Public Speaking Syllabus, Winter 2006 Instructor: Gord Sellar

Course Overview:

Public speaking is a useful and important skill for anyone, especially a student of a foreign language. This course will familiarize students with the style and expectations of public speaking in Anglophone cultures, and deal with areas such as nonverbal cues and communication, visual aids, structure, argumentation, discussion and disagreement, and other related topics. Students will be required to prepare and make various presentations, and in-class group discussion will be required regularly. Participation will be an absolute requirement, regardless of student level.

To this end, the regular course meetings will consist of lectures and exercises; solo and group presentations to the class; critical group discussions of presentation topics and ideas. The specifics will of course vary with relation to the level and needs of the students, but rest assured that this course is focused on techniques of public speaking, more than on fluent speech itself. There is no reason why a student whose spoken English level is not fluent cannot fulfill my expectations.

By the end of this course, students are expected to have learned to:

- be able to prepare a well-structured and clear presentation on a topic of interest, and present to peers using visual aids, nonverbal cues, and other skills learned in class.
- be able to contribute to group discussions of others' presentations, and to use disagreement to fuel further discussion and debate.
- be more comfortable presenting to peers, explaining unfamiliar concepts to EFL-listeners in English, and in working alone and in a group at presenting in English.

Homework

Homework for this class falls under several different categories.

It is absolutely crucial that *speeches and presentations* be prepared for the assigned presentation date. Failure to do so will be acceptable only once during a given semester. Therefore, I will plan on giving students 7-10 days' warning before any speech-presentation date.

Occasional *written homework assignments* -- for example, the outline of a speech, or a homework worksheet -- will be assigned. Students will normally have 7-10 days to complete one-page assignment, or more time for bigger assignments. All assignments submitted to me must be typed (double-spaced) and include your name, student number, my name, and the course name and number. Submissions consisting of multiple pages should be stapled or paperclipped, but I prefer that students not use plastic folders or binders to submit their work. Any work failing to meet these criteria will be returned to the student immediately for resubmission within 3 days.

Textbook

TBA. The textbook, if any is used, will be supplemented by handouts and video materials.

Should you wish to explore texts or materials not encompassed in this course, please feel free to ask me for recommendations. I will be more than happy to help you find materials which are suited to your needs and worth exploring.

Assessment

As you can see below, course assessment is not heavily focused on examinations. The majority of your grade (60%) will be based on what happens during regular classtime -- regular attendance, in-class participation, and the regular presentations that you will prepare weekly and make to the class or to groups within the class.

10% - Attendance
20% - In-class participation
30% - Homework & Presentations
20% - Midterm Exam
20% - Final Presentation

However, a 0% in any of the above marks will result in an incomplete grade. Students must at least attempt all homework/speech assignments, and especially the midterm and final presentation, in order to pass the course.

Contact Information

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Public Speaking, Spring 2006
Gord Sellar, Instructor

COURSE OUTLINE: This might change! I will have to see what you want & need from this class.

Week 1: INTRODUCTION AND BEARINGS

Week 2: BASICS & GESTURAL COMMUNICATION

Week 3: THE GESTURL SPEECH

Week 4: VOICE INFLECTION & EMPHASIS

Week 5: THE DEMONSTRATION SPEECH

Week 6: STRUCTURE 1 – "STORYTELLING" & INTRODUCTIONS

Week 7: STRUCTURE 2 – THE BODY

Week 8: STRUCTURE 3 – THE CONCLUSION

Week 9: MIDTERM EXAM

Week 10: PERSUASIVE SPEECH & DISCUSSIONS

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Week 11: PERSUASIVE SPEECH & DISCUSSIONS

Week 12: PERSUASIVE SPEECH & DISCUSSIONS.

Week 13: CREATING & USING VISUALS

Week 14: GROUP BRAINSTORM & COLLABORATION, TRIAL RUN

Week 15: PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS

Week 16: FINAL PRESENTATION