

HONORS 101B

Freshman Honors Seminar in Oral Communication
Spring 2005: Critical Consumption
MW 10:00-11:15, UH 317
MW 1:00-2:15, UH 317

Instructor: Alexandra (Alex) Flecky
Office: CP 650-1
Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30
(and by appointment)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Since this course fulfills general education requirements in oral communication, you will be interacting with material that provides information in both content and delivery aspects of public speaking. Beyond this, however, HONR 101B builds upon the previous freshman honors course that emphasized critical thinking skills and puts these skills into further practice. Course objectives that are relevant to the oral communication component of this class include the following:

1. To develop your ability to organize, arrange, and focus ideas for maximum audience attention and retention.
2. To develop your ability to discover issues, evidence, and arguments appropriate to influencing members of audiences.
3. To develop your ability to speak clearly, purposefully, and appropriately in the English language before a public audience.
4. To understand communication anxiety and its management.
5. To develop your ability to analyze and respond to communication variables operating in specific public communication situations.
6. To develop your appreciation of excellence in public speaking by increasing your critical and analytical skills.

CSUF Honors courses, however, are intended to provide you with enrichment beyond basic course requirements and objectives. Thus, this will not be just an “advanced public speaking” class. Instead, this course provides you with a small interactive learning environment in which you will be investigating, reflecting on, and discussing our common course theme, “critical consumption.” This theme encompasses a wide array of concepts and issues; a variety of class readings are intended to introduce you to these. In addition to readings and class discussions, some of your oral presentations will reflect this theme (see presentation descriptions for further information).

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- * Zarefsky, D. (2002). Public speaking: Strategies for success (4th ed.). Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- * Readings for 101B- On reserve at the library. I will notify you as to requirements regarding these readings. (If you still have Schlosser’s Fast Food Nation, keep it for this semester.)
- * One blank VHS tape (will be provided).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Oral Presentations:**

- a. **Introductory Presentation:** These 3 minute speeches will be given in the second week of instruction. They are intended to give you a beginning experience of speaking in front of a class. You are required to bring your VHS tape to class in order to film each of your presentations, cued to begin taping after your most recent presentation. More details for this speech assignment will be given in class.
- b. **Informative Presentation I:** This will consist of a 4-5 minute speech informing the class about a contemporary issue, event, concept, or process relevant to our discussion of issues raised regarding our theme, “critical consumption.” This presentation requires you to include outside research and to submit a full sentence outline, which will be graded and become part of this presentation’s grade. Further details regarding assignment specifics and grading criteria will be distributed.
- c. **Informative Presentation II:** This speech will require the use of a visual aid. It will consist of a 5-6 minute speech informing the class about an issue, event, process, concept or person. It will require the use of supporting materials. Again, your outline becomes part of this presentation’s grade.
- d. **Persuasive Presentation I:** This will consist of a 6-7 minute speech of persuasion. It may be within the same topic area as your informative speech but will be persuasive in nature. Again, an outline is due for this presentation. Further information regarding topic selection and other requirements will be distributed.
- e. **Persuasive Presentation II:** This will consist of a 7-8 minute speech persuading the audience for or against a policy. This presentation requires the inclusion of rebuttal. Since this will be your culminating speech event, it is expected that you will show your growth in communication competency. Again, an outline is due for this presentation.

2. **Written Assignments:**

- a. **Examinations:** Take-home midterm and in-class final. Be prepared to write cogent essay answers to questions pertaining to the text(s), extra assigned readings, and other class experiences such as class discussions and plenary sessions.
- b. **Speech Outlines:** Outlines are required for the two informative and two persuasive speeches. This will consist of a typed double-spaced outline and bibliography, and it is due either before or on the day you give your presentation. The quality of your outline will factor into your speech grade.
- c. **Self-Evaluations:** After each presentation, a short typed critical analysis regarding your own presentation will be due the following class session. More details will be given in class for each of these evaluations.
- d. **Peer Evaluations:** You will be required to evaluate the oral presentations of your peers, although your evaluation will not influence that peer’s speech grade. Once for each round of speeches, you will be randomly assigned to write a written critique of a peer’s speech. More details will be given in class regarding each of these evaluations. (typed, 1 page minimum)
- d. **Plenary summaries:** You are required to attend at least 2 plenaries. One required plenary is the April 12th Barbara Ehrenreich session. Details regarding the second required plenary will be distributed later. After attending each plenary, you will be assigned a written critical analysis. (typed, 2 page minimum).

3. **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance and meaningful participation are required in order to pass this class. This means that you will demonstrate your understanding of course materials through written and oral assignments and in class discussions. It also means that you will practice attentive listening during all speeches!

GRADING:

1. **Oral Presentations** (55% of course grade)
 - a. Introductory Presentation 5%
 - b. Informative Presentation I (including outline) 10%
 - c. Informative Presentation II “ “ 10%
 - d. Persuasive Presentation I “ “ 15%
 - e. Persuasive Presentation II “ “ 15%
2. **Written Assignments** (40% of course grade)
 - a. Examinations
 - Midterm Exam 10%
 - Final Exam 15%
 - b. Self & Peer Evaluations (10 total) 5%
 - c. Plenary Essays (2) 10%
- 3 **Attendance and Participation** 5%

ADDITIONAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION:

1. Students are expected to attend every class meeting and at least 3 plenaries. Remember that 5% of your course grade is derived from assessment of your participation and that you must complete assignment to receive a passing grade in this course. More information regarding absences and late assignments is as follows:
 - * Absent for peer evaluation: For each type of speech, you will be randomly assigned to evaluate a peer’s speech. If absent on the day you are assigned a peer evaluation without a legitimate excuse, you will not be able to make up the peer evaluation and will lose these points.
 - * Delay of scheduled speech: All students are required to give their speeches on the given due date. The only exceptions would be due to legitimate health reasons; accompanying documentation is required (written doctor’s excuse). Delaying a scheduled speech will automatically lower that speech grade 20% for each class period delayed. See me for help with any “stage fright” issues.
 - * Late written assignments: Late outlines, evaluations, and plenary essays will receive a 10% reduction in point value for each day late.
 - * Make-up midterm: No make-up midterm will be given; if a student misses the midterm with a legitimate excuse (e.g., a note from a physician indicating student could not take exam because of illness), the grade received for the final exam will be assigned as the mid-term grade.
2. Course grading: Beginning Spring, 2005, Cal State Fullerton will institute a +/- grading scale, which will be used in this course, as follows:

A+	(4.0)	C+	(2.3)
A	(4.0)	C	(2.0)
A-	(3.7)	C-	(1.7)
B+	(3.3)	D+	(1.3)
B	(3.0)	D	(1.0)
B-	(2.7)	F	(0.0)

 - *NOTE: A grade of “C” or better is required to meet the General Education requirement for Oral Communication. A grade of “C-“ or below will not satisfy this General Education requirement.
3. Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work. This means that you will not copy from another person’s exam, evaluations, speech research, or papers, or allow another person to copy yours. Instructor penalties for dishonest scholarship

range from a failing grade on a particular assignment to failure of the course. Further information can be found in the University Catalog.

4. Noise making devices such as cellular phones, pagers, and watches should always be set on a silent mode. Disruption of this kind interferes with speech presentations.
5. Grammar, mechanics, and aesthetics play an important role and can affect your grade. Always proofread your work.
6. Remember that seminar classes emphasize student contributions to the discussion. Therefore, I expect your contributions to reflect your critical thinking skills and your respect for one another. We can “respectfully disagree.” After all, “...dialogue is the opportunity available to me to open up to the thinking of others, and thereby not wither away in isolation” (Paulo Friere). We are in this class together; help us enjoy learning from you this semester!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Activity	Be prepared to discuss/due:
1/31 M	Intro to Course	
2/2 W	Course Theme Public Speaking, Listening	(<u>Fast Food Nation</u>) Zarefsky: Chapters 1, 2
2/7 M	Introductory Presentations	
2/9 W	Selecting Topic; Informing	Zarefsky: 4, 13
2/14 M	Library research instruction- <i>meet at library</i> <i>Location: 1st floor reference desk</i>	Zarefsky: 5
2/16 W	Organization; Outlining	Zarefsky: 7, 9
2/21 M	HOLIDAY	
2/23 W	Introductions, Conclusions, Transitions	Zarefsky: 8
2/28 M	Informative Presentation I	
3/2 W	“ “	
3/7 M	“ “	
3/9 W	Visual Aids	Zarefsky: 12
3/14 M	Informative Presentation II	
3/16 W	“ “	
3/21 M	“ “ ; TAKE-HOME MIDTERM ASSIGNED	
3/23 W	“ “	
	Midterm due via e-mail by 5:00 PM on Friday, March 25th	

SPRING RECESS (No Class 3/28 & 3/30)

4/4	M	Delivery	Zarefsky: 11
4/6	W	Supporting Your Ideas	Zarefsky: 6
4/11	M	Persuasion	Zarefsky: 14
4/12	T	<i>Plenary: TSU Portola Pavilions: 7:30 PM</i>	<i>Barbara Ehrenreich</i>
4/13	W	Audience Analysis	Zarefsky: 3 (Draft Persuasive Presentation I Outlines due)
4/18	M	Optional conferences: See me in class for feedback	
4/20	W	Persuasive Presentation I	
4/25	M	“ “	
4/27	W	“ “	
5/2	M	Language	Zarefsky: 10
5/4	W	Class survey day	(Surveys due- Xerox 16 copies) (Draft Persuasive Presentation II due)
<i>Communications Week May 2-6?:</i>			
<i>Forensics Showcase:</i>			
<i>Other available plenaries:</i>			
5/9	M	Optional conferences: See me in class for feedback	
5/11	W	Persuasive Presentation II	
5/16	M	“ “	
5/18	W	“ “ ; Course Wrap Up	
5/23	Monday!	Final Exam	EXAM TIME:
		10:00-11:15 class:	12:00-1:50 PM
		1:00-2:15 class:	2:30- 4:20 PM