

PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

432.12 Speaking in Public

3 credit hours

Fall 2011

Dr. Nicholas P. Greco

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Class Times: Monday, 9:50-11:05; Thursday, 9:50-11:05.

Office Hours: Friday, 8:30-11:30, or by appointment.

SYLLABUS

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces various types of public verbal communication and ways in which to effectively communicate verbally. The course also introduces the concept of rhetorical criticism, the basis on which speeches should be judged.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Through participation in lectures, classroom discussion and completion of the course requirements:

1. The student will obtain the tools to be able to speak in public with confidence;
2. The student will understand the ethical issues that must be considered in public communication;
3. The student will become familiar with numerous memorable speeches and their historical contexts, and will be able to engage with such presentations through the lens of rhetorical criticism.

C. COURSE TEXT

Required: Sherry Devereaux Ferguson. *Public Speaking in Canada: Building Competency in Stages*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, 2006.

D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class attendance, participation and reading of the course text: It is only in the best interest of the student if he or she attends each class and, in fact, consistent attendance is required. Each student is expected to read the assigned course texts and be prepared to contribute to a meaningful discussion based on those readings. It is on this participation that a portion of the final grade is based. Each student is expected to arrive to class promptly for its beginning.

2. Weekly Spoken Assignment: All students enrolled in this course are required to meet once a week to cover material in the text book. Students are also required to meet in smaller sections once a week. In those smaller groups, students will be required to present various types of short speeches in front of their peers. These assignments will cumulatively make up a substantial portion of the final mark. Due to the number of students in this course, there is no way to make up a missed assignment. However, the assignment with the lowest mark will not be counted in the final mark. If a student is unable to make a presentation, the student will not receive any marks for that assignment; that one assignment may be dropped.

3. Readings Quizzes: There will be unannounced quizzes throughout the semester, consisting of short answer and multiple choice questions. These quizzes will be based on the readings. A student will receive no marks for quizzes missed, nor will they be able to write them at a later date.

4. Major Paper: The student must prepare a 6-8 page rhetorical analysis (see Ferguson, Ch.16).

Prepare a rhetorical analysis of a speech event. Look at speaker purposes, environment, audience, speaker credibility, message, outcomes, and costs of achieving outcomes. . . . The emphasis in the marking of this assignment will be on the extent to which the paper reflects speech theory, thematic coherence, . . . clarity of organization, clarity of writing style, adequacy of background research, and appropriate use of excerpts from the speech to support your arguments. (392)

Speeches must be Canadian (see pp. 396-397 for online speech sources). The paper must refer to a minimum of 5 sources, including the course text. **This paper must include a bibliography containing a minimum of 5 academic sources, and should follow the other instructions in the section below entitled “Written Assignment Format Policy.”**

5. Final Speaking Assignment: Students are required to present a longer speech in front of their peers (the length of the speech is to be announced in class). The subject matter is of the students' choosing.

E. GRADING SUMMARY

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Weekly Spoken Assignments:	40%
Readings Quizzes:	15%
Major Paper:	30%
Final Speaking Assignment:	5%

Excellent	A+	4.0	91-100	Satisfactory	C+	2.5	67-69
	A		85-90	Adequate	C	2.0	63-66
	A-		80-84		C-		60-62
Very Good	B+	3.5	77-79	Marginal	D+	1.0	57-59
Good	B	3.0	73-76		D		53-56
	B-		70-72		D-		50-52
				Failure	F	0.0	<50

F. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence College can be found online in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/) and the College Academic Calendar (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/).

1. **Class Attendance Policy:** Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 5 lecture classes **for any reason** will result in a failing grade in the course.
2. **Late Assignment Policy:** Assignments are due immediately at the beginning of class on the date on which they are due. Assignments not remitted at that time will be accepted by hand or in my mailbox with a 10% penalty only until 4:30pm on the day that the assignment is due. Any assignments turned in after 4:30pm of the due day will be accepted but will receive a grade of 0. As there will be no extensions granted for any assignments, please note their due dates.
3. **Written Assignment Format Policy:** All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman font (12-point only), with 1-inch margins on all four sides of the page, and include proper pagination. In addition, the text must be left-justified. The paper must follow Turabian style. Written assignments may be double-sided. The text should also be free of errors in grammar, punctuation and spelling. The paper should be stapled together at the top left corner, without any type of plastic or paper binding. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a loss of marks. Papers without a proper bibliography or any proper citations will receive a mark of 0, unless otherwise exempted by the professor.**

4. Plagiarism: Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all its various forms, and will be held accountable for doing so by the policy on Academic Conduct in the Student Handbook (http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/). One particularly problematic breach of academic integrity is plagiarism, which is stealing from the ideas and writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. For an elaboration of the nature, types, and prevention of plagiarism, see the Providence College document entitled "Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing," in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore.

5. Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom: **Student use of information and communication technologies for purposes other than class note-taking is not allowed in the classroom, as students are expected to give their total attention to class activities.** Use of cell-phones or iPods is never appropriate in the classroom, and use of laptop computers to play games, chat with others, browse the internet, or engage material not related to the class is always distracting to classmates and disrespectful to the instructor. Unlike some other post-secondary institutions, Providence has not yet found it necessary to ban laptops from the classroom, or prevent wireless internet access in classrooms. Only judicious use of them will keep it that way.

This is a Communications and Media class. As such, the exploration of new communication technologies is encouraged. However, unauthorized use of laptops and other information and communication technologies in this class will not be tolerated.

G. COURSE OUTLINE

September 8:	Introduction
September 12:	A Critical Model of Public Speaking Ferguson, Ch.1
September 15:	Weekly Speaking Assignment #1
September 19:	Anxiety in Public Speaking Ferguson, Ch.2
September 22:	Weekly Speaking Assignment #2
September 26:	Listening Ferguson, Ch.3
September 29:	Weekly Speaking Assignment #3

- October 3: Introducing Yourself
Ferguson, Ch.4
- October 5: **9:50 – 12:15 “How to Do Academic Research and Write
Excellent Papers”**
All students, and *especially* new students, should attend this helpful
workshop. At various points during your time as a Providence
College student you will be expected to submit research and writing
assignments. This workshop will help you to excel in these tasks.
- October 6: Weekly Speaking Assignment #4
- October 10: **THANKSGIVING**
- October 13: Weekly Speaking Assignment #5
- October 17: Your Audience
Ferguson, Ch.5
- October 20: Weekly Speaking Assignment #6
- October 24: Delivery
Ferguson, Ch.6
- October 27: Weekly Speaking Assignment #7
- October 31: Rhetorical Criticism
Ferguson, Ch. 16
- November 3: Weekly Speaking Assignment #8
- November 7: Visual Aids
Ferguson, Ch. 7
- November 10: Weekly Speaking Assignment #9
- November 14: Research
Ferguson, Ch. 8
- November 17: Weekly Speaking Assignment #10
- November 21: Persuasion
Ferguson, Ch.9
- November 24: **FACULTY FORUM**

- November 28: Propaganda
Ferguson, Ch.11
FINAL PAPER DUE
- December 1: Weekly Speaking Assignment #11
- December 5: Social Contexts/Conclusions
Ferguson, Ch. 12
- December 8: **FINAL SPEAKING ASSIGNMENT**