches emphasizing different speaking goals and contexts
3. Five Speech Evaluations (four Self-Evaluations and one Peer-Evaluation)
4. APPT(itude): Attending class; being well Prepared for class by closely reading and thinking about the assigned materials; Participating in class discussions, exercises, and activities; and being Thoughtful in all your work in this class
Final Grade Scale
921-1000=A 721-769=C
870-920=AB 670-720=CD
821-869=B 600-669=D
770-820=BC 0-599=F

Points Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>(22.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech Evaluations (four self and one peer)</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>(12.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Experience/Identity Speech</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visualization Speech</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>(7.5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informative Speech</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>(10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persuasive Speech</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>(12.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitational Speech</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>(15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPTitude (includes in-class work/activities)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>(15%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>(100%)</td>
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Attendance and Participation Policy (more on APPTitude)

Attendance:

Punctual, consistent attendance is essential for your success in this class—and, more importantly, for a fully realized learning environment for us all.

Attendance will be taken daily.

Students are allowed two "free" absences throughout the semester. Additional absences not officially excused by the Dean of Students Office will negatively impact your APPTitude grade.

Participation:

I understand that, for personal and/or cultural reasons, different people participate differently in a class. I will try to account for this as much as possible. Nevertheless, I am quite aware that attendance does not necessarily equal participation. In order to derive the best learning experience from/for our class, it is absolutely essential that students always come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to engage it in the classroom.

I am a pretty good judge of participation in my classes—by which I mean, I can usually tell, from your in-class participation, speaking and writing assignments, etc., if you are putting the necessary energy into this class.

Ultimately, it is in your best interest to take this class and its content seriously. Your grade—and our experience together as learners—will be strongest if you attend and participate to the fullest extent of your abilities.
A Note on Assignments and Make-Up Work

All assignments will be described and distributed before they are due. Make-up work will only be allowed under special circumstances, as discussed with me (beforehand, if at all possible). Fittingly for this class, communication is key: communicating with me about any problems or delays that interfere with your work in this class will be crucial, and absolutely necessary, when it comes to any make-up work.

PLEASE NOTE: All of the assignments (including writing prompts, additional readings, speech assignments, etc.) will be made available online at http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~jablau/hu2830/. There will also be a class listserv (an email address that allows automatic communication with the whole class), which I will use, from time to time, to contact/communicate with you: speechcomm-I@mtu.edu. Though I realize the limitations and problems associated with on-line distribution and communication, sometimes this will be the best means of doing so. So, please be sure to check your mtu.edu email account often. And, if you do not receive, or lose, a handout or reading, you will always be able to find and retrieve it online at the web space indicated above.

Another (Important) Note:

The best way to do well in this class is to not only read all the materials assigned but to take notes as you do so. Write down important points and interesting ideas. Also, note anything that may be unclear to you (what is not clear can actually be as useful to your learning as what is clear). Be sure to bring these notes to class every day. Please, do not be shy: regarding our readings and class material, share with us not only what excites you but also what confuses you—chances are you will help more than just yourself!

A Few Other Notes

All writing assignments are due by their due date, at the start of the class period. If you have a disability that could affect your performance in this class or that requires an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please inform me and contact the Student Affairs Office (their phone: 487-2212) so that we may make appropriate arrangements. Please do this early in the semester; do not wait until problems arise.

A Note On Academic Integrity (i.e., please, no plagiarism!)

Presenting others' work as you own or failing to properly credit and cite any and all resources used in your work is dishonest and is considered plagiarism in U.S. academic culture. Plagiarizing will very likely be detected by me and can lead to serious consequences for you, including, but not limited to, academic probation. If you ever have any questions about this issue, please do not hesitate to talk to me or to consult a writing coach at the Writing Center (at 487-2007).

The Last (and An Important) Note

Unless you come and talk to me and indicate otherwise, I will assume that you have carefully read this syllabus and that you have understood and are willing and able to abide by its content.