

# Speech Class Syllabus



## General Expectations and Why We Are Here

### Mr. Don Pogreba

#### Office/Classroom:

Room 14

#### E-mail:

[dpogreba@gmail.com](mailto:dpogreba@gmail.com)

#### Class Website:

<http://www.pogreba.com>

#### Google Talk:

[dpogreba@gmail.com](mailto:dpogreba@gmail.com)

#### Phone:

324-2262 (school)

#### Twitter

mrpogreba

The primary purpose of Speech class is to provide students with the opportunity to improve their public speaking, organizational, and argumentative skills. In the course of the semester, we will work on speeches that require short-term preparation and those that require careful revision and delivery.

In addition to presenting speeches, students will be expected to be good audience members, paying careful attention to the speeches that other students present and offering constructive feedback.

Our specific objectives will be for students to:

- demonstrate development of public speaking skills in formal and informal settings;
- gain factual knowledge about the speech in theory and in practice;
- demonstrate understanding of the relationships between speaker, audience, and subject.

## Grade Scale

- ◆ A: 100%-90%
- ◆ B: 89%-80%
- ◆ C: 79%-70%
- ◆ D: 69%-60%
- ◆ F: Below 60%

Assignments that are late will receive an automatic 10% deduction. After one class day, they will not be accepted. No exceptions!

## Academic Requirements

The exact nature of grading and academic requirements will depend largely on the nature of the units we cover each semester. A large part of your grade will depend on class activities and speeches. I am not fond of using daily assignments or busy work to determine your grade, but periodic daily assignments will be graded. It is important to keep up with the class work, as assignments will often build towards a final culminating project. At the moment, my inclination is for grading to work like this:

- ✓ **Speeches and commenting: 60%**
- ✓ **Tests and Quizzes: 20%**
- ✓ **Class Participation: 20%**

## Speeches We Will Write

- Expository
- Persuasive
- Argument
- Comm. Analysis
- Interpretation
- Extemporaneous
- Personal Belief
- Impromptu
- Demonstration

## Other Subjects

- Listening
- Propaganda
- Aristotelian Persuasion
- Audience Analysis
- Small Group Communication
- Non-verbal Communication
- Rhetorical Analysis

Students can deliver homework via e-mail, using [dpogreba@gmail.com](mailto:dpogreba@gmail.com)

## The Rules

I suppose that I could list a series of rules and expectations here, but community rules and norms tend to evolve over time. I suspect we will have a better sense of the rules that govern our class as we get to know each other. There are a few points that are not negotiable:

**Tolerance.** Recognizing that other people have different values, beliefs, appearance and desires is a hallmark of maturity. Some people never reach it; you should make every effort to. I will not tolerate language or actions that exclude or demean. Heated

argumentation should be the model for our class—argumentation that is focused on issues and not personality.

**Respect for Substitutes.** This is an absolute requirement. Subbing can be an unpleasant experience; it should not be for people who sub in my class.

**Plagiarism.** Don't! If you are unsure if something is ethical, odds are that it is not. More information about plagiarism and how to avoid it can be found on the website

## Class Attendance

Coming to class is an excellent idea. Even if you doze off, you might learn something before falling asleep! Attending my class means being physically and mentally present—be involved!

Please be on time. Consistently coming to class without a reasonable excuse may lead to dire consequences.

Bring all of your material every day. If you need to leave for a pen or book, you will be

considered tardy.

**Makeup work is your responsibility.** You will have one day for each day you missed, plus one day to make up assignments. You must get the information from the website or by asking. I will not keep track of makeup assignments for you.

Please check in advance about planned absences, i.e. activities, family travel.

## Class Website

Almost everything that we do during the school year will be available on the class website—from daily assignments to news about the class. I encourage parents and students to visit the site frequently—for information about class, upcoming tests and assignments, grades, and Helena High News.

The site is designed to be interactive, so feel free to contribute information relevant to the class. Almost every part of the site is interactive—so look around and see what you can contribute!

Students are bound to follow the same restrictions contained on the District Acceptable Use Policy while using the site.

<http://www.pogreba.com>

or

<http://classroom.quixoticpedagogue.org>