



Division of Liberal Arts

SPCH1315 – Public Speaking

3 Credit Hours

Semester: Fall Mini 2025 (Section 195) Online

Instructor: Corey S. Blais, M.A.; Ed.D. (Candidate)

Office location: Remote

Phone: Provided to students in the course

Email: corey.blais@clarendoncollege.edu

Office Hours: Available by email, or phone call, or Zoom

Course Description:

Application of communication theory and practice to the public speaking context, with emphasis on audience analysis, speaker delivery, ethics of communication, cultural diversity, and speech organizational techniques to develop students' speaking abilities, as well as ability to effectively evaluate oral presentations.

Statement of Purpose: Public Speaking partially satisfies the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: This course will be using *Stand up, Speak out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking* as the textbook. This textbook comes at no charge to the students, and the instructor will provide the textbook as an electronic PDF file in the course Open LMS site.

Core Objectives

This course meets four of six core objectives as established by the State of Texas:

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT) – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills (COM) – effective development, interpretation, and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Teamwork (TW) – ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- Personal Responsibility (PR) – ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the foundational models of communication (assesses CT and PR through discussions, journal assignments, and speech presentations).
2. Apply elements of audience analysis (assesses CT and COM through discussion boards, journal assignments, and the final exam).
3. Demonstrate ethical speaking and listening skills by analyzing presentations for evidence and logic (assesses CT, COM, TW and PR through discussion boards and journal assignments).
4. Research, develop and deliver extemporaneous speeches with effective verbal and nonverbal techniques (assesses CT, COM and PR through speech presentations).
5. Demonstrate effective usage of technology when researching and/or presenting speeches (assesses COM and PR through assigned speeches).
6. Identify how culture, ethnicity and gender influence communication (assesses CT, COM, and TW through discussion boards and journal assignments).
7. Develop proficiency in presenting a variety of speeches as an individual or group (e.g. narrative, informative or persuasive), (assesses COM, PR, and TW through discussions and speeches).

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction in this course will include assigned readings, lectures, videos, demonstrations, and class discussions.

Student Requirements

Most assignments for this course will be submitted through Moodle, so you will need computer access to submit most of your assignments. Also, be sure to check your Clarendon College email regularly.

Methods of Assessment

You will be assessed in four ways:

1. Discussions via discussion boards
2. Journal
3. Final Exam
4. Your speeches (this is the heaviest weight of your assessments and includes speech outlines and self-critiques).

Assessment Chart

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Discussion Board Participation (TW, PR, CT)	20%
Journal (PR, CT, COM)	20%
Final Exam (CT, PR)	10%
Speeches (COM, CT)	--
Speech 1 (informative speech)	20%
Speech 2 (persuasive speech)	30%
Combined Total of Speech Assignments	50%
Course Total	100%

Grading Scale

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

A	90-100%	B	80-89%	C	70-79%	D	60-69%	F	0-59%
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Your assignment grades and official final grade will be made available through your **Student Portal** at Clarendon College's website.

Assessment Details

1. **Discussion Board Participation:** This portion of your grade is your participation on the weekly discussion boards. A minimum of 1 post and 1 reply is expected. Your discussion board participation will make 20% of your final grade.
2. **Journal:** For each week of this course, students will write a reflective journal entry. Your journal entries should discuss what you learned that week. You can also include what you would like to learn more about. You will be graded according to the quality of your entries. The expectation is for your journal entries to be **thoughtful**. Your journal (all weeks combined) will count as 20% of your final grade.
3. **Final Exam:** Much like your sectional exams, the final exam will consist of approximately 50 objective questions (subject to change). Your final exam is worth 10% of your course grade.
4. **Speeches:** You will have a total of two (2) formal speeches in this class. For each speech there are two graded components: (a) a formal outline, (b) your speech presentation. Outlines count as 25% of your speech grade, and the presentations count as 75% of your speech grade. Here are the details on your formal speeches.

You will need to **VIDEO RECORD your speeches** and submit them. You are welcome to try submitting your speech videos directly to the appropriate assignment in OpenLMS. But if that doesn't work you can set up a free YouTube account, upload your video to YouTube (**set the privacy to UNLISTED**), then once it's fully uploaded, copy and **paste the shareable link** to the appropriate assignment in OpenLMS.

- A. **Speech 1 – Informative Speech (using a visual aid):** This speech will last 3-4 minutes and should inform your audience. **A visual aid is required** for this speech. You will also need **at least two (2) academic sources** for this speech. Speech 2 is 20% of your overall course grade.
- B. **Speech 2 – Persuasive Speech:** This speech will last 5-6 minutes and should persuade your audience. You will need **at least three (3) academic sources** for this speech. Speech 3 is the capstone speech for the course and is 30% of your overall course grade.

5. **Extra Credit:** Should you need extra credit, you may do a descriptive speech, where you choose a personal photo, describe it, and explain its significance.

Required Enrollment Verification Activity (EVA)

Students must complete the **Syllabus Agreement EVA** (located in the "Class Orientation" section of our online OpenLMS) by the official census date (December 19, 2025) in order to continue in the course. Failure to do this could result in you being dropped from the course or receiving a failing grade for the course, **so please make sure to do this by 8:00 A.M. on Friday, December 19, 2025**.

Course Policies

Please pay close attention to the following course policies:

1. This is a performance course, so regular attendance is essential. Attendance is measured by activity in the class (participation in weekly discussions **and** submitting assignments).
2. Approved participation in Clarendon College sponsored activities is excused and will not count against you. Remember, though, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor **prior** to a school sponsored activity and turn in assignments and/or take scheduled exams **prior** to an absence.
3. It is expected that you read the chapters in our textbook by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. Failure to do this will result in me adding quizzes to each module.
4. **All assignments are due on their assigned day.** If you fail to submit your assignment by the due date, your assignment will receive a **zero** unless **prior** approval is granted the instructor. The key to success with your instructor is to **communicate!** It is ultimately your responsibility to communicate with your instructor.
5. **As a rule, late work is not accepted.** Extreme circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the instructor.

Online Attendance Policy

Regular weekly attendance is mandatory in all online courses. Specific activities will be identified on the course schedule that must be completed for students to be considered in attendance. Attendance will be posted to the Student Portal. Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and failure of the class.

Prof. Blais' Personal Attendance Policy

For this course, attendance is gauged by participation on the discussion boards and module assignments. I will submit an attendance report the day after these are due and on the census date. Students who are following the online attendance policy are marked "present." Students not doing so are marked "absent."

College Policies

Student Academic Integrity and Classroom Ethics

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to:

1. Obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion;
2. Discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given;
3. Observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination;
4. Using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment;
5. Entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain an unfair advantage;
6. Taking an examination for another person;
7. Completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person;
8. Altering grade records;
9. Using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory activity; and/or,
10. Plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the vice president, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school

is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported, by the faculty member, in writing, to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Vice President of Academic Affairs is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Final Exams: The schedule of final exam times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/inside CC>. Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/studentservices/files/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams%20FV.pdf#search=final%20exams>

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Accommodations Statement

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Dean of Student Services. We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation. Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Grievance/Appeals

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at:

<https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/studentservices/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf#search=student%20rights%20and%20responsibilities>

Note – Depending on the needs of Clarendon College, and/or unforeseen circumstances, this syllabus and course schedule are subject to change.

Course Schedule – Fall Mini 2025

Content	Assignments
Module 1	December 17 – 23, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course & Class Introduction • Intro to Public Speaking • Speaking With Confidence • Listening Effectively • Organizing & Outlining 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the syllabus & complete the Syllabus EVA (<i>Do this FIRST! This must be done by 8:00am on 12/19/25</i>) 2. Watch lectures 1 – 4 and review PowerPoint slides 3. Discussion 1 (minimum of 1 post and 1 reply) 4. Journal Assignment 1 <p>Graded work for this week is due by <u>TUESDAY, 12/2/25 at 11:59pm.</u></p>
Module 2	December 24 – 30, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intros & Conclusions • Speaking to Inform • Audience Analysis • Supporting & Building Arguments • Speech 1 – Informative Speech 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch lectures 5 – 8 and review PowerPoint slides 2. Discussion 2 (minimum of 1 post and 1 reply) 3. Informative Speech (outline and video presentation) 4. Journal Assignment 2 <p>Graded work for this week is due by <u>TUESDAY, 12/30/25 at 11:59pm</u></p>
Module 3	Dec. 31, 2025 – Jan. 6, 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics and Public Speaking • Speaking to Persuade • Monroe’s Motivated Sequence • Speaking on Special Occasions • Speech 2 – Persuasive Speech 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Watch lectures 9 – 12 and review PowerPoint slides 2. Discussion 3 (minimum of 1 post and 1 reply) 3. Persuasive Speech (outline and video presentation) 4. Journal Assignment 3 <p>Graded work for this week is due by <u>TUESDAY, 1/6/26 at 9:00pm</u></p>
Module 4	January 7 – 14, 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam Review • Extra Credit (if needed) • Final Exam 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review any material you need to review 2. Review for the final exam (a thorough study guide is provided) 3. Take Your Final Exam <p>Graded work for this week is due by <u>WEDNESDAY, 1/14/26 at 9:00pm</u></p>