HOCKING COLLEGE

Course Syllabus

Academic Year

2026-2027

Fall Semester

Welcome to Speech



Course Name: Speech
Course ID: COMM 1130
Credit Hours: 3
Prerequisites: none
Approved by:

Dean signature Date

Course Description

This public speaking course emphasizes communication processes and extemporaneous speaking skills through informative, demonstrative and persuasive speeches. Students learn to analyze audiences, choose and narrow topics, develop content through library and other resources, use presentation aids, clearly organize speech material and effectively deliver finished speeches to a class audience.

Course Learning Objectives

In this course you will learn to:

● Define and explain the basic principles and theories of oral communication.

● Present well-developed and appropriately organized informative (e.g., demonstration speeches, introductory speeches, researched speeches, etc.) and persuasive speeches (e.g., factual speeches, policy speeches, value speeches).

● Recognize the importance of audience analysis and adaptation of messages, style, and delivery to meet the needs of diverse audiences.

● Conduct research to find appropriate and credible supporting materials that meet the

needs of the situation, the type of speech, and the audience
● Critically and constructively evaluate the oral communication of both the self and other speakers.
● Gain confidence speaking in front of audiences appropriate for the mode of instructional delivery by developing skills and strategies for overcoming communication apprehension.
● Synthesize information from multiple sources to construct an argument
● Distinguish among the purposes of informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches
● Use appropriate and effective verbal and nonverbal delivery to communicate messages consistent with the presentation's purpose, context, and audience.

This course relates to these Institutional Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate sound critical thinking, information literacy, and technological competency in the production of academic writing and presentations.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the social, political, and economic forces which shape individuals, institutions, and communities in the modern world
- Integrate content material to application in the workforce and apply discipline-specific knowledge and skills to successfully transfer or effectively meet the expectations of internships, workplace, volunteerism and/or entrepreneurship endeavors.

Books/Materials You Need

- All students are required to have a laptop or tablet meeting the specifications of the Hocking technical specs policy. Having a computer will ensure you can succeed by staying connected to your college email and having access to course components that are online.
- Exploring Public Speaking, 4th edition, by Barbara Tucker, Kristin Barton, Amy Burger, Jerry Drye, and Cathy Hunsicker. This is an open source text book and IS PROVIDED to you as a part of your All Inclusive pricing. The book may be accessed by clicking on the link provided in Blackboard, or by typing into your browser:
- https://oer.galileo.usg.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1000&context=communication-textbooks

What to typically expect when you go to class

In this course, we will discover answers to a seemingly simple question: What is good public speaking? We will discover answers to this question using a number of strategies. We will consult ancient canons of rhetoric. We will talk about contemporary findings of

social scientific and rhetorical scholarship. We will also discover what constitutes good public speaking by practicing public speaking. We will try some techniques and strategies, see what works, learn what doesn't, and then try again. We will consider challenges of selecting and refining topics, organizing arguments, supporting positions, and delivering speeches of impact. Perhaps most importantly, I'll help you to find your unique voice, preserve what's effective, improve what's lacking, and become a more successful speaker. The goal of the course is for you to become a better public speaker, with improved skills in researching, organizing, developing, and delivering speeches.

Since we have a full semester together, and the Hocking course can fit into 8 weeks, we will incorporate additional activities and assignments as well as be in charge of creating the school's live daily announcements broadcast.

Course Outline: Types of Assignments/Activities

Formal Speeches	Formal speeches are researched and carefully organized and practiced. You will be evaluated on verbal and non-verbal communication including how you present yourself and the material about which you are speaking.
Impromptu Speeches	These short, unrehearsed speeches will offer you the opportunity to practice speaking before an audience in a more casual setting.
Written Assignments	You will learn to analyze audiences, write reflective essays about your own presentations, provide thoughtful feedback about the speeches presented by others, and evaluate scholarly research articles through various short writing assignments.
Research	You will utilize online and physical resources including library holdings and academic journals to conduct research for your informative and persuasive speeches.
Course/Instructor Evaluation	Near the end of the course, there will be a survey available to evaluate aspects of the course and instructor. Your feedback is valued and will help drive improvements in the course design, delivery, and instruction.

Course Grade

Your grade will be based on 4 main, formal speeches: demonstration speech, informative speech, persuasive speech, and choice speech, as well as the activities that accompany those speeches. This includes (but is not limited to) speech delivery, peer evaluations, scholarly research, speech aids, and audience analysis. Each formal speech unit is worth 100 points for a total of 400 points.

Grading Scale

Hocking College grading scale to be used for all courses.

93% - 100% = A	73% - 76% = C
90% - 92% = A-	70% - 72% = C-
87% - 89% = B+	68% - 69% = D+
83% - 86% = B	66% - 67% = D
80% - 82% = B-	65% = D-
77% - 79% = C+	0% - 64% = F

Submission Policies

All work will be submitted by the assigned due date. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances. Please communicate with me as early and as fully as possible. The more I know, the more I can support you!

Tips for Succeeding in this Course

- ☆ Check your email and Google Classroom daily.
- ☆ Attend all class sessions.
- ☆ Communicate with me!
- ☆ Be supportive of your own efforts and the efforts of your classmates.

☆ Prepare! Practice, practice, practice!

Attendance Policy

In support of preparing Hocking College students for the world of work, the following policy has been developed to model work environments they will enter upon graduation.

The expectation is that students attend all classes. In the event of illness or emergency, it may be necessary for a student to miss a class. To report an absence, a student must contact their faculty member in advance and make arrangements to complete all required coursework.

Policy*

In an 8-week course, students have 1 Unexcused Absence
In a 16-week course, students have 2 Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences greater than the above may result in being administratively DROPPED from the course(s). Students administratively DROPPED from a course(s) will not be re-admitted. They will be required to repeat the course to complete the program and are responsible for all associated charges.

The College is not responsible for the student's failure to follow the official withdraw policy. Students will be responsible for tuition and fees according to the refund policy.

***Selective Intake Programs may have specific and/or different programmatic attendance requirements than stated above. Please check your programmatic Student Handbook for the applicable attendance policy requirements.**

Academic Success Center

The Academic Success Center (ASC) is located on the first floor of Davidson Hall. The ASC houses the Testing Center, Library, Accessibility Resource Office, and Tutoring services.

The Testing Center – Location Davidson Hall Room 108. Testing Center hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Make-up tests are arranged with your instructor and can be taken on a walk-in basis. Standardized tests such as TEAS and ACE, SCANTRON and NOCTI are scheduled through the testing firm or coordinating agency and can be taken in the Hocking Testing Center. Please allow adequate time to complete an exam by the 5:00 pm closing time.

Library services – The Hocking College Library is committed to the advancement of teaching and learning by providing resources and services that support the core values of the college and enriching the experience by creating a community of lifelong learners. The Hocking College Library is an OhioLINK member. All faculty, staff, and currently registered students can borrow books from the Library or from other OhioLINK member libraries through the OhioLINK Catalog, or on site at other OhioLINK libraries.

Library Hours:	Autumn/Spring Semester:	Summer Semester:
	Monday – Thursday 7:30 am – 9:00 pm Friday 7:30 am – 5:00 pm Saturday – Sunday 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Tutoring – The Academic Success Center offers free academic assistance to all Hocking College students. From tutoring to reinforcing good study habits, they help students overcome difficulties they might have with coursework and collaborate with them in managing the challenges of academic life. Studies show that students who seek academic assistance tend to perform better in their classes and retain more information. Tutoring schedules and locations are listed on the college website here: https://www.hocking.edu/academic-support#tutoring. Students are encouraged to make an appointment for tutoring, but walk-ins are welcome.

Health Resources

Hawks Center for Well-being

Mental health support

Netiquette

Hocking College delivers many courses online, whether wholly or in a blended format. Online communication is expected to be professional and respectful, just as it is in a traditional classroom.

Accommodations Notice

The Accessibility Resources Office located in Davidson Hall (DVD) Room 114 is dedicated to serving the various needs of individuals with documented disabilities and to promoting their full participation in college life.

Disability Accommodations

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and subsequent Amendments in 2008 ("ADA"), Hocking College will make reasonable modifications to its practices and will provide certain individualized services and accommodations as needed to assure nondiscrimination on the basis of disability. Students or applicants for admission who would like to request disability-related services and accommodations should contact the Director of Academic Support and Disability Services. The Accessibility Resources Office (Access Center) is located in Davidson Hall, Room 114. Accessibility Resources Office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Contact information: accessibility@hocking.edu

Religious Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation for absences permitted under Ohio's Testing Your Faith Act must provide written notice of the specific dates for which the student requires an accommodation and must do so not later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of instruction to accessibility@hocking.edu. Students with questions about their religious accommodations under Ohio's Testing your Faith Act may contact the Vice President of Student Affairs or the Dean of General Studies, Arts & Science. Contact information may be found in the College Directory located at: www.hocking.edu/directory.

Title IX Statement

As an instructor, I'm committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. There are college policies that may require me to report disclosures about sexual misconduct to the Title IX coordinator whose role is to coordinate the Hocking College response to sexual misconduct.

Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Our mission is immeasurably enriched by the students, faculty and staff who bring diverse experiences and backgrounds to our campus. We believe that diversity comes in many flavors, not just those typically considered--race, religion, color, age, gender, national origin,

sexual orientation, physical challenge, or marital status--but also in thought, political persuasion, physicality, and spirituality.

Hocking College is committed to fostering an inclusive environment where the individual differences among us are understood, respected, recognized as a source of strength, and valued as qualities that enrich the environment in which we work.

Hocking College believes that diversity is a matter of institutional integrity and plays an integral role in educational excellence. Students learn better in a diverse educational environment, and are better prepared to become active participants in our pluralistic global society.

Our institutional commitment to diversity is made visible through celebration, through opportunities for introspection, and through artistic expression. It is a commitment that never ends, an open and ongoing dedication to creating an environment within which all individuals feel safe, valued and welcomed.

Hocking College expects the members of our campus community to promote this vision as fully and conscientiously as possible.

Academic Grievance Process

Hocking College requires faculty and students to uphold the highest principles of academic integrity and to act in a manner that preserves freedom of inquiry and intellectual exploration. The Hocking College faculty is composed of individuals whose professional skills enhance the learning process and who, by their commitment to advancing knowledge, are expected to apply common principles of good teaching, strong mentoring, and fair evaluation of student performance in a course of study or work experience.

The assessment and evaluation of student performance is the responsibility of the faculty. The faculty member is the sole judge of student performance and only the faculty renders and evaluation of student work and progress in a course or work experience. College grading policies and procedures reflect the quality of performance and achievement of competency by students who complete one or more courses. Students have the right to ask instructors for an explanation of any grade received. A final grade appeal should not be entered lightly by a student nor lightly dismissed by an instructor. It is the responsibility of the instructor to assign a final grade. Students have the responsibility of providing documentation that establishes sufficient grounds for changing a grade.

Simple disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment about the quality of the work does not constitute legitimate grounds for filing a complaint. Before filing an official complaint, students should speak with the faculty member regarding their concerns. This conversation will provide clarification and better understanding and may result in grade mediation and no need to file a formal complaint.

Students who have reason to believe that a violation of professional ethics has occurred or that the assessment of their work was the result of error or capriciousness or was evaluated by criteria other than those stated in the course syllabus or appropriate for the course or work experience have the right to file an academic complaint pursuant the Student Grievance Procedure located at: https://www.hocking.edu/student-affairs

Policy Regarding Honesty

Honesty and integrity are major elements in professional behavior and are expected of each student. This is part of the Success Skill "Maintains a Code of Ethics." All work is assumed to be your own unless special permission is granted from the instructor or sources are appropriately cited. It is expected that you will be honest in all endeavors related to the completion of this course, just as you must be in all activities at work. The definition of academic misconduct that is provided in the Hocking College Student Guide applies to this course and all other courses that you are taking at the College. It is a Code I Offense:

Academic Misconduct refers to dishonesty in examination (cheating); presenting the ideas or writing of someone else's as one's own (plagiarism); knowingly furnishing false information to the college by forgery, alteration, or misuse of college documents, records or identification. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from your work,
2. Submitting an academic exercise, written work, project, or computer program that has been prepared totally or in part by another,
3. Improperly acquiring knowledge of the contents of an exam,
4. Using unauthorized material during an exam, to include notes, information, calculators, or other electronic devices or programs during exams or for assignments from which they have been expressly or implicitly prohibited,
5. Submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of all faculty members involved,
6. Obtaining academic material through stealing or other unauthorized means,
7. Falsification of research findings and methodology.

Academic Misconduct is unacceptable behavior in all Hocking College courses. A student observed or found to be engaged in academic misconduct on a test or assignment in this course will receive will be held accountable as described by the academic school policy in addition to the Hocking College student code of conduct. A written report of the incident, signed by the instructor and the student, will be submitted to the Campus Judiciaries Office. The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and Judicial Affairs will conduct a judicial proceeding with the accused student, resulting in a finding of "In Violation" or "Not In Violation" of the Hocking College Code of Conduct. The outcome of the judicial process will not be used to modify or validate the specific consequence as decided by the individual faculty/program or academic unit, but may be used to determine future Judicial consequences, in demonstrating a pattern of behavior on the part of the student.

Further information pertaining to Academic Misconduct can be found by contacting the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and Judicial Affairs, JL 269, or by referring to the Student Code of Conduct found on the Hocking College website (www.hocking.edu).