Northwest Arkansas Community College
(Communication and Arts Division)

Discipline Code

COMM

Course Number

1303

Course Title

Public Speaking

Catalog Description

Theory and practice of communication in interpersonal, small group, and public speaking emphasizing proficiency in speech organization, delivery, and critical thinking/listening applications.

Prerequisites

None

Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Contact Hours

45 contact hours

Load Hours

3 load hours

Semester Offered

Fall, Spring and Summer

ACTS Equivalent

SPCH 1003 Introduction to Oral Communication

Grade Mode

A-F

Learning Outcomes

The course learning outcomes are based on the ACTS competencies. Students will:

- Demonstrate critical thinking and listening skills through analysis of diverse issues.
- Research and organize research to effectively present ideas.
- Demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal presentation skills in varied communication contexts.
- Achieve familiarity with oral communication theories.

General Education Outcomes Supported

- Students develop higher order thinking skills.
- Students demonstrate information literacy.
- Students develop effective oral communication skills.

Standard Practices

Topics List

- Principles of public speaking
- Oral communication theories
- Ethical speech and citing sources
- Critical thinking and listening
- Speech types and topics
- Research and organization
- Language
- Verbal and nonverbal behaviors
- Logical reasoning
- Cultural diversity

Learning Activities

Students will:

- Participate in discussions related to class lectures and/or curriculum content
- Research, develop, rehearse, and deliver speeches as assigned
- Demonstrate critical thinking and listening skills via feedback to classmates' speeches

Assessments

Students will:

- Deliver a minimum of 4 graded speeches.

- Conduct library research
- Complete quizzes and exams as assigned by the instructor
- Develop self-assessments, reflections, and/or written papers as assigned

Grading guidelines

- Speeches may be assessed using the standard scoring rubric for presentations
- Quizzes and exams may be automatically scored in Canvas
- Participation grades, where applicable, may be determined by overall quality of weekly engagement

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