
Course Syllabus

Effective July 9, 2012

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Course Credits: 3 hours

In this course, students learn to improve written and oral communication skills in a business setting. Emphasis is placed on organizational networks, interviewing, presentations, group communication and improving relationships with coworkers. Variables of culture and personality are integrated into the content. This class utilizes a "hands on" approach to applying course materials. *Prerequisites:* None

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will learn several core concepts of professional speech.
- Students will be able to create professional documents.
- Students will learn how to effectively perform in job interviews and professional environments.
- Students will be able to critique speeches and analyze speakers during performances.

Required Materials and Skills:

Textbook: Communicating at Work, 10th Edition by Adler and Elmhorst.

Email:

Students enrolled in Odessa College must use an Odessa College email address. I will only contact you at your OC email account so you need to check your student email at least three times a week. Go to <http://www.odessa.edu> and click on **Student Email** to set up your email account. You should contact 335-6673 if you are not able to log on using the instructions provided or if you experience any issues with your OC email account.

Access to Odessa College Library Online Catalog: <http://www.odessa.edu/dept/library/>

Help available:

I want you to succeed in this class and am available to work with you online or outside of class. I am more than happy to sit down with you and discuss unfamiliar concepts or terms. If you have a question on a speech or quiz, please call or email me. Please review your textbook and the course materials I have provided carefully to find the information but if you are still confused then contact me. If you are considering dropping the class, please contact me to discuss your options before doing so. I am willing to work with students within the Odessa College guidelines and help learners to achieve their goals in any way that I can.

Assignment Information:

Student Information Assignment

20 points

You will need to set up an Odessa College email account. Then, create a Word document in which you include all of the following information:

- your first and last name
- your Odessa College email address
- home and/or cell phone numbers (or numbers at which I can contact you)
- your major and how many semesters of college you have completed
- if you work and how many hours per week
- your interests, hobbies and goals
- if you use Facebook or Twitter (and Twitter handle)
- **Post this as an attached Word document to the Student Information Assignment in BlackBoard under "Assignments"** (click on the actual assignment and scroll down until you see the "Attach File" button; click on "Browse my computer," find the appropriate file, and then click "submit.")

Résumé & Cover Letter

80 points

You will create a professional résumé and cover letter for a job of your choice. Feel free to search a job on Monster.com or to make up a position that you want to apply for in the future. You should use standard résumé formats and develop a specific and personalized cover letter that highlights your skills and abilities. **Avoid using Microsoft Word templates because they end up looking very generic and will not get your application noticed as well as developing the document yourself.** Several examples will be posted online. You should have a cover letter with at least 3 full paragraphs and a résumé that is one page in length. Post your documents in Word format under the Assignments tab in BlackBoard.

Career Planning Report

175 points

This paper will be based on the career you hope to pursue after you graduate college. You will interview a professional in a career field that you are interested in. You should schedule the interview at least a week in advance (2 weeks is recommended to show the proper respect for the person's schedule) If you are undecided then choose one of the careers or fields that you are considering. For instance, if you are considering the medical field you should contact a local hospital and let them know you are an Odessa College student who needs 10-15 minutes of their time. Make sure you have several questions for the person you are interviewing, show up on time to the meeting and send a thank you note. This could be a great contact when you are applying for jobs in the future! You will develop a report based on that career and use research from at least 3 sources to write a paper about the job duties, typical salary, new developments, etc. about the career you chose. 1 of the 3 sources will be the professional that you interview so you will need to locate 2 other sources for additional information such as current job trends, new technology being used, starting salary and organizations that hire new graduates in this field. ***This paper needs to be at least 3 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman font with 1 margins. Post your document in Word format under the Assignments tab in BlackBoard.***

Career Planning Presentation

200 points

This speech needs to be recorded in front of at least 3 audience members who are 16 years or older. You can record your presentation with any recording device that can be connected to a computer. Once the file is recorded and saved you can upload it to YouTube. There are step-by-step instructions for recording and uploading a speech that you should follow. The speech should be 5 to 7 minutes and you need to verbally name all of your sources while speaking. Your speech should be organized from the data that you gathered for the Career Planning Report. From this information you will need to develop a short, conversational presentation in which you inform your audience about the career you will be seeking. Share with the audience why you chose this field, what you plan on doing to prepare to enter this field (education, work, training, etc.) and facts about the career choice. You will be informing your audience of what you feel is most important from your report but **YOU WILL NOT READ YOUR REPORT!** A speech is a conversation with an audience so you

will need to be concise and direct. **Post the link to your speech in YouTube under the Comment box in the proper Assignment tab in BlackBoard.**

Discussion Board

25 points

There are four discussion board prompts that you are required to engaged, both with your own responses and replying to your classmates' responses (You will be required to post an original response **and** reply to at least two of your classmates' posts each week). This is an opportunity to develop your ideas and opinions, see what others are thinking, and engage in some dialogue with others on course topics. **Note:** This is NOT a place to engage in flaming or name-calling or other abusive or insulting conversation. I expect you to be professional and have a dialogue with others in a courteous and civil manner, even if you might disagree with someone's opinions. Disagreement is fine as long as you engage the *argument* and refrain from personal attacks or belittling of any kind.

Quiz & Exam Information:

Quiz 1 75 points Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5	Quiz 3 75 points Chapters 10, 11 & 12
Quiz 2 75 points Chapters 6, 7 & 9	Quiz 4 75 points Chapters 8 & 13

4 Quizzes

75 points each

Each quiz will be 20 questions. You will begin the timed quiz in BlackBoard and select your answers. Then click 'Submit' when you have finished. Be sure to finish before the timer expires.

2 Video Quizzes

50 points each

You will be required to watch two videos, both by scholar Randy Pausch, and answer questions about these lectures. The links to each speech is provided for you under "Assignments." You will need to download the Quiz form before you watch the videos, answer the questions, and then save and email the document to me by the due date listed in the course schedule below. Each speech is about 75 minutes long, so plan your time accordingly.

Final Exam

100 points

Chapters 1-14

This is a comprehensive exam over all the textbook chapters and any information covered in class. The test will consist of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions. You will take the final exam online in BlackBoard.

Extra credit:

There is not a guarantee that any extra credit work will be available so do your best on each assignment!

Weekly Schedule: Complete all assignments in the order in which they are listed and by the due date, no later than 9pm.

Week 1

Read syllabus and all course information

Log in to your Odessa College email account

Post Student Information Assignment as a Word document in BlackBoard by July 11

Watch Randy Pausch's "Time Management" video and email me the completed Quiz by July 12

Respond/Reply to Discussion Question #1, Read Chapters 1-5 and Complete Quiz 1 by July 13

Week 2

Read Chapters 6, 7 & 9 and Complete Quiz 2 by July 16

Develop your own cover letter AND résumé using your real information and career goal
(*Review instructions in this syllabus and look over the examples posted online*)

Respond/Reply to Discussion Question #2 by July 18

Post Cover Letter and Résumé in BlackBoard by July 20

Week 3

Read Chapters 10, 11 & 12 Complete Quiz 3 by July 23

Read Chapters 8 & 13 and Complete Quiz 4 by July 25

Respond/Reply to Discussion Question #3 by July 27

Week 4

Develop your career planning report and include specific details and data

Post your Career Planning Report as a Word document in BlackBoard by July 30

Record and upload your Career Planning Presentation in YouTube by August 1

Respond/Reply to Discussion Question #4 by August 3

Week 5

Watch Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture" video and email me the completed the Quiz by August 7

Review all chapter and course information to prepare for the final exam

Complete the Final Exam in BlackBoard by August 9

Course Evaluation

Grading Scale: 90%-100% A, 80%-89.9% B, 70%-79.9% C, 60%-69.9% D, 59.9% & below F

Methods of Evaluation:	Points Possible:	Percent of Grade:
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Student Information	20 points	2%
4 Quizzes (75 pts. each)	300 points	30%
Randy Pausch Quizzes (50 pts. each)	100 points	10%
Résumé & Cover Letter	80 points	8%
Career Planning Report	175 points	17.5%
Career Planning Presentation	200 points	20%
Discussion Board	25 points	2.5%
Final Exam	100 points	10%

Policies and Procedures

Incomplete policy:

If you are unable to complete the course, please speak to me as I will consider problems on an individual basis. You will be required to provide substantial evidence as to why you cannot complete the course and must meet all Odessa College requirements. If granted an "I" (incomplete) you will have to complete any outstanding work by the end of the following semester or your grade will automatically be converted to a "F". Withdrawing from the course must be done by the due date in order to earn a "W".

Instructor's response time:

I will respond to your e-mails within 24 hours. If you do not get a reply from me within that time please give me a call as I am always available to help.

Attendance policy:

Online students are monitored for attendance and if you fail to log in or complete the assignments within a reasonable amount of time you will be reported to the Registrar's office as non-attending.

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of college. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences. Any effort to gain advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Any suspicion of academic dishonesty will be reported and investigated. **A student who engages in scholastic dishonesty that includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion will receive an "F" in the course.** All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with Odessa College's regulations and procedures. For complete information on student conduct and discipline procedures, please consult the handbook. Assignments such as speeches that are downloaded from the Internet are considered under the auspices of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course.

Statement of special accommodations:

Odessa College complies with Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you have any special needs or issues pertaining to your access to and participation in this or any other class at Odessa College, please feel free to contact me to discuss your concerns. You may also call the Office of Disability Services at 335-6861 to request assistance and accommodations or Becky Rivera-Weiss at 432-335-6861 or at brivera@odessa.edu

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered as an acceptable reason for not completing course activities on scheduled time. You have access to several computers on campus at the LRC and WiFi Java Café. You can save your work under "Documents" in your OC email account and print anything you need for free at the LRC.

NOTE: Identify a second computer that you can use when/if your personal computer crashes.

Let this syllabus serve as an outline to the objectives and materials that we will cover. This syllabus is subject to revision at the discretion of the instructor and students will be notified of any changes.