

THA 15B – Public Speaking: The Art of Oral Communication – Summer 2018

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I. COURSE OVERVIEW

Whether an audience of 1 or 100, personal or professional “public” speaking encompasses many forms. In this course we will define what “public” means, and through practice and feedback explore the art from the podium to the impromptu.

Listening is as important a part of public speaking as talking, it is a conversation and we will develop skills to read and adjust our delivery to suite our audience, whether it be friends, colleagues or family.

In this course we will examine individual’s strengths and weaknesses and explore the challenges we all face when we speak in front of others. Using this as a basis for our study each student will have the flexibility within the assignments to focus on individual goals and work at their own pace. THA15b is suitable for all, it will provide a grounded system for the novice and allow experienced speakers to hone and develop their skills.

The goal of this course is too allow students to enjoy public speaking! We will create a comfortable and nurturing environment in which practice and collegiate feedback will support and make this possible. Connecting with others in this way can be fun. Listening and learning from your classmates will be as much a part of this course as your own hard work and motivation.

This course will help you work to your strengths with a focus on speaking and presenting effectively, please note it is not a course in PowerPoint or political speech writing.

II. COURSE STRUCTURE

Practice is the only way to become a better speaker! We will be up and speaking in front of the class from day one. We will follow a structure of skill building, practice and collegial feedback.

Please bring a notebook and pen to all classes, laptops and electronic devices will only be used outside class for reflections and assignments. I will be using LATTE for all assignments and handouts.

III. ASSIGNMENTS

Speeches

Students will be required to complete 4 prepared speeches in class. Due dates are listed on the specific syllabus attached.

Written Reflections

Students will be required to complete written self-reflections after each speech, as well as a longer final reflection paper at the end of the course. Due dates are listed on the specific syllabus.

Partner Work

Students are required to work with a speaking partner throughout the course. You will reflect on your work together on LATTE in weekly forum discussions. Due dates are listed on the specific syllabus.

Colleague Feedback

After each speech assignment we will be giving constructive feedback as a group, you are required to take notes on each of your colleagues. We will explore what constitutes “constructive” and discuss what to look for in class.

Instructor Feedback

I will be giving individual feedback in class and via email. A rubric will be provided for each speech outlining the criteria I will be assessing you on and I will use this to provide specific feedback on each speech. You must make notes on and incorporate this feedback. I am also more than willing to meet individually to discuss progress and feedback. Appointments can be made after each speech has concluded.

Active Listening

If you are not being a good listener, you are hindering your classmates' progress. Giving the perception of listening is crucial for your own understanding as well as the success of the speaker. I will be monitoring and evaluating you as listener over the course of the semester and it will be reflected in your grade. Good listening will help you and others improve all semester.

If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis and you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class, please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that reasonable accommodations are not provided retroactively.

V. EVALUATION OF WORK

We are a learning community and each person is essential to the community's feedback and growth. We cannot create this community without full attendance all of the time.

If you miss a day of speeches, you will receive a failing grade for the speech and will lose 25% of your colleague feedback participation grade, due to being unable to participate in any colleague feedback for the week.

This class does not require extensive readings, long term papers, or traditional exams. It requires physical and mental presence in class and research/writing/speaking/practice outside of class. Your attendance, speech work (both in presentation and written reflection), and participation in feedback are the 3 core tenets of the class.

Speeches are graded on effort, risk-taking, growth (when applicable), and clearly following the instructions of each assignment. More information will be given in class.

Written reflections must be typed, proofed, and written with care and effort. You will be graded on depth of content but also on form and efforts in writing. Spelling errors and lack of proofing will result in a lowered grade. Please write in a professional manner, without abbreviations and text-speak.

Class participation grading is based on (on-time) attendance AND participation in class, participation is not about raising your hand and talking all the time; it can also be about being a great listener. Participation includes your commitment to meeting with your partner and writing short reports on LATTE. More information will be given in class.

Attendance: This is an experiential course with many partner exercises; if you are absent, or late, you are hindering not only your progress but also the progress of your partner and the entire class. As a result **any unexcused absence will affect your grade by one whole grade point for example A to a B, three absences will result in an automatic F. Three late arrivals will constitute one absence.**

If you ever have any questions about the grading policies/allocations, please let me know.

Speech Assignments:	50%
Written Reflections:	20%
Colleague Feedback Participation:	15%
Class Participation, listening & Partner work:	15%

THA 15B – The Art of Oral Communication
Summer 2018 Breakdown - Subject to Change

Week 1 – July 9:

- Introductions.
- Syllabus and Course Expectations.

Assignment: Personal Profile/Goals, Listening Reflection, due by July 10.

July 10:

- Assign Speech #1 and Partners.

Assignment: Partner Meeting and Speech #1.

Assignment: Partner Practice Report on LATTE, due by July 19.

July 12: Skill-building, Part 2.

Assignment: Watch Amy (TED) and post comments on LATTE due July 15.

Week 2 – July 16:

- Skill-building, Part 3 Breath.

July 17:

- Skill-building, Part 4 Storytelling.

July 19:

- SPEECH #1!!!
- Begin Reflections (Bring Laptops).

Assignment: Speech #1 Reflections, due July 20 (1pm).

Assignment: Partner Meeting and Speech #2.

Week 3 – July 23:

- Start Speech #1 Feedback Session.

Assignment: Partner Practice Report on LATTE, due by July 26.

July 24:

- Finish Feedback. Skill building - Vocal Variety.

July 26:

- SPEECH #2.
- Begin Reflections (Bring Laptops).

Assignment: Speech #2 Reflections, Due July 27 (1pm).

Assignment: Partner Meeting and Speech #3.

Week 4 – July 30:

- Start Speech #2 Feedback Session.

Assignment: Partner Practice Report on LATTE, due by August 3.

July 31:

- Finish Feedback. Skill building – Powerpointless!

August 2:

- SPEECH #3.
- Begin Reflections (Bring Laptops).

Assignment: Speech #3 Reflections, due August 3 (1pm).

Assignment: Partner Meeting and Speech #4.

Week 5 – August 6:

- Start Speech #3 Feedback Session.

Assignment: Partner Practice Report on LATTE, due August 9th.

August 7th:

- Impromptu Storytelling.

August 9:

- SPEECH #4.

Assignment: Speech#4 /Final Reflections, due August 10th (1pm).