

Ms. Price's Speech Class Syllabus

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PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

Speech is a practical course about understanding, and participating in, the process and product of effective communication.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The primary objective of this course is to help students become more proficient in communication skills (both interpersonal and public speaking). The emphasis, therefore, will be geared toward practical experiences. Lecturing/notes by the instructor is almost non-existent in this course (instead, course content is delivered via teaching videos). Class *participation* will be stressed. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ★ Understand the Communication Model and that communication is a dynamic process.
- ★ Understand ways in which an individual's field of experience greatly affects his/her understanding of, and communication with, others.
- ★ Demonstrate listening and analytical skills during class discussions and student speeches.
- ★ Organize and better articulate ideas and information.
- ★ Apply effective extemporaneous public speaking skills in planning, preparing, and presenting speeches.
- ★ Effectively use verbals, non-verbals, and visual supports during various types of speeches.
- ★ *Connect* with audiences, rather than simply talking in front of them.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE UNITS & REQUIRED SPEECHES/PROJECTS:

Unit 1: Introduction to Communications (Communication Process / Group Communication)

Unit 2: The Art & Science of Public Speaking (**Introductory Speech**)

Unit 3: Preparing a Formal/Researched Speech (**Informative Speech**)

★ Informative Topic Ideas Video: "KP's Speech Class - Choosing an Informative Speech Topic" (youtube)

Unit 4: Storytelling (**Storytelling Speech**)

Unit 5: Sharing Opinions/Presenting Ideas Online (**Opinion Speech**)

Final: Exam Prep / Exams*** (see "Exam Policy" at the end of the next page)

GETTING HELP

If you need extra help, please ask me. I am here to help you with assignments, projects, or speeches whenever I can. Walk-ins are always welcome, although due to directing, I am not always available and you should plan in advance. Questions about your individual grade should be handled before/after class, and not during the rest of the class' time. If you have a suggestion to improve the class, please share it with me in person or write me a note. Your learning is at stake, so do what you can to participate in the improvement of it!

BEHAVIOR

Students who do not meet these expectations may be required to serve detentions or referred to Administration.

1. **Be courteous and respectful to everyone. Period.**
2. **Use appropriate language and gestures. Always.**
3. **Contribute to a positive and responsible classroom and learning environment.**

MATERIALS NEEDED:

★ It is HIGHLY recommended that you have a **binder** for this class in order to stay organized. (*Word to the wise: Students who do the best in this class are those who are ORGANIZED.*)

★ It is REQUIRED that you have a **flashdrive** for this class for visual aids & to receive videos of your speeches for self-analysis.

GENERAL POLICIES:

- SCHOOL RULES:** School rules and policies will be enforced in my classroom. Please help us both avoid an awkward confrontation by simply following the school’s rules.
- CLASS PREPARATION:** Be prepared when you come to class. Bring your notebook/binder and pen(cil) daily. DO NOT ASK ME FOR A WRITING UTENSIL. It is your job as a student to have your own.
- CLASSROOM:** Help to keep the classroom clean by throwing away personal trash and respecting the space. I don’t mind food or drink in the classroom IF you ask permission and IF nothing is left behind.
- GRADES:** Students are encouraged to check grades regularly online. **YOU** are responsible for your grade, so stay informed.
- ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Students who cheat or allow cheating (including plagiarism) will be asked to re-do the assignment (sometimes in a more challenging way), and will be referred to Administration for further discipline.

COURSE WORK POLICIES:

- TEACHING VIDEOS:** All CONTENT in this class is taught by video instruction. These videos can be accessed via my website (www.kristaprice.com OR my youtube channel (www.youtube.com/kristadawnprice).
Teaching videos are provided in this course so that 1.) I can meet the needs of ALL learning styles/types, 2.) students can learn at their own pace (pausing , rewinding, or re-watching when needed), 3.) class time isn’t just stagnant lecture/notes, and 4.) so that in-class time can be spent ANALYZING and USING the content, rather than simply learning it.
- ABSENT WORK:** You are responsible for promptly making up missing assignments, activities, videos, etc. from the class period(s) you missed, and it is **YOUR responsibility** to turn anything **due** OR **assigned** during your absence.
★ I will not discuss activities/assignments you missed when absent **unless** you have already read the day’s lesson online (i.e. never ask “What did I miss?”). **It is the expectation of this course that you are already caught up with what you missed BEFORE returning from an absence because I teach every lesson both in person AND online.** To check daily activities/assignments, go to www.kristaprice.com, and click “Educator” then “Speech I” then “Daily Homework”.
★ Grades will drop one letter grade if you are absent on a day you are assigned to give a speech. If you wake up sick on a day you are assigned to speak, you must email me before 7:30 a.m. (krista.price@oxfordschools.org) to avoid a grade deduction AND you must speak first the day you return.
- EXTENSIONS:** If you have a valid reason for not turning in your work on time, you may ask me for an extension. I will consider requests made BEFORE the due date; be sure to have your work with you to prove that you are making progress! I reserve the right to deny any extensions.
- LATE WORK:** I typically accept late work, unless I have stated on specific assignments that I won’t. Please note: I will not accept late work connected to a speech if you’ve already given that speech to the class.
- EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit is RARELY offered in Speech, so don’t ask. I don’t artificially inflate grades. Grades should be a reflection of what you can and can’t do...not a reflection of how much time or effort you put in after the fact.

***** EXAM EXEMPTION:** The final (multiple choice) exam can be waived (per school policy) if you have 3 or fewer absences in ALL of your classes AND you are not currently failing. (Note: 3 tardies = 1 absence for this policy.)

GRADES:

Frequent open-note “quizzes” are given on the content (videos) learned outside of class (so be sure to take notes!). No tests are given. Consider each speech as a test grade.

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| SCALE: | B+ | 87-89 | C+ | 77-79 | D+ | 67-69 | |
| A | 93-100 | B | 83-86 | C | 73-76 | D | 65-66 |
| A- | 90-92 | B- | 80-82 | C- | 70-72 | E | less than 65 |

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| WEIGHTS: |
| 40% Knowledge & Understanding |
| 30% Performance (speeches) |
| 20% Personal engagement |
| 10% Process |

Student Name (PRINT) & Signature _____

Date _____

Parent Name (PRINT) & Signature (Note: You should also be given a PARENT INFO/CONTACT FORM to fill out.) _____

Date _____