

CLAS 95a Practicum in Oral Communication

Course Description and Goals

This is a 2-credit course in applied oral communication taken in conjunction with a 4-credit course and the instructor's approval. This course is required for all Classics Majors to complete the Brandeis Core Oral Communication Foundational Literacy. The object of this course is to provide students with discipline appropriate training in viewing and designing oral presentations

Classics major must co-enroll in an Oral Communication Practicum (CLAS 95a) along with either a 100 level CLAS course or a Senior Honor's Thesis (CLAS 99d). Students will develop the skills to design professional presentations of 10-15 minutes on original research either via video or in person. As part of developing a presentation, the student will receive feedback on an oral presentation from an instructor. The course instructor or thesis advisor will certify completion of requirement to UAH and departmental administrator.

Grading

Students must receive a P (pass) to complete this component of the Brandeis Core. In order to do this, they must achieve a competency of intermediate on each stage of the presentation. Students are expected to meet on a weekly basis with their instructor and keep a written record of their work for the class. Preparatory assignments should include viewing and evaluating both recorded and live oral presentations. Additional assignments may also include: self-critique, reflective essay, peer critique. Students will view academic presentations on video and live, write critiques, and discuss them with instructor as part of preparatory process.

Sample Work Schedule

Week 1 of the Semester: Meet with instructor, outline expectations of project, schedule final presentations

Week 2: Discussion of Oral presentation (video); written comments submitted beforehand.

Week 3: Discussion of Oral Presentation (live)

Week 4: Designation of Project; Discussion of techniques

Week 6: Outline of Project

Week 8: Outline of Presentation

Week 9: Practice Presentation; instructor and self-critique

Week 10: Drafts of visual aids; discussion and critique; written comments returned by Instructor

Week 11: Second practice presentation, peer-review (grading matrix based on levels of competency below filled out by student, peer, and instructor)

Week 13: Final presentation (grading rubric filled out by instructor and discussed with student)

Academic Integrity

Success in a four - credit hour class is contingent upon an average of three -hours of homework (reading, writing, thinking) for each hour of scheduled class time.

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides.

If you are at all unsure about issues of academic integrity or about course expectations, please contact me at any time.

Oral Component in Classics (OC): Levels of Competency and Comprehension

Beginning (Basic Oral Presentation Skills)

1. Ability to deliver oral presentation of 10-15 minutes on a topic relevant to the discipline.
2. Ability to organize content in a manner that is easy for a listening audience to follow through use of outline techniques, signposting, or similar (e.g. "first, then, next, finally" language).

3. Presentation style demonstrates audience awareness and utilizes eye contact, voice modulation, clear elocution, appropriate pacing, confident body language, vocabulary appropriate to the discipline, and limits filler language ("um," "like," "uh," etc.).
4. Ability to use visual and/or digital aids that are relevant, easy to comprehend, and assist in audience understanding of content.

Intermediate (Oral Presentation Skills in Classics)

1. Ability to present original argument on a topic in language suitable for oral presentation that shows fluency and understanding of material.
2. Demonstration of familiarity with secondary scholarship and relevant current arguments about topic during presentation.
3. Ability to engage with audience and answer questions about material with clarity and poise.
4. Creative use of visual and/or digital aids that add insight into topic.

Advanced (Conference Readiness)

1. Ability to prepare and deliver oral presentation appropriate for a professional conference (e.g. the joint annual meeting of the Society for Classical Studies and the Archaeological Institute of America) that makes an original, creative argument and clearly situates that argument within current debates.
2. Demonstration of advanced subject knowledge, awareness of scholarly literature, and innovative engagement in contemporary debates through extemporaneous speaking and answering questions after presentation.
3. Meaningful use of visual and/or digital aids that point audience towards additional resources while furthering knowledge on the topic at hand.