

FUNDAMENTALS OF SPEECH COMMUNICATION
Official Teaching Guidelines
Approved 1997

Purpose: COMM 100: Fundamentals of Speech Communication is the primary course meeting the Basic Subjects, Oral Communication requirement at Humboldt State University. Certain qualified students can advance place into COMM 214 (Persuasive Speaking), COMM 312 (Group Communication), or COMM 213 (Interpersonal Communication). Otherwise all native students at Humboldt are required to take COMM 100.

Catalog Description: An introductory course designed to help develop the oral communication abilities needed to function effectively in a variety of communication contexts. Includes exposure to fundamental communication theory and skill building exercises in public speaking and other communication contexts.

Mode of Instruction: This is a three semester unit course. The class size is limited to 27. The course is approved as “lecture-discussion-recitation,” meaning that in addition to lecture and discussion, substantial time must be devoted to student performances and critique.

Course Goals: This course is designed to meet the Oral Communication element of Executive Order 595, which states: “Instruction approved for fulfillment of the requirement in communication is to be designed to emphasize the content of communication as well as the form and should provide an understanding of the psychological basis and the social significance of communication, including how communication operates in various situations. Applicable course(s) should view communication as the process of human symbolic interaction focusing on the communicative process from the rhetorical perspective: reasoning and advocacy, organization, accuracy; the discovery, critical evaluation and reporting of information; reading and listening effectively as well as speaking and writing. This must include active participation and practice in written and oral communication.”

Minimum Assignments: All sections must require the following assignments: (1) at least two graded communication exercises that emphasize the public, one-to-many format, including at least one informative speech and one persuasive speech; (2) at least one written analysis of a formal spoken message. As the second of these assignments implies, students are required to do some writing in addition to their speech assignments. Individual instructors may structure these assignments any way they wish, and beyond these minimum exercises other assignments in interpersonal, group, public, or other aspects of communication may be required.

Text: Each instructor will be free to select any text that provides a coverage of the fundamental concepts and skills that are the focus of this course.

Challenge-by-Examination: Qualified students may challenge this course by examination. A rigorous method of screening and examination has been developed by the department, and interested students may get a copy of the challenge guidelines from the department secretary.