

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **COMS 101**

#### **SPEECH COMMUNICATION**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Study and practice in communicating ideas competently in public speaking. Students are also given a foundation for development of communication skills in other human communication contexts, including dyadic and small group communication.

#### **RATIONALE**

Knowledge and skill in communication are vital to success in nearly every career field including education, business, politics, human services, Christian ministry, and the health professions. A person's level of communication competence affects his or her capacity to function as an effective agent for change and godly influence among his or her peers and in society. COMS 101 students learn to become such agents by studying principles of effective communication and demonstrating an applied understanding of them, whether as public speakers or interpersonal communicators.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

ENGL 100 or advanced standing on the English placement test.

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Click on the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
- D. Media player software like Windows Media Player, Realplayer, GOM Media Player, or VLC Media Player

**IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Analyze claims, assumptions, and conclusions that concern ideas about communication.
- B. Demonstrate Biblical worldview literacy in articulating a redemptive rhetorical vision.
- C. Present speeches that are logically and thematically sequenced and appropriate to the rhetorical situation.
- D. Exercise rhetorically effective verbal and non-verbal behaviors in public speech presentations.
- E. Evaluate interpersonal and small group communication skills in the light of assigned readings.
- F. Explain the purpose and value of human communication in the light of its divine origin.
- G. Employ course principles to create a redemptive rhetorical vision for an occupational field of his/her choice.
- H. Demonstrate sound reasoning and argumentation in the construction, delivery, and evaluation of communicative texts.

**V. CORE COMPETENCY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Produce well-structured, grammatically sound writing in various modes of discourse.
- B. Write with clarity.
- C. Recognize standard usage in English grammar, word choice (diction), phraseology, and sentence structure.
- D. Apply knowledge of sentence structure to basic sentence editing, and revision.
- E. Integrate sources accurately and effectively.

**VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Discussion Board forums (3)

The student will demonstrate his or her understanding of covered communication concepts by composing a critical, thoughtful response, or thread, to each of three Discussion Board prompts. For each new thread, the student must assess the merits of highlighted concepts from the textbook. Each initial thread must be at least 150 words and posted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Thursday of the assigned module/week. A reply of at least 75 words to two other students' threads (150 words altogether) must be posted by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the same module/week.

C. Reading Analyses (2)

The student will demonstrate his or her understanding of foundational communicational principles covered in the Alban text by composing responses to questions. The first reading analysis is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 1 and the second reading analysis is due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of Module/Week 5.

D. Speech Outlines (2)

The student will demonstrate his or her understanding of covered communication concepts by composing a complete-sentence outline for each of the two recorded speeches he or she will submit for credit in this course. The Speech Outline will be submitted, initially, as a rough draft and then, by its designated due date, in a revised outline form that implements the instructor’s recommended improvements (if any). Each speech outline must be composed in MS-Word. The Revised Informative Speech Outline is due by the end of Module/Week 6, and the Revised Persuasive Speech Outline is due by the end of Module/Week 8.

E. Speeches (2)

The student will demonstrate his or her understanding of covered public communication concepts by presenting an informative speech and a persuasive speech, respectively, to an audience of three or more adults. Each speech must satisfy the guidelines for its speech type prescribed by its corresponding speech requirements document. Once the speech is recorded, the student will download the file onto his/her computer, and then upload it onto YouTube. Students will provide the instructor with the URL, or link, for their uploaded YouTube video. The Informative Speech is due by the end of Module/Week 6, and the Persuasive Speech is due by Module/Week 8.

F. Quizzes (3)

The student will complete three quizzes based on the Hamilton text. The quizzes are timed for 1 hour and 45 minutes and have 40 true/false and multiple-choice questions. Quizzes will be due by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module/week.

**VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Discussion Board forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Speech Outlines (2 at 75 pts ea)	150
Speeches (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Reading Analyses (2 at 80 pts ea)	160
Quiz 1 (Module/Week 2)	80
Quiz 2 (Module/Week 3)	80
Quiz 3 (Module/Week 4)	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1000    B = 800–899    C = 700–799    D = 600–699    F = 0–599

C. Late Work Policy

Late work will **only** be accepted for full credit if there is a documented illness or disability, an emergency, and/or permission is granted *in advance* by the professor. Otherwise, late work will receive half credit if turned in within one week of the due date. Work submitted more than one week after its due date will be graded as a non-submission and will receive the score of zero.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **COMS 101**

Textbooks: Alban, *Created for Connection* (2011).  
Hamilton, *Essentials of Public Speaking* (2012).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Alban: Part 1 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist	0
		Class Introductions	0
		Reading Analysis 1	80
<b>2</b>	Hamilton: chs. 1, 11-12 2 presentations	DB Forum 1	50
		Quiz 1	80
<b>3</b>	Hamilton: chs. 4-6 1 presentation 1 article	DB Forum 2	50
		Quiz 2	80
<b>4</b>	Hamilton: chs. 7-10 1 presentation	Informative Speech Outline Draft (optional)	0
		Quiz 3	80
<b>5</b>	1 presentation 2 articles	Persuasive Speech Outline Draft (optional)	0
		Reading Analysis 2	80
<b>6</b>	Alban: Part 2 1 presentation	Informative Speech Outline Revised	75
		Informative Speech	150
<b>7</b>	Hamilton: ch. 13 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	50
<b>8</b>	Alban: Part 3 1 presentation	Persuasive Speech Outline Revised	75
		Persuasive Speech	150
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.