

Professor: Gord Sellar

Class Description:

Public speaking is a useful and important ability, especially a student of a foreign language. This course will familiarize students with the audience expectations and conventions of public speaking in Anglophone cultures, and help students to gain confidence through practice and development of skills that are commonly used by outstanding public speakers.

We will cover areas such as nonverbal cues and communication, verbal cues and emphasis, audience engagement strategies, structured argumentation, discussion and disagreement, use of visual aids, and other related topics.

Students will be required to prepare and give presentations on a regular basis, and in-class group discussion and debate will be required regularly. Participation will be an absolute requirement, regardless of a student's speech level.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

1. 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.
2. be able to contribute to group discussions of others' presentations, and to use disagreement to fuel further discussion and debate.
3. 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.

Class Activities:

Occasional lectures and exercises; solo (and occasional group) presentations to the class; critical discussion of presentation topics and ideas.

Assessment:

- 20% - In-class participation
- 40% - Homework & Presentations/Debates
- 20% - Midterm Presentation (Exam)
- 20% - Final Presentation

Textbook

We will not use a textbook for this course. Instead, occasional readings and exercises will be photocopied, and handouts will be occasionally prepared. All handouts will be available on the class website (see below).

My contact information:

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Class Website: <http://gordsclass.com>

Course Plan:

The following is a rough plan for the semester. Details may change, but it's still useful as a rough guide to what's to come.

Asterisks (*) indicate subjects for which students should expect to be making a presentation, speech, or debate. Not all presentations will be graded, but all of the presentations are required to give you a chance to focus on each of the skills or areas we'll focus on throughout the semester.

Double asterisks (**) indicate exam-speeches. These will be graded and will require an audience larger than the class size. In order to facilitate scheduling, we may hold these exam speeches a week ahead or behind schedule in order to make it easier for you to bring an audience.

Week 1: Welcome & Preparations

Week 2: Introductions *

Week 3: Eye Contact, Projection, and Body Language *

Week 4: Posture, Presence, Rapport & Connection *

Week 5: Emphasis and Communication *

Week 6: Speech Structure

Week 7: Review 1: Putting It All Together *

Week 8: Midterm Presentation **

Week 9: Argumentative Logic *

Week 10: Disagreement & Discussion *

Week 11: Debate 1 *

Week 12: Debate 2 *

Week 13: The Q&A *

Week 14: Using Visuals *

Week 15: Review 2: Putting It All Together Again *

Week 16: Final Presentation **