



**Plainview Campus  
School of Fine Arts**

**UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT**

Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.

**COURSE NUMBER & NAME:**  
**COMS 2303** Public Speaking

**TERM:**

Fall 2 VC 2021

**INSTRUCTOR**

Professor Philip Randall Rapstine

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

WBU Email: [philip.rapstine@wayland.wbu.edu](mailto:philip.rapstine@wayland.wbu.edu) (I am not a full-time faculty member, so I do not have a campus phone or office.)

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

Theories and related skills for planning, organizing, rehearsing, presenting and evaluating a variety of types of speeches. Survey of rhetorical traditions, principles, and strategies used in informative, persuasive, and ceremonial speeches. May be taken to meet the general education communication requirement.

**PREREQUISITE:**

none

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND RESOURCE MATERIAL:**

O'Hair, D. & Stewart, R. & Rubenstein, H. (2015). *A Speaker's Guidebook: Text and Reference*, 7<sup>th</sup>. Ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins.

Note: the most recent edition is not critical. Please consult with instructor if you have any questions. Students MUST be able to:

- video record their speech performances
- post a YouTube link to Blackboard.

## **COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:**

1. Students will learn to construct (research, outline, and organize) public speeches for delivery to audiences.
2. Students will be able to deliver informative, persuasive, and group speeches.
3. Students will develop analytical and critical listening skills.
4. Students will be able to critically analyze the content, organization, and delivery of their own speeches and the speeches of others.
5. Students will learn how to successfully manage their apprehension about communicating in public contexts.

## **ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

### Policy 8.4.2 Class Attendance (Online Students)

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner.

1. Student "attendance" in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor.
2. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements.
3. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation.
4. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a "no-show" and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus.
5. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university's attendance policy.

Any questions regarding this policy may be directed to the Director of the Virtual Campus.

### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291-3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING CRITERIA:**

More details will come as the semester progresses. Please note: this is tentative; inevitably, changes will need to be made. Nothing will be added to the workload.

Speeches: (650 total points)

1. Speech of Introduction: 25 points
2. Commemorative Speech: 100 points
3. Informative Speech: Process: 100 points
4. Informative Speech: Issue 150 points
5. Persuasive Speech: Policy Change 150 points
6. Persuasive Speech: Refutation: 125 points

Peer Outlines/Critiques: (150 total points)

For the Process, Issue and Policy Change speeches, students should watch all the speeches and then pick 5 to watch in more detail to write up an outline and a critique/suggestions for improvement. The assignment should be submitted to both the instructor and the person whose speech is critiqued.

#### Quizzes: (150 total points)

Once a week students will be required to take an online quiz. The quizzes will likely not be tricky in shape or form; they will just require that students spend time reading the text and contemplating how to apply course concepts to their own public speaking.

The format for exams may include but are not limited to definition of key terms, short answer questions, essay questions, multiple choice, and true/false.

#### Weekly Discussion Board: (50 total points)

From time to time, students will be asked to participate in class discussion. The instructor will provide a prompt (or multiple prompts) and students are expected to respond appropriately and in a timely manner. Discussion may revolve around classroom material (specific textbook chapters), personal experiences with public speaking, and/or brainstorming for upcoming assigned speeches.

#### Grading Scale (Please be aware that minor changes may be necessary)

A='s 895 points

B='s 795 points

C='s 695 points

D='s 595 points

F='s below 595 points

“Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals are limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Vice President of Academic Affairs/Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.”

#### Email:

**Your Wayland email address is the official line of communication between you and the university. You must make sure your email address is established, functioning and is also monitored at least once a day as you will receive important information about your classes, financial aid, billing, emergency situations, etc. through this email.**

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

1/11: Class Begins

1/18: Intro speech is due; Quiz 1 is due

1/25: Commemorative Speech is due; Quiz 2 is due

2/1: Process Speech is due; Quiz 3 is due; Effective Public Speakers assignment is due by 2/5 at 5pm

2/8: Issue Speech; Quiz 4 is due

2/15: Persuasive Speech is due

2/22: Final Speech is due

3/1: Last Week of Class — Submit Peer Responses to Final Speech by Friday 3/5 at 5p