Comm. 1331 B, Public Speaking
Office hours:
Dr. Livia Bornigia
Monday 11-1pm, 3:30-4:30pm
Phone: 713.942.5907
Tuesday 2:30-4:30pm
Wednesday 11-12pm
Thursday 2:30-4:30pm
Friday by appointment
bornigl@stthom.edu
Email: bornigl@stthom.edu

Course description: Welcome to public speaking. During this semester, we will study the fundamental principles and practices of oral communication and we will begin to explore rhetorical strategies in persuasive settings. The class is designed to give you an understanding or your own speaking and listening abilities to enhance the effectiveness of all your communication skills. In addition, we will cover a variety of research strategies designed to increase your critical thinking skills in an interdisciplinary context.


Grading structure:
Speech I (Introductory) 15%
Speech II (Informative/Mini-lecture) 20%
Speech III (Persuasive) 20%
Mid-term 20%
Final 15%
Participation/attendance 10%

Please note: Make-up speeches are permitted only for very serious and documented reasons, on a case-by-case basis. Public speaking is a participation course. Your attendance is crucial. More than three absences as well as chronic lateness will affect your grade negatively and may cause you to fail the class. Regardless of the reason for the absence, it is your responsibility to keep up with readings and assignments.

Have a good semester and do not hesitate to seek my assistance outside class. You are free to stop by during office hours, but please request an appointment via email for any other times.

If you have a documented disability that may affect your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

A note on plagiarism: I expect the highest level of academic honesty. Please remember that not citing your sources on the speech outline, orally during the delivery of your speech, or improperly paraphrasing someone else’s work (both orally and in writing), constitutes plagiarism and may cause you to fail the class. Additionally, I will file a report with the committee for academic dishonesty, which may cause you to be dismissed from the university.
Course breakdown:

1/19  Introduction
1/24  Introduction/Handout on Speech I
1/26  The tradition of public speaking  Chapter 1
1/31  The tradition of public speaking, cont.
2/2   Managing anxiety & listening  Chapter 2
2/7   Research & preparation  Chapter 3
2/9   Analyzing the audience  Chapter 7
2/14  Speech I
2/16  Speech I
2/21  Outlining your speech  Chapter 9
2/23  Handout on Speech assignment II
2/28  Informative speaking & language  Chapters 8, 10, 11
3/2   Continued/Topics due for Speech II
3/7   Continued
3/9   In-class surveys/review
3/14  Mid-term
3/16  SPRING BREAK
3/21  Speech II
3/23  Speech II
3/28  Speech II
3/30  Speech II
3/30  Handout for Speech III
4/4   Persuasion, Topics due for Speech III  Chapters 12, 13, 14
4/6   Persuasion, continued
4/11  Persuasion, cont.
4/13  Easter break
4/18  Speech III
4/20  Speech III
4/25  Speech III
4/27  Speech III
5/2   Speech III
5/4   TBA, Review

Final exam: Tuesday, May 9, 12-2:30pm in this classroom