
Oral Presentations 661:250:21

Summer 2017
TERM II: July 3-August 4, 2017
M, T, TH 1-3:30 p.m.
Hodson Hall 213

Instructor:

Julie Reiser

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106C Whitehead Hall

Office Hours: M, T, TH 12-1 p.m. and by appt

Course Assistant:

TBD



“According to most studies, peoples’ number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy.”

—Jerry Seinfeld

Course Philosophy

As Jerry Seinfeld notes, the fear of public speaking can be so intense that many of us would prefer dying rather than giving a speech. Even veteran speakers admit to feeling butterflies, nausea, or panic before some of their most important speaking engagements. While very few people ever manage to rid themselves completely of their fear, many people do learn how to channel that fear effectively and become compelling, persuasive speakers. This course is designed to help you push through any anxieties you may have about public speaking by immersing you in a practice-intensive environment. You’ll learn how to speak with confidence in a variety of formats and venues—including extemporaneous speaking, job interviewing, leading a discussion, presenting a technical speech with slides, and other relevant scenarios. You’ll also learn how to develop effective slides that capture your main point with ease and clarity, hone your message, improve your delivery skills, and craft thought-provoking, well-organized speeches that hold your audience’s attention. During most class sessions, you will be presenting an actual speech and acting as a thoughtful commentator on other students’ speeches. In short, this is a course where you will learn by doing—not by listening to a lecture.

Textbooks

Presentation Zen, 2nd Edition

Garr Reynolds

ISBN: 978-0321811981

Best American Magazine Writing 2016

American Society of Magazine Editors (ed.)

ISBN: 978-0231181556

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success

Carol Dweck

ISBN: 978-0345472328

Speech Assignments

Self-introduction Speech (Not Graded)

You will be asked to introduce to your classmates on the first day of class. This will be a short, two-minute presentation that is not graded.

Introduce-a-Peer Speech (Not Graded)

For this assignment, you will be paired with a member of our class and will be asked to present the life story of your partner.

***Presentation Zen* Speech (10%)**

For this assignment, you will be asked to prepare a short speech and a small deck of slides on a chapter from *Presentation Zen*.

Technical Speech for Non-Experts (10%)

For this assignment, you will prepare a speech with slides on a topic based on your field of study or expertise. This speech should contain relevant visuals and graphics that communicate important data relationships but should be accessible to a well-educated audience with no prior knowledge of the topic. Please note: “technical” can be construed in a variety of ways and does not necessarily mean you have to give a speech on microbes. Previous student speeches have focused on fencing, understanding the game of chess, stem cells, decoding animal communication, etc.

Revised Technical Speech for Sixth Graders (5%)

For this assignment, you will revise your previous technical speech and make it appropriate for a sixth grade class.

Leading a Discussion (10%)

For this assignment, you will lead the class in a discussion of an article from the anthology, *The Best American Magazine Writing 2016*.

Extemporaneous/Impromptu Speeches (10%)

For this assignment, you will give a variety of small speeches with only minimal preparation time. We will have several practice sessions prior to the final, graded speech.

Persuasive Action Speech (10%)

For this assignment, you will attempt to persuade the class to take a specified course of action on an issue, social enterprise, or concern of your choice.

The Interview (10%)

For this assignment, you will be asked to create a cover letter and résumé for one of several job listings I will distribute in class. Then, you will be asked to “interview” for the job in front of a panel of interviewers (other members of the class). Please wear professional attire.

The TED Talk in Plan “B” Speech Mode (15%)

For our “final,” you will be asked to create your own TED Talk based on the popular speaking series archived online at <http://www.ted.com>. At the beginning of your speech, you will draw a random scenario that will determine a worst-case set of conditions you will have endure while giving your speech.

Other Assignments**Video Footage Reflections (5%)****Self-Reflective Paper (5%)**

For this assignment, you will be asked to reflect about your public speaking experiences in this class. In your reflections, you will analyze your video footage, set personal speaking goals, comment on the progress you are making, and answer any questions/prompts I give you. Each entry should be roughly 150-200 words in 12-point font and needs to be submitted at the beginning of each class period. Thus, an entry for Thursday’s class would be due at the beginning of Monday’s class. You will receive separate instructions for the final, self-reflective essay in class. This essay will ask you to look at your overall growth as a public speaker within the context of a “fixed” or “growth” mindset that Carol Dweck details in her book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*.

Participation, Improvement, and Attitude (10%)

This will be a dynamic, highly interactive course where you will be expected to be an active audience member who gives helpful, thoughtful feedback to your peers to aid them in improving their work. Thus, you should consider any peer review, Q & A, audience feedback, or group work session as a graded “speech” that counts toward your overall grade. Your timely attendance at each class period will factor heavily into this grade. Also, I will take into account any improvement you made over the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Please see the complete preparation instructions for each speech in your assignment packet.

Date	Speech Assignment	Extra Preparation
M 7/3	Course Intro	Start reading <i>Presentation Zen</i> .
T 7/4	NO CLASS—FOURTH OF JULY	Keep reading <i>Presentation Zen</i> .
TH 7/6	Introduce-a-Peer Speech	Keep reading <i>Presentation Zen</i> .
M 7/10	<i>Presentation Zen</i> Speech	Finish reading <i>Presentation Zen</i> .
T 7/11	Discussions/Practice Extemp	Read selected essays from <i>BAMW</i> 2016.
TH 7/13	CONFERENCES	Meet in 106C Whitehead for your conference.
M 7/17	Technical Speech for Non-Experts	
T 7/18	Discussions/Practice Extemp	Read selected essays from <i>BAMW</i> 2016.
TH 7/20	Revised Technical for 6 th Graders	
M 7/24	Discussions/Practice Extemp	Read selected essays from <i>BAMW</i> 2016.
T 7/25	Final, Graded Extemp Speeches	Start reading <i>Mindset</i> .
TH 7/27	Persuasive Action Speech	Keep reading <i>Mindset</i> .
M 7/31	Interviews	Practice using JHU Handshake Interview tool. Keep reading <i>Mindset</i> .
T 8/1	Make-up Day Self-Reflective Paper Due	Finish reading <i>Mindset</i> .
TH 8/3	FINAL: Plan B “TED” Talk	Watch 5-7 TED Talks to prepare.

Course Policies and Expectations

Attendance and Tardiness: Because most of our graded work will happen during the actual class period, it is imperative that you come to class prepared and on time. Chronic tardiness and absenteeism will severely jeopardize your ability to pass this class. If you know you will have to miss more than two classes, I would recommend taking this course during a different semester. If you know you will be missing class due to a religious holiday, please contact me in advance to make special arrangements. If you are caught

texting, using Facebook, or emailing during class, you will be marked absent for the day.

Missed Speeches: We will have one “make up” day at the end of the semester for missed speeches. At that time, you will be **REQUIRED** to make up **ONE** speech. This could be a missed speech, a botched speech, or any other speech whose score you’d like to improve. Due to time constraints, you will not be allowed to make up the interview or the discussion speech. You will also not be allowed to make up the discussion, the interview, or the Plan B TED Talk speech.

Special Needs and Learning Disabilities: If you need an accommodation due to a documented disability, please come visit me during office hours the first week of class or at your earliest convenience. I am fully committed to helping you succeed in this class. If you have no documentation, please register first with the Director for Disability Services. More information can be found here: <http://jhuaa.org/DSS/index.html>

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful; you must not mis-represent yourself falsely in any speech you give and you must cite any other person’s ideas, images, diagrams, or other relevant material on a final concluding slide for each presentation. You may not use somebody else’s slides as if they were your own—whether it be a classmate’s or something you downloaded from the Internet. **Do not use downloaded stock footage or other copyrighted images illegally. Please include a reference page at the end of each slide presentation after your concluding slide. Any violations of copyright may result in a reduced grade and/or failure of the speech assignment. A second violation will result in an “F” in the course.**

Other ethical violations include using already-written speeches, cheating on exams, plagiarizing material, reusing other people’s assignments, using the internet and electronic devices in an improper way, collaborating in an unauthorized or deceitful way, altering graded assignments, forging or falsifying sources, lying to the instructor, facilitating academic dishonesty, and competing unfairly against your colleagues. **I have a zero tolerance policy toward plagiarism and ethical violations. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will immediately receive an automatic “F” as your final grade in the course.** The incident will also be reported to the Ethics Board, and you may be expelled from the university. For further clarification on the definitions of plagiarism and cheating, I would direct your attention to the Ethics Board website: <http://ethics.jhu.edu>. Please report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may also wish to consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chair of the Ethics Board beforehand.

Email and Listserv

Email is a great way to contact me, and I am happy to answer any course-related questions you might have. My personal email address is **julie.reiser@gmail.com**. I can usually respond to most emails within 24-48 hours. I will use a Google listserv for course announcements: jhuspeakers@googlegroups.com. My course assistant will help you get subscribed. Please remember that the listserv will send an email to everyone in the group—including me. Do not send any jokes, personal information, or grade-related concerns to this list.