

California City High School – Mrs. Gionta (602)

COMM 1000 Fall 2025

How to Contact Me:

Email me: denisegionta@mojave.k12.ca.us

Make an appointment for a time that works for you

Required Textbooks and other Expenses

The Public Speaking Project (available for free)

Last day to drop with a refund:
09/02/2025

Last day to drop without a “W”:
09/04/2025

I will drop students on this day if it is clear she or he is not participating in the class (for example, missing multiple classes, not doing assignments)

Last day to drop with a “W”:
10/22/2025

I will drop any student who at this point has 4 or more **unexcused** absences (talk to me and let me know what’s going on)

Catalog Course Description

In this speech course for transfer to four-year institutions, students learn to make effective oral presentations by gathering and selecting information, arranging materials, analyzing audience and occasion, and controlling expression and delivery.

Prerequisite: Advisory: ENGL 70. It is *highly* recommended that you successfully pass ENGL 70 with a “C” or better before attempting this course. All course materials are designed with the expectation that you have at least the mastery gained from passing ENGL 70.

Student Learning Outcomes: What I will be Teaching and Evaluating this Semester

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Compose competent, original speeches, in a variety of formats (This is assessed through each of the speeches).

2. Develop skill analyzing audience and occasion (This will be assessed by demonstration speech, informative speech, and persuasive speech).
3. Select and organize topics and supporting material and prepare a speech outline (Assessed by research component in Speech 3 and speech 4)
4. Explain the benefits of effective public speaking (assessed by quizzes and final roll call question).
5. Create effective visual aids (assessed in demonstration speech and Informative speech)
6. Present extemporaneous speeches, with or without audience participation.
7. Listen critically to analyze speeches (assessed by evaluation of fellow classmate's speech and in-class activities).

Accommodations

students who have verified learning disabilities and need assistive services or who, due to a sensory or processing disability, require alternative media formats of class materials should contact the ACCESS Office at (760) 384-6250.

The Rules

Please be on time and turn off all cell phones, iPods, and any other electronic device that might disturb the class. Also, do not send text messages or fiddle with your phone during class.

Technology policy: although you may use your laptop to take notes or use an e-reader for your texts, please know that students who are using these devices in a way that disrupts the class (working in your online math class, for example) will be given a warning after the first incident. After the second incident, the student will be asked to leave class for the day.

Please complete each reading assignment before class.. We will have class discussions that are based on the readings listed for that day—the only way these discussions can be productive and complex is if everyone has completed the basic reading assignment.

Attendance is mandatory. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get any assignments that you might have missed. Coming in late as well as leaving early may count toward your absences, especially if it becomes a habit. I may drop any student with 4 or more unexcused absences. Also, due to the unusually large number of grandma dying / cousin in the hospital/ computer crash incidents that occur when assignments are due, all extensions require appropriate documentation.

Regular participation counts toward your final grade in this class. Please note: attendance and class participation are two different things. All students are required to participate regularly in class activities and discussions. Missing quizzes, not completing in class activities, and skipping readings will greatly affect your participation grade.

How are Grades Determined? How do I pass this class?

The semester grades are determined using a standard scale: 90-100% = A
 80-89% = B
 70-79% = C
 60-69% = D
 59% & below = F

Overall course grade is calculated from in-class and outside-class assignments and participation including:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assigned textbook readings about different modes of speeches, rhetorical techniques, and effective listening practices. Assigned homework, online quizzes and written, pertaining to information from various chapters and class discussion about speaking and listening techniques Reading and associated critical thinking will be assessed with in-class writing and discussion participation. 	20 %												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oral Presentations, including peer and self- critiques: <table border="1" data-bbox="203 953 860 1570"> <tr> <td>Self- Introductory Speech</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Demonstration Speech with Visual Aid</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impromptu Midterm Speech</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Informational Speech with Visual Aid</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Persuasive Speech</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20 %</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Impromptu Final Speech</td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 %</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Each speech will be graded with a unique rubric, which will be given to the student along with the assignment prompt.</i></p>	Self- Introductory Speech	10 %	Demonstration Speech with Visual Aid	10 %	Impromptu Midterm Speech	10 %	Informational Speech with Visual Aid	20 %	Persuasive Speech	20 %	Impromptu Final Speech	10 %	80 %
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Persuasive Speech	20 %												
Impromptu Final Speech	10 %												

Plagiarism

“Plagiarism: The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft” (*Oxford English Dictionary*). Students are expected to submit their own original work written specifically for this course. All sources quoted, paraphrased, summarized, or otherwise borrowed from, must be given proper credit through the use of quotation marks, parenthetical in-text citations, and Works Cited pages. See a recent edition of an MLA handbook for specifics on documentation. Plagiarism constitutes a breach of academic conduct for which the college imposes severe penalties. It is easy for an instructor to spot plagiarism, especially with the services of turnitin.com. If a paper, quiz, exam, journal entry, or forum post contains plagiarism of any kind or turns out to be associated in any way with an online "research assistance firm," the piece in question will receive an automatic zero and cannot be made up. Depending on the severity of the case, further disciplinary action may be taken. Flagrant cases of plagiarism will be reported to the Vice President of Student Services.

Tentative Schedule (this can and probably will change)

Week 1

Introduction, Syllabus, benefits of public speaking
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 1

Week 2

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 11
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 12

Week 3

No class--Labor Day
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 9

Week 4

Introduction Speeches
Introduction Speeches

Week 5

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 3
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 8

Week 6

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 4
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 5

Week 7

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 13
Demonstration Speeches

Week 8

Demonstration Speeches
Demonstration Speeches

Week 9

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 15
Midterm

Week 10

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 7
The Public Speaking Project Ch. 10

Week 11

Informative Speeches
Informative Speeches

Week 12

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 16

Week 13

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 6

Week 14

The Public Speaking Project Ch. 14

Practice/ Redemption?

Week 15

Persuasive Speech
Persuasive speech

Finals Week

Redemption Speeches
Final Exam / Redemption Speeches