COMM 203 Public Speaking
Sample Syllabus

**Course Description**
Communication 203: Principles, practice and criticism of public speaking. Training in speeches of social and technical interest designed to teach students to develop and illustrate ideas and information. Emphasis on public speaking that informs and persuades audiences. TAMU Undergraduate Catalog

**Course Syllabus**
The COMM 203 Packet for Public Speaking serves as the comprehensive course syllabus for this class. It is a required text that you need to download from eCampus. The document you are now reading is the *Section Detail* that gives more specific information on this section of COMM 203. In addition, reference materials for this class are posted at ecampus.tamu.edu. It is your responsibility to read and familiarize yourself with course policies and information presented in these documents.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**
By the end of the course a successful COMM 203 student will be able to:
1) Select speech topics and organizational patterns to satisfy the rhetorical situation as articulated in the speaking assignment.
2) Research, select, and develop appropriate background and supporting material to support and extend the purpose of the speech and with consideration for the audience.
3) Cite background and supporting material orally during the speech, in writing in the text of the full-sentence outline and in the works cited page.
4) Deliver speeches extemporaneously from a set of limited notes and within the specified time frame.
5) Express ideas artfully, both verbally and nonverbally, with respect and sensitivity for themselves and their audience.
6) Respond to questions from the audience.
7) Produce and integrate sensory aids (including computer generated visual aids) to support their message and with respect and sensitivity for the audience.
8) Critique their own speeches and the speeches of others with respect to invention, arrangement, language, style, critical thinking, and delivery.
9) Work together with a team of classmates to critique one another’s outlines and speeches and to deliver a group presentation.

**Ideas Related to Grading - YOU EARN WHAT YOU EARN = NO CURVE OR ROUNding!!**
Grading Scale for Final Grade: A = 89.5-100%; B = 79.5-89.4%; C = 69.5-79.4%; D = 59.5-69.4%; F = 59.4% or less
Speech grades - Students will earn letter grades for speech presentations. The letter grades must be translated into numerical equivalencies for University grading purposes: A+=100% A=95% A-=92% B+=88% B=85% B-=82% C+=78% C=75% C-=72% D+=68% D=65% D-=62% F=50%

Breakdown of course grade
- AAM Speech (2%)
- Speech One (10%)
- Speech Two (15%)
- Speech Three (20%)
- Speech Four (20%)
- Outlines (10%)
- Assignments (13%)
- Exam (10%)

Assignments will include your Bib/cit. hmwk (1%); Aud. analysis questions (1%); Speech Analysis (1%); 4 online self-evals (1.5% each/6% total), 8 peer evals (2 for each speech/ .5% each/ 4% total

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Description of Speeches

AAM Speech – All About Me – 1 minute
This speech is designed to just get you up in front of the class and talking. You will bring 3 items from home and tell us why these items are important to you or why they are representative of who you are as a person.

Speech 1: Future Career – 4-5 Minutes
Deliver an informative presentation about a career or job associated with your current or intended major or one you would just like to know more about. This presentation will give you the opportunity to articulate one possible career option. Not only will it help you think about what you want to do after college, it will help you learn how connect your expertise to serving society.

- A Full Sentence Preparation Outline and Bibliography are Required.
- Key Word Speaking Outline
- Extemporaneous Delivery is Required.
- Oral and Written Citation of Sources is Required.
- 3 Sources are Required.

Speech 2: Group Speech: Where do They Stand on the Issues – 5-6 Minutes Per Person & 1-2 minute Q&A Per Person (Total time 25-30 minute group speech, and 5-10 minutes of Q&A)
In November 2016, Americans will vote for the next President of the United States. There is already a crowded field of 22 candidates (17 Republican and 5 Democratic) vying for the office. For this speech, each group should choose an issue (foreign policy, education, healthcare, energy, etc.) to focus on. Only one group per issue. Each individual group member should then choose one of the candidates and inform us about his or her specific plan to deal with that issue.

This informative speech will be delivered as a group. Each group member’s speech will represent a main point on the topic but must also meet the requirements for a speech as discussed in this course. A Full Sentence Preparation Outline and Bibliography are Required.

- Key Word Speaking Outline
- Extemporaneous Delivery is Required.
- Oral and Written Citation of Sources is Required.
- 4 Sources are Required.
- A PowerPoint Presentation (2-3 slides per person) is Required
- Be prepared to answer questions.

Speech 3: Persuade Us – 6-7 Minutes + 1-2 Minute Q&A
This assignment begins your persuasive effort. Your goal is to pick an issue and a side on that issue. You will want to describe the issue and then take a side on the issue and present evidence properly to back up your position. You will face questions at the end of this speech, so be ready to face some opposition and think on your feet. Proper research will give you the tools to handle the assignment and the questions that follow.

- A Full Sentence Preparation Outline and Bibliography are Required.
- Key Word Speaking Outline
- Extemporaneous Delivery is Required.
- Oral and Written Citation of Sources is Required.
- 5 Sources are Required.
- A PowerPoint Presentation (4-8 Slides) is required, which includes at least one chart and/or graph.
- Be Prepared to Answer Questions from Your Audience.

Speech 4: Support My Non-Profit – 6-7 Minutes
In this persuasive speech, you will select a regional or national non-profit organization and convince the audience that they should support it. You will want to tell us what problem this non-profit addresses, how it address the problem, and why we should support this non-profit. This speech will be organized according to Monroe’s Motivated Sequence.

- A Full Sentence Preparation Outline and Bibliography are Required.
- Key Word Speaking Outline
- Extemporaneous Delivery is Required.
- Oral and Written Citation of Sources is Required.
- 4 Sources are Required.
- A PowerPoint Presentation (4-8 Slides) is Required