

## SYLLABUS

### Course: COMM 1A – Introduction to Speech

<b>Course Information</b>	Units: 3
Duration: June 21 – July 23	Section: 20755
Class Location: Room Zoom	Term: Summer 2021

<b>Instructor Information</b>	Office Location: Zoom
Instructor: Professor Kwesi Wilson, M.A.	Office Hours: 12:15pm-1:15pm (Mondays)
E-mail: Kwilson@peralta.edu	

**REQUIRED TEXT:** A First Look at Communications Theory

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Basic concepts, models, and theories examining the role of communication in human behavior.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Explain the importance of theory as it relates to communication research and communication practice
- Name and recognize key features of at least 15 different theories and theoretical perspectives used by communication scholars
- Describe one’s own worldview of communication based on meta-theoretical considerations
- Effectively summarize, critique, and apply an existing communication theory to social/professional life

**PHILOSOPHY:**

This class reflects a belief that “communication is a collaborative activity that connects and shapes us as human beings.” Our classroom reflects a safe environment for all while allowing for creative expression. We must consider the premise that speaking and culture are not separate subjects; they are intertwined. We need to understand how our own and others’ verbal contributions enhance the intellectual development of our class.

**COURSE POLICIES:**

Participation: Active participation in a communications class is crucial. You must be in class on a regular basis to apply what you are learning. If you are absent, it is *your* responsibility to contact another student for information or assignments missed. If your absence is excused, you must return to the next class with official documentation (doctor’s note, court papers, note from an athletic coach, etc). The following 5 categories represent the only acceptable “excused” absences: 1) illness, 2) religious holiday (no documentation needed, just let me know ahead of time), 3) extreme emergencies, 4) school sponsored functions, 5) jury duty/government obligations. Unfortunately, work is not an excused absence. You are allowed two “free” unexcused absences without penalty. Each unexcused absence thereafter results in a 10-point deduction from your final course score (4 tardies=1 absence). If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is *your* responsibility to check in with the instructor before the end of class to be marked present. I will not go back and mark the attendance record after class is over that day.

Preparation: Regular reading assignments from the text are listed on the course schedule. You are expected to complete all readings and assignments *before* class. Please bring your textbooks with you to each class and be prepared to discuss topics.

Due Dates: Late work is not accepted by email or any other method.

Cell phones: **Please turn cell phones and all other electronic devices (including iPods/iPads etc) off before class begins.** Cell phone use is not permitted during class. Notify the instructor in advance if you have a compelling reason for turning on your phone during class.

Note taking: Students who take notes during class tend to perform better than those who don't. Come to each class with a pen and notebook handy to take notes.

Make-ups: ONLY students with verifiable *excused* absences and documentation (see 5 categories in "participation" category above for what constitutes an excused absence) can make up an exam, assignment, or speech at an arranged time. If you miss a speech, assignment, or exam, please return to the next class period with verified documentation in hand. Makeup speeches without an excused absence will only be allowed at the instructor's discretion and can be made up for ½ credit. You are fully responsible for keeping track of assignment due dates. Please make arrangements before the date of your absence if you know ahead of time you will not be in class. If you miss an exam or assignment, it is *your* responsibility to contact the instructor and make arrangements.

Special Circumstances: If you need disability related accommodations for this class, such as a note taker, test taking services, special furniture, etc., **please provide the DSP office to the instructor as soon as possible.** You may also speak with the instructor privately during office hours about your accommodations.

Honesty: Academic dishonesty encompasses both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes obtaining or attempting to obtain or aiding another to obtain academic credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means. Plagiarism involves submitting the works of others as your own and includes improper source citation, no source citation, using materials prepared by another student, and using fictitious sources. The penalties for academic dishonesty range from receiving an "F" on the assignment or exam, to receiving an "F" in the course and may be reported to the administration.

**Class conduct: Please take the time to read the Standards for students conduct, discipline, procedures and due process by clicking on the link below AP 5500.**

AP 5500 – Administrative Procedure: Standards of Student Conduct, Discipline Procedures and Due Process

<http://web.peralta.edu/trustees/files/2013/12/AP-5500-Standards-of-Student-Conduct-Discipline-Procedures-and-Due-Process5.pdf>

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

Readings: Regular reading assignments from the text are listed on the course schedule. Please read the material *before* you come to class.

Exams: There will be two term papers for this course.

Homework. There will be 15 homework at (10 points each) in this class. Each homework will be on the chapter covered in the previous class meeting.

Discussions. There will be 15 discussions at (10 points each) in this class. Each homework will be on the chapter covered in the previous class meeting.

Papers: We will have two papers for this class – a midterm paper and a final paper.

### **GRADING SCALE:**

Discussions	100 points
Homework	<b>100 points</b>
Midterm Paper	<b>40 points</b>
Final Paper	<b>60 points</b>
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>300 points</b>

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	<b>Percentage:</b>
<b>A = 300 – 270</b>	<b>100 – 90%</b>
<b>B = 269 – 240</b>	<b>89 – 80%</b>
<b>C = 239 – 210</b>	<b>79 – 70%</b>
<b>D = 209 – 180</b>	<b>69 – 60%</b>
<b>F = 179 and below</b>	<b>59% and below</b>

### SUMMER 2021 COURSE SCHEDULE\*

WEEK		
1	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Syllabus</b>
	<b>Launching Your Study of Comm Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Symbolic Interactionism Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Social Penetration Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion <i>Assign Midterm Paper</i>
2		<b>Uncertainty Reduction Theory</b>
	Chapter Discussion	<b>Social Information Processing Theory</b>
	Chapter Discussion	<b>Rhetoric</b>
	<b>Narrative Paradigm</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Media Ecology</b>	<i>Review Midterm Assignment</i>
3	Chapter Discussion <i>Midterm Paper Due</i>	<b>Assign Final Paper</b>
	<b>Cultural Studies</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Cultivation Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Agenda Setting Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
4	<b>Genderlect Styles</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Standpoint Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
	<b>Muted Group Theory</b>	Chapter Discussion
	Class Close Out <i>Final Paper due</i>	

\*This is a TENTATIVE schedule. Any schedule or assignment changes will be announced in class. Changes to the syllabus curriculum are also subject to the discretion of the professor.