

HONORS 101B
Freshman Honors Seminar in Oral Communication
Spring 2005

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And by appointment.

Required Materials:

Zarefsky, D., *Public Speaking Strategies for Success*, (3rd edition). Boston, Allyn and Bacon, (2002).
Schlosser, Eric. *Fast food Nation*. New York: Harper Collins, 2002.
One blank VHS tape.

Course Description and Objectives:

This Honors seminar is focused on developing oral communication skills. Building on the critical thinking competencies acquired last semester, it emphasizes the construction of well-organized oral presentations. Relevant course objectives include the following skills:

1. The ability to organize a speech and to make it clear and intelligible arguments.
2. The enhancement of your research skills and ability to develop knowledge of issues, evidence, and relevant arguments so as to enable you to present yourself as both a credible and persuasive speaker.
3. To sharpen your awareness of the English language and its correct and effective usage.
4. To think critically and analytically.
5. To listen effectively to other speakers.

Course Requirements:

- a) **Introductory presentation:** These 3 minute speeches will be given in the second week of class. They are intended to provide you with an introduction to speaking in front of the class. You are required to bring your VHS tape to class in order to tape each of your presentations. Cue your tape to begin recording after your most recent presentation. More information regarding this speech will be provided in class.
- b) **Informative Presentation I:** This will consist of a 4 to 5 minute speech discussing a contemporary issue, or event relevant to our discussion of our theme of “critical consumption.” You will be required to complete outside research for this presentation. You will be required to complete a full sentence outline of your presentation complete with bibliographical citations to be turned in on the day of your presentation.

- c) **Informative Presentation II:** This speech will consist of a 5-6 minute presentation of an issue, event, process, concept, or personality relevant to our theme of “confronting fear”. The use of a **visual aid** is required. You are also required to produce a full sentence **outline** of your presentation with complete bibliographic information to be handed in the day of the presentation. The outline and accompanying materials will be evaluated as a component of your grade.
- d) **Persuasive Presentation I:** This will consist of a 6-7 minute persuasive speech on a topic related to the theme of your informative presentation. The thesis may be the outgrowth of previous presentations. An outline is due for this presentation.
- e) **Persuasive Presentation II:** This is a 7-8 minute presentation directed for or against a specific policy relevant to the course theme. This presentation requires the inclusion of a rebuttal. As your final speech it is intended to demonstrate the growth of your communication skills. An outline is due for this presentation.
- f) **Final Examination:** The final examination will consist of an in class extemporaneous speech on a topic draw from current events. You will be provided with both the topic of the speech and information adequate to developing a short persuasive speech. You will be graded on your ability to implement the skills and techniques developed during the course. There4 will be a number of practice drills to prepare you for the exam.

2. Written Assignments:

- a) **Examinations:** A take-home midterm will be assigned based on class readings, discussions, and other pertinent material.
- b) **Speech Outlines:** Outlines are required for the two informative and two persuasive speeches. Your outlines should be typewritten and double spaced, and include a full bibliography of your sources. Speech outlines should be turned in the day of your presentation. The quality of your outline will affect the grade you receive on your speech.
- c) **Self-Evaluations:** After each speech you must prepare a short critical analysis of your presentation.
- d) **Peer Evaluations:** You will be required to provide a one page critical assessment of your peer’s presentations. Your views **will not** affect their grades. The intent of this assignment is to encourage the development of critical listening skills. Critiques will be assigned randomly for each round of student speeches.
- e) **Plenary Summaries:** You are required to attend at least 3 plenary sessions and to provide a brief one-page essay that evaluates the presentation for both content and style. The number of plenary sessions is subject to reduction.

3. Attendance and Participation: Attendance and meaningful participation are required in order to pass this class. This requires demonstration of your understanding of course materials and discussions through the completion of written and oral assignments and active participation in class discussions.

4. Grades will be awarded on a 4-point scale. A+ = 4.0; A = 4.0; A- = 3.7; B+ = 3.3; B = 3.0; B- = 2.7; C+ = 2.3; C = 2.0; C- = 1.7; D+ = 1.3; D = 1.0; D- = 0.7; F = 0.0. A grade of C (2.0) or better is required to satisfy the basic General Education categories as well as for the Liberal Studies major.

Grading:

Introductory Presentation	5%
Informative Presentation I	10%
Informative Presentation II	10%
Persuasive Presentation I	15%
Persuasive Presentation II	15%
Self and Peer Evaluations	5%
Midterm	15%
Final	20%
Plenary Summaries	5%
Class Participation	5%

General Student Responsibilities:

1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings and 3 plenary sessions. Please notify the instructor if you are forced to miss class. If you miss a class you are still responsible for the material covered on the day of your absence.
2. **Missed Assignments:** If you are absent on the day you are assigned a peer evaluation and do not have a legitimate excuse; you will be unable to make up the assignment and lose all associated points. If you are absent on the day of an assigned speech make-ups are at the discretion of the instructor. Delaying a scheduled speech automatically lowers the grade 20%. Late written assignments will be penalized 10%. Make-up midterm and final exams are at the discretion of the instructor. You must inform the instructor **as soon as possible** if you are forced to miss an exam.
3. **Cheating will not be tolerated:** It is impermissible to copy or consult the work of another student. **Plagiarism as described in the course catalogue is forbidden and will be punished.**
4. **Polite behavior is required at all times.** Please set cell phones, watches and pagers to silent mode. Never speak or create distractions during student presentations. If you arrive late for class, please do not enter the classroom while students are giving their speeches. Remember to be respectful of other people's views and opinions. **Rude or inconsiderate behavior will have a negative effect on your grade!**

5. **Students are required to come prepared to class.** Remember that this is a seminar. **Good luck!**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to the course. Reread and discuss *Fast Food Nation*. Read Zarefsky 1,2.

Week 2: Discuss Zarefsky 4, 13. Introductory Presentations.

Week 3: Monday Holiday. Library research information seminar and catch-up.

Week 4: Discuss Zarefsky chapters 7-8.

Week 5: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 9. Informative Presentation I.

Week 6: Informative Presentation I, continued. Discuss Zarefsky chapter 5.

Week 7: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 12 – Visual Aids. Informative Presentation II.

Week 8: Informative Presentation II, continued. Midterm Exam.

March 28 – April 1. SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 11.

Week 10: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 6.

Week 11: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 14. Persuasive Presentation I.

Week 12: Persuasive Presentation I, continued.

Week 13: Discuss Zarefsky chapter 3 and 10.

Week 14: Persuasive Presentation II.

Week 15: Persuasive Presentation II and wrap-up.

FINAL EXAM WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 12:00-1:50