

Introduction to Communications and Speech

Course Number: LA1027

Grade level: 9

Credits: 0.5

Prerequisite Courses: None

Course Description

Beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication, LA1097 offers fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding. High school students enrolled in this one-semester course will be guided through engaging lectures and interactive activities, exploring themes of self-awareness and perception in communication. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students are given the opportunity to critique and analyze speeches in the course.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand verbal and nonverbal aspects of human communication
- Evaluate factors that impact the quality of communication, including interpersonal relationships, gender, and culture
- Analyze communication on multiple levels, including interpersonal, small group, and organizational
- Prepare and deliver effective presentations and speeches for a variety of purposes

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, e-mail, chat, and system announcements. Through this communication with your teacher, you will monitor your progress through the course and improve your learning by reviewing material that was challenging for you.

You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face-to-face, as you do the following:

- Collaborate on projects
- Ask and answer questions in your peer group
- Develop speaking and listening skills

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

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|-------------------------|------------|
| Assignments | 10% |
| Lesson Quizzes | 20% |
| Unit Tests | 50% |
| Cumulative Exams | 20% |
| Additional | 0% |

Scope and Sequence

When you log into the Virtual Classroom, you can view the entire course map, which provides a scope and sequence of all topics you will study. Clicking a lesson's link in the course map leads to a page listing instructional activities, assignments, and learning objectives specific to that lesson. The units of study are summarized below.

- Unit 1:** Communications: Foundations of Communication
- Unit 2:** Communications: Understanding Verbal and Nonverbal Messages
- Unit 3:** Communications: Listening and Responding; Culture and Gender Differences
- Unit 4:** Communications: Interpersonal, Small Group, and Organizational Communication
- Unit 5:** Speech: Introduction to Public Speaking
- Unit 6:** Speech: Preparing and Delivering Your Speech
- Unit 7:** Speech: Informative and Persuasive Presentations