

Public Speaking (Praktická rétorika) Syllabus, Fall 2011

Instructor: Mgr. Štefan Beňuš, MA., PhD
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Office hours: Thursday, 11,30 – 12,30 (tentatively), and by appointment, Room 235

Website:
<http://www1.cs.columbia.edu/~sbenus/Teaching/PubSpeak/>

Group 1 Tuesday, 13,00 – 14,30 (Room 128)??
Group 2 Tuesday, 18,15 – 19,45 (Room 211)??
Group 3 Thursday, 14,45 – 16,15 (Room 128)

Overview

The aim of this course is to improve students' skills of public speaking and critical listening and thinking. We will focus on preparing and delivering informative and persuasive individual speeches, and debating. Students will be regularly presenting short oral reports. As this is an elective course, students' input into the syllabus is welcome.

Materials

Texts

Lucas, S. E. 2001. The art of public speaking, 7th ed. McGraw-Hill.

Hill, B., Leeman, R. 1997. The art and practice of argumentation and debate. Mayfield Publishing Company.

These books are not available in the library. I'll provide copies of the most relevant chapters for you to distribute among yourselves.

Additional

Zarefsky, D. 1996. Public speaking. Allyn & Bacon.

Supplemental handouts and other material might be provided by the instructor in class and may be also available on-line.

Requirements

20% Informative speech

40% Persuasive speech

20% Debate

20% Attendance, participation & preparation, reporting

Presentations

There will be no make-up date for your required oral presentations. Talk to me well in advance if you think you might not be able to be present on the assigned date.

Reporting

Students will keep a weekly log of read papers dealing with the topics of their speeches or debates. The submission of the log at the end of the semester is a requirement for the grade.

Attendance, participation & preparation

Attendance is obligatory; you may miss a class only in case of dire medical or personal circumstances. A valid written proof is required. You are expected to be actively involved in class discussions, read the assigned material for a particular class and prepare the written assignments. Do not hesitate to ask questions!

Tentative outline

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction	Watch Bono's speech, prepare controversial topics
2	Basic features of public speaking, Ethics of public speaking, listening, debate preparation	Read intro to debating
3	Selecting a topic, purpose, gathering materials, supporting your ideas, debate	Select a topic for informative speech
4	Organizing your speech, outline	Draft your inf. speech in writing
5	Delivering your speech	Refine & practice your inf. speech
6	Presentation of informative speeches	Write a critique of your classmate's speech
7	Intro to debate	Read debating manual Prepare to argue for/against a resolution
8	Debate team work, practice debate	
9	Persuasive speech 1 st real debate	Select your topic for persuasive speech
10	Persuasive speech – cont'd 2 nd real debate	Draft your persuasive speech in writing
11	Open	Refine & practice your persuasive speech
12	Presentation of persuasive speeches	