

**INTRODUCTION TO SPEECH COMMUNICATION**  
**Summer 2021**

Instructor: Collin Syfert

Class Meetings: Recorded Lectures available on Blackboard

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 19:00-20:00 UTC+8 via Google Meet

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Course Description: This course provides students with theoretical knowledge and practical experience in communicating interpersonally, working in groups and teams, and speaking in public spaces. We combine an understanding of the theories and research on communication with the development of practical skills. We will explore the ways to analyze the range of ways in which people communicate, in an effort to also improve our own skills in communicating with a variety of people. A primary focus in this course is on analyzing audiences, listening, speaking effectively, managing conflict in teams and in our personal relationships, and in applying skills and strategies to enter into civic engagement and improving our communities.

Required Texts: Texts free and available on Blackboard

Learning Outcomes: If you successfully participate in the class, you will be able to:

- Recognize core concepts and theories of public, interpersonal, and small group communication.
- Apply theories and skills to communicate competently in a variety of contexts, with diverse audiences.
- Analyze and evaluate the oral and written messages and arguments of others.
- Construct and communicate effective arguments to diverse audiences in oral and written forms.
- Demonstrate ethical communication when constructing arguments, interpreting messages, and communicating with others.
- Use research to describe how groups and individuals interact with their communities to influence modern issues in civic life.

Assignments:

- **Informative Presentation** - Record a 5-minute extemporaneous speech. 25%
- **Final Paper** – Details on Blackboard 25%
- **Quizzes** - There will be a brief chapter quiz posted to Blackboard after each class. 25%
- **Reading Reflections** – A half-page written reflection is due after each chapter. 25%

Code of Conduct:

- **Class Attendance:** Students are expected watch all recorded lectures and to contribute with questions and comments on Blackboard. You should contact me if circumstances are making you fall behind.
- **Late Assignments:** Late work is not accepted unless with documentation. The sooner you let me know about an emergency or a University event, the easier it will be for me to work with you to find out if an assignment will be considered late. There might not be a way to allow for some assignments to come in late, and it sometimes takes lots of time and effort to generate an alternate assignment. The more professional and proactive you are, the more likely you are to be able to gain an extension or find a way to earn full or partial credit.
- **Tutor/Writing Center:** To help students increase academic achievement, enhance their ability to learn, apply knowledge, develop study habits, become more self-directed learners, and build critical thinking skills. Individual writing tutoring is available for all students at Fitchburg State University. Writing peer tutors work together with writers at all levels, in all stages of the writing process, and in all areas of

study. zonline tutoring for writing is available. For more information visit

<https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/tutor-center/online-tutoring/>

- **Academic Integrity Policy:** Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Fitchburg State University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person--be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner--without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. If you need more help understanding when to cite something or how to indicate your references, please ask. For more information visit <https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/office-of-student-conduct-mediation-education/academic-integrity/>
- **Accommodations For Special Needs:** Disability Services provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations for Fitchburg State students allowing equal access to all university programs and services. To support equitable access to educational opportunities, Disability Services provides eligible students with individually tailored support services, promotes self-advocacy skills, academic skill-building, and training in the use of adaptive technologies. It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for any special needs and the instructor's responsibility to accommodate them with the assistance of the Office of Disability Services. For more information visit <https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/offices-services-directory/disability-services/>

Week 1 July 12-18 Communication in Principle

Read 1-50 and 228-274

**Reading Reflections and Quizzes 1 and 2 Due Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>**

Week 2 July 19-25 Communicating in the Public Sphere

Read 422-549

**Reading Reflections and Quizzes 3-5 Due Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**

Week 3 July 26-August 1 Interpersonal Communication

Read 276-303, 314-370

**Informative Speech Due Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Reading Reflections and Quizzes 6 and 7 Due Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

Week 4 August 2-8 Small Group Communication

Read 641-727

**Reading Reflections and Quizzes 8 and 9 Due Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

Week 5 August 9-13 Mass Communication

Read 730-773

**Reading Reflection and Quiz 10 Due Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Final Paper Due Friday 13<sup>th</sup>**