

Linn-Benton Community College  
Department of Communication

**Public Speaking**  
**Course Syllabus: Fall 2021**  
**COMM 111 CRN 20528**

The best investment you can make is in yourself. And that developing your communication skills- both writing and in-person- can increase your value by at least fifty percent. -Warren Buffet

**Course Information**

**Course Number and CRN:** COMM111; CRN 20528

**Credits:** 3.00

**Course Date:** September 27th-December 8th

**Course Meeting Times:** MWF 9:00-9:50am

**Course Location:** Takena Hall Room 219

**Instructor:** Steven Merge, M.S., M.B.A. (merges@linnbenton.edu), Phone: 541.490.2456

**Office Hours:** 1:00-2:00 MW, Room 203 SSH or you can Email me anytime (I usually Email back within a few hours); I'm also available after class.

**Extremely Important! If you do not show up for the first class, you must log into Moodle on the first day of the term (September 27th) to secure your spot in the class.**

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

Emphasizes enhancing the relationship between speaker and audience through the content, organization and delivery of short oral presentations. Helps relieve student speech anxiety. This course offers preliminary instruction in public speaking, a skill that will greatly benefit your academic, professional and social pursuits. Students will practice speaking before groups. The emphasis is on organization, structure, and types of speech.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

As a result of taking COMM 111, a student should be able to:

- Synthesize and organize information for varied audiences
- Interact with confidence while adapting messages to audience needs
- Listen critically
- Engage in ethical communication processes that accomplish goals
- Respond to the needs of diverse audiences and contexts
- Build and manage relationships

“It's much easier to be convincing if you care about your topic.  
Figure out what's important to you about your message and  
speak from the heart.” — Nicholas Boothman

**COURSE MATERIALS:**

Valenzano III, J.M., Braden, S.W., & Broeckelman-Post, M.A. (2020) *The Speaker's Primer* (3rd ed.). Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press. ISBN: 9781680368772

**TECHNOLOGY:** You will need a laptop/computer and Moodle.

**All assignments are explained, in detail, in Moodle. Any updates will also show up in Moodle, so please check Moodle every couple of days**

Week	Date	Activity or Lecture	Readings/ Assignments
1	M	Course Introduction; Self-Introductions; Syllabus discussion; Artifacts Assignment explained	
	W	Anxiety vs Relaxation; Noise; Listening; Euphemisms	Ch. 1 & 2
	F	Anxiety vs Relaxation; Noise; Listening; Euphemisms	Ch. 1 & 2
2	M	<b>Present Artifacts Assignment</b>	Artifacts Presentations
	W	Analyze your audience, Organizing a Speech; Outlining explained; Informative Speech explained	Ch. 7, 8, & 9
	F	Analyze your audience, Organizing a Speech; Outlining explained; Informative Speech explained	Ch. 12, & 3
3	M	Informative Speech continued.	Ch. 4 & 15
	W	<b>Informative Speech Outline Due</b> How to start your speech; make transitions. And how to conclude; Delivery; Presentation Aids; How to get rid of Ah's.	Outline Due Wednesday, Midnight Ch. 13 & 21
	F	<b>Presentation Aids</b>	Ch. 18
4	M	<b>Informative Speech Presentations/Critiques Given</b>	Presentation/Critiques Given
	W	<b>Informative Speech Presentations/Critiques Given</b>	Presentation/Critiques Given
	F	<b>Informative Speech Presentations/Critiques Given</b>	Presentation/Critiques Given

5	M	<b>Persuasive Speech explained. Reasoning;</b>	Ch. 16, 14
	W	<b>Persuasive Speech Outline Due</b> <b>Rhetoric Explained; Irony explained.</b>	Outline Due Midnight Wednesday
	F	<b>Persuasive Speech Explanation Continued</b>	Ch. 10, 11, & 19
6	M	<b>Persuasive Speech Presentation/Critiques</b>	Persuasive Presentation/Critique
	W	<b>Persuasive Speech Presentation/Critiques</b> <b>Special Occasions Speech explained</b>	Persuasive Presentation/Critique Ch. 17 & 20
	F	<b>Persuasive Speech Presentation/Critiques</b>	Persuasive Presentation/Critique
7	M	<b>Special Occasions Presentation Outline Due</b>	Special Occasions Outline Due Monday at Midnight
	W	<b>Special Occasions Presentation/Critique</b> Speaker Introductions Speech explained	Special Occasion Presentations/Critiques Ch. 21
	F	<b>Special Occasions Presentation/Critique</b>	Ch. 5
8	M	<b>Speaker Introduction Speech Outline Due</b> <b>Special Occasions Presentation/Critique</b>	Speaker Introduction Outline Due Monday at Midnight
	W	<b>Speaker Introduction Presentation/Critique</b>	Speaker Introductions/Critiques
	F	<b>Speaker Introduction Presentation/Critique</b>	Ch. 3, 4, & 5
9	M	Extemporaneous Speech explained <b>No Outline!</b>	Speaker Introductions/Critiques
	W	<b>Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique</b>	Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique
	F	<b>Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique</b>	Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique

10	M	Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique	Extemporaneous Presentation/Critique
	W	Impromptu Explained Makeup Assignments	Makeup Presentations
	F	Makeup Assignments	Makeup Presentations

## FINAL- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH 10AM (Impromptu Speeches)

### ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY

#### Graded Assignments:

Self-Introduction	10 Points
Artifacts Presentation	10 Points
Informative Speech Outline	30 points
Informative Speech	30 points
Persuasive Speech Outline	30 Points
Persuasive Speech	30 Points
Special Occasion Outline	20 Points
Special Occasion Speech	20 Points
Speaker Introduction Outline	10 Points
Speaker Introduction Speech	10 points
Extemporaneous Speech	30 points
Impromptu	20 points
Critiques	10 Points each (5 critiques required)
<i>Total Points Possible</i>	<i>300 Points</i>

#### GRADING:

A (270-300 pts)

B (240-269 pts)

C (210-239 pts)

D (180-209 pts)

F (179 pts or fewer)

**Assignments turned in late will have 20% deducted.**

**MANDATORY TO READ:** Academic integrity is the principle of engaging in scholarly activity with honesty and fairness, and participating ethically in the pursuit of learning.

Academic integrity is expected of all learners at LBCC. Behavior that violates academic integrity policies at LBCC includes **cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance or supporting others in engaging in academic dishonesty**, knowingly furnishing false information, or changing or misusing college documents, among others. LBCC students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the College's academic integrity policy.

If I become aware of academic misconduct, I will meet with the student(s) in question to discuss the matter and may assign a consequence of an "F" or "NP" for part of the assignment, the entire assignment, or the course overall. I will also report the matter to the Manager for Student Conduct and Retention, and the College may take further disciplinary action. When in doubt if something constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me and ask for clarification.

**Linn-Benton Community College has established rules and policies to make the return to the classroom as safe as possible. It is required for everyone to follow all the Return to Campus rules and policies. To participate in this class, LBCC requires all students to comply with the following.**

#### **MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES IN CLASSROOM**

- **Wear a mask or face covering indoors at all times. Your mask or face covering must be properly worn (fully covering nose and mouth and tight-fitting). Mesh masks, face shields, or face covering that incorporates a valve designed to facilitate easy exhalation are not acceptable. Because a mask must be worn in the classroom, there should be no eating or drinking in the classroom. If you have a medical condition or a disability that prevents you from wearing a mask or cloth face covering, you must obtain an accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to be exempt from this requirement.**
- **CDC, State, and County guidance does not limit class size for in-person instruction or require physical distancing.**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS:**

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in the class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the CFAR Website for steps on how to apply for services or call (541) 917-4789.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** All participants will be held accountable for their actions in class. LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

**BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS:** A course catalog contains a very clear summary of the rules of conduct for any class, including academic performance and classroom behavior. If you violate these rules, you may be in violation of the LBCC Judicial Code. Penalties range from grade reductions and failure of the course, to expulsion from the College. In addition to these requirements, I have the following expectations of students:

