

SPCH1321-BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION  
SPRING 2019

**Faculty Information**

**Instructor:** Hilary Nixon

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**Virtual Office Hours in Blackboard Collaborate:** By appointment

**Communication Plan:**

- You can expect an email reply within 24 hours on weekdays, and within 48 hours on weekends.
- Please use the SPC email found at the top of the syllabus for sending e-mail messages to me.
- I will be posting course related announcements in Blackboard every few days.

**Course Description and Purpose**

Welcome to SPCH1321-Business & Professional Communication! It is my sincere hope that you will learn to enjoy the process of public speaking, while gaining confidence, improving your skills, and making new friends.

This course includes the basic principles of speech applied to communications in business and professional settings. The course emphasizes practice in the construction and delivery of various types of speaking situations and the application of interpersonal skills that occur in a business, organizational, or professional setting.

**Core Objectives Satisfied**

- Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
- Critical Thinking - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Team Work - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Social Responsibility - to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
- Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

**Course Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate proficiency in the following areas:

1. **Communication Process:** Understand and apply the communication process.
2. **Communication Systems and Cultures:** Develop an awareness and understanding of communication systems and cultures.
3. **Verbal Communication:** Identify, prepare, and deliver clear messages and presentations.

4. **Nonverbal Communication:** Understand, define, utilize, and interpret different categories of nonverbal communication.
5. **Listening:** Understand the causes of poor listening, and realize the organizational and personal benefits of active listening.
6. **Interviewing:** Identify different types of interviews, evaluate effective interview skills, prepare job interview documents, and conduct an effective information gathering interview.
7. **Small Groups:** Identify the characteristics of small groups, identify the steps used for problem solving, and understand leadership tasks as well as functional and dysfunctional team behaviors.
8. **Public Speaking:** Successfully prepare and deliver multiple credible, confident presentations. Evaluate the speaking skill and content of other speakers.

### **Course Requirements**

1. To read the information assigned; you will be tested on this material, in addition to class lecture/discussion materials on scheduled exams.
2. To take thorough notes and study all lecture material, informational handouts, and assigned readings.
3. To actively participate in class discussions and group activities.
4. To show maturity and professionalism in preparation of assignments and in classroom behavior.
5. To show courteousness to fellow classmates/speakers.
6. To initiate consultations with the instructor whenever assistance is needed regarding class assignments.
7. To appropriately cite information obtained from other sources, both in written and verbal formats. Please refer to the academic honesty section below for further details.
8. To initiate withdrawal from the course if absences become excessive.

### **Required Course Textbook**

Fox, J. & Finley, K. (2018). From Entry Level to Executive: All Communication Counts. Fountainhead Press. ISBN: 9781680367744

### **Technical Requirements**

- Desktop or laptop computer
- High speed internet access
- SPC E-mail
- Microsoft Office
- Adobe Reader (download from [Adobe.com](http://Adobe.com) )
- Flash Player (download from [Adobe Flashplayer](http://Adobe Flashplayer) )
- Audio and video capabilities (for watching and listening to course content)
- Web camera and microphone (for video conferencing and recording vlogs)
- Blackboard Collaborate system requirements

### **Recommended Course Materials**

- A USB headset with microphone or headphones (for video conferencing)

- Digital video recording equipment capable of recording up to 10 minutes of video footage

### **Technical Skill Requirements**

Be comfortable with the following

- Microsoft Word or word processor that can save Word compatible files (.doc)
- Using email for communication, attaching documents
- Internet search engines and browsers
- Recording and uploading video files. Not having a way to record speeches or vlogs will not be tolerated as an excuse for failure to submit assignments.
- The ability to download video files, or to stream files.

### **Academic Honesty**

It is my expectation and the institution's that appropriate citation and documentation be given for materials and information obtained from other sources. Cases of plagiarism will be treated as will any case of academic dishonesty, with at least a failing grade for the assignment/examination. In addition, the student may be dropped from the course with a failing grade. See the *SPC Student Handbook* for more information.

### **ADA Statement**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675, Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

### **Diversity Statement**

In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be. If anyone is openly rude in class, s/he will be asked to leave class. If s/he is repeatedly rude, s/he will be dropped from the class.

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please

refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php)) Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

### **Course Organization**

This course is organized into 15 learning modules. You can access the modules by clicking on the Modules link on the Course Menu in Blackboard. Modules will contain a combination of reading assignments, lecture videos or screencasts, links to additional readings and/or video material, and other content that will help you understand the focus of that particular module. Additionally, there will be various assessments included in each module, such as quizzes, learning activities, major assignments discussion boards and comments, video conferences, speeches, and peer and self-evaluations. Check the course schedule to see the specific assessments included in each module and specific due dates for each assessment.

### **Grading**

You can access your grades on the Blackboard Course Menu (My Grades). Grades will be posted after the due date and after all assignments have been graded. Speech Grading Rubrics will be made available to you when speeches are assigned so that you can prepare for my assessment methods.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- To earn an A, you need 895 points
- To earn a B, you need 795 points
- To earn a C, you need 695 points
- To earn a D, you need 595 points
- If your point total is 594 points or less, you will earn an F

If you have questions about or are concerned about a specific grade you earned, you will need to email me or visit me in virtual office hours to discuss the grade. If you want to appeal a grade you earned on a specific assignment, you have one week after the grade has been posted in Blackboard to approach your instructor about your questions or concerns. After one week, I will consider the matter closed. When you approach me after viewing your grade, you are expected to have revisited the assignment or speech description, the grading rubric, and the feedback provided to you by me.

### **Assignment Submissions**

You will submit all assignments through their designated submission link in Blackboard. You are required to title your assignment files in the following format: "lastname\_firstname\_assignmentname.doc".

### **Late Work Policy**

Module quizzes, learning activities, vlogs/comments, speech uploads, and peer and self-evaluations are due by 11:59pm Central Standard Time on the due date listed on the Course Schedule. Late work will not be accepted. The only exception that will be made will be for extended illnesses or a death in the family. In such instances, you must submit verifiable and official documentation to your instructor (e.g., a doctor's note indicating an extended illness or

extenuating circumstance). Technological issues are not an excuse for late work. Do your assignments, quizzes and speeches early to ensure you have time for any issues that might arise.

Video Conferences, including video conferences when you will deliver synchronous speeches, can't be made up, as a major component of the assignment involves the synchronous audience. The only exception that will be made is in the event of a medical emergency. In such instances, you must submit verifiable and official documentation to your instructor (e.g., a doctor's note). If you are unable to commit to the video conferencing on the dates and times listed on the Course Schedule, you will need to drop the course.

### **Learning Assessments**

#### **Grade Distribution:**

Exam 1	100 points
Cover Letter/Resume	100 points
Informative Presentation	100 points
Group Presentation	100 points
Persuasive Presentation	100 points
Quizzes	100 points
Discussion Boards & Activities	200 points
Career Research Interview	100 points
Exam 2	100 points

#### **Course Work:**

1. Exams-There will be 2 major exams during the semester. Each exam covers the information preceding the exam. There are no cumulative exams.
2. Presentations-Completion of the three presentations (speeches) is a requirement for passing this class. On your scheduled speech dates, you will be presenting various types of presentations. You must be an attentive audience member for other presentations given during your scheduled group time, and you must complete all speeches to pass this course. Points will be deducted from your presentation if you are late, and not an attentive and respectful audience member. The two individual speech assignments are explained in the Assignments section of Blackboard. Additional information can be found within the Module sections for the correct chapters.
3. Participation-You will be asked to engage in discussions and to do learning activities throughout the semester. These assignments and discussion boards count as participation grades.
4. You will find all chapter quizzes within each module in Blackboard. You MUST take the quiz by the deadline.

**\*\*\*SEE TABLE BELOW\*\*\***

## Keep up with your Total Points Here:

Module	Assignment	Maximum Points	Points "I" Earned
<b>Getting Started</b>	Discussion Board	4	
<b>Module 1</b>			
	Module 1 Video Conference	16	
	Module 1 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 2</b>			
	Module 2 Learning Activity	16	
	Module 2 Discussion Board	16	
	Module 2 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 3</b>			
	Module 3 Discussion Board	16	
	Module 3 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 4</b>			
	Resume/Cover Letter	100	
<b>Module 5</b>			
	Module 5 Learning Activity	16	
	Module 5 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 6</b>			
	Module 6 Learning Activity	16	
	Module 6 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 7</b>			
	Informative Speech Video Conference	100	
	Peer Evaluation	5	
	Self-Evaluation	5	
	Exam 1	100	
<b>Module 8</b>			
	Module 8 Learning Activity	16	
	Module 8 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 9</b>			
	Module 9 Learning Activity	16	
	Module 9 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 10</b>			
	Module 10 Discussion Board	16	
	Module 10 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 11</b>			
	Persuasive Speech Video Conference	100	
	Peer Evaluation	5	
	Self-Evaluation	5	
<b>Module 12</b>			
	Group Meeting Video Conference	16	
	Module 12 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 13</b>			
	Group Speech Video Conference	100	
<b>Module 14</b>			
	Module 14 Discussion Board	16	
	Module 14 Quiz	10	
<b>Module 15</b>			
	Career Interview	100	
	Exam 2	100	
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1000</b>	

## **Instructors Expectations of the Student**

- You will be expected to log into the Blackboard course **daily** to be aware of possible announcements/reminders and to pace your progress in the course.
- Higher institutions recommend that students plan to spend 2 hours of outside study for every 1 hour of in class time. For a 3 credit-hour, face-to-face course that means a total time investment of nine hours per week, or 135 hours per semester, in a 15-week course. Expectations for time investment are no less rigorous for online courses at SPC. According to this guideline, you should expect to invest 9 hours per week in this course, during a spring or fall semester; more in a summer course.
- Online course activities promote learning and the creation of a learning community, so they are encouraged and expected.
- Students are expected to maintain an online environment conducive to learning, which includes “netiquette” (Internet etiquette). The following site includes basic rules for [Online Discussion Netiquette](#). More importantly ensure that your e-mail messages, discussion board postings, and other electronic communications are thoughtful. We will welcome diverse opinions in this course, and you are expected to demonstrate an open mind and courtesy when responding to the thoughts and ideas of others. Civility in the Online Classroom (**the following are prohibited**):
  - making offensive remarks in e-mail or the discussion board,
  - using inappropriate language or discussing inappropriate topics online,
  - spamming,
  - hacking,
  - using SPC or Blackboard e-mail or discussion board for commercial purposes,
  - using all caps (considered shouting in online communications), or
  - cyber-bullying or online harassment of any type.
- Inappropriate behavior shall result in consequences ranging from a request to correct the problem, to removal from the course or even the university, depending on the severity of the behavior. Disciplinary actions will be taken according to the SPC Student Handbook.
- Note that students from other institutions are still bound by SPC policies in the course.

### **Course and Technical Help:**

Do not hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have course-related questions. I am here to guide you through the course. Generally, I will try to respond to calls and e-mails within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend.

Be aware that the Instructional Technology office and Blackboard both recommend using a browser other than Internet Explorer when using Blackboard.

Please realize that this is not a computer class, so our content is business and professional communication, not Windows or Word processing. I can answer any questions about the course content or assignments, but I will be no help with technical problems.

### **Blackboard Support**

For Blackboard support you make refer to the following resources:

1. When you log into Blackboard (BB), at the very top of the page, you will see a question mark icon with the word help next to it. Click on that icon.
2. You may also contact  
Secretary to the Director of Instructional Technology  
Ext. 2180  
Direct: 806-716-2180  
[blackboard@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:blackboard@southplainscollege.edu)