

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE ORANGE SYLLABUS

SPCH, 1311, Intro Speech Communication, 60S

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor Name Gabriel Cortez

Building/Office Number

Office Hours Appointments can be made by request.

<https://txstate.zoom.us/j/88483618442>">T-TR 12 - 1 p.m.

Virtual Hours

Office Telephone (409) 883-7750

Email Address Gabriel.Cortez@lsco.edu

Course Schedule Building: TXST Jowers Center (JOW), Room: 000A206, Dates: 3/23/2026 - 5/12/2026, Days: TR, Times: - 6:30pm - 7:50pm

Course Description SPCH 1311 Introduction to Speech Communication (23.1304) 3-3-0 Theories and practice of communication in interpersonal, small group, and public speech. AC.

Required Textbook & Materials

Required Textbook: Can be physical or electronic. Electronic preferred.

Communication: Principles for a Lifetime, 8th edition

Published by Pearson (March 31, 2021) © 2022

- **Steven A. Beebe** Texas State University - San Marcos |
- **Susan J. Beebe** Texas State University - San Marcos |
- **Diana K. Ivy** Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi

ISBN-13: 9780136967927

Upon registration for classes, LSCO students are automatically charged \$14 per semester credit hour for access to all required textbooks, lab manuals, lab codes, and electronic books on the first day of class through the Gator Book Pack. Information about the LSCO Gator Book Pack as well as responses to common FAQs can be found

on LSCO's webpage. ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE UNTIL THE SECOND DAY OF THE SEMESTER TO OPT-OUT OF THE GATOR BOOK PACK.

Every student MUST have access to the required textbooks by the week of class. The student will be responsible for all assignments given. Failure to have a text may result in being dropped from the class. Failure to follow instructions (written or oral) will result in penalties.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will acquire the following course learning outcomes:

Core Objectives

Course Learning Outcome 1	Core Objective	Associated Course Activities/Assignments/Projects
Apply the principles of human communication including: perception, verbal communication, nonverbal communication, listening, and audience analysis.	Critical Thinking and Communication	Students will answer questions related to given reading assignments.
Demonstrate how to establish and maintain relationships through the use of interpersonal communication.	Critical Thinking and Communication	Students will participate in assignments which will ask them to define their various relationships and recognize the stages of the interactions through their use of interpersonal communication.
Apply small group communication skills including: problem solving, group roles, leadership styles, and cohesiveness.	Critical Thinking and Communication	Required assignments will include the use of analysis, small group dynamics, self-analysis, and dyadic training in effective communication.
Develop, research, organize, and delivery of formal public speeches.	Critical Thinking, Communication and Personal Responsibility	Students will deliver informative and persuasive speeches, construct speaking outlines, and demonstrate proficiency in online research.
Recognize how to communicate within the diverse or multicultural environments.	Critical Thinking, Communication and Social Responsibility	Students will complete assignments using audience analysis components.

Course Topical Outline

July 8th – July 10th	Unit 1: Chapters 1 and 2 Homework questions for chapters 1 and 2 due July 10th Information Sheet & Introductory Video due by July 10 th
July 13th – July 17th	Topic Assignment for the Informative Speech due by July 15th Unit 2: Chapters 3, 4, and 5 Homework questions for chapters 3, 4, and 5 due July 17th
July 20th – July 24th	Unit 3: Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14 Informative Speech recording due July 24th
July 27th – July 31st	Unit 4: Chapters 9 and 10 Homework questions for chapters 9 and 10 due July 31s
August 3rd – August 7th	Topic Assignment for the Persuasive Speech due by August 5th Unit 5: Chapters 7 and 8 Homework questions for chapters 7 and 8 due August 7th
August 10th – August 11th	Unit 6: Chapter 15 Persuasive Speech recording due by August 10th

Important Dates:

- **Census day and last day for full refund on dropped courses (not withdrawn), July 13th**
- **Last day to drop the course is July 28th**
- **Class begins on July 8th and ends on August 11th**

Major Assignments Schedule

Final Exam Date

There is no Final Exam for this course.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Faculty who suspect violation of academic honesty, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or abuse of resource materials may assign an academic penalty.

Incidents of academic dishonesty are a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. An academic appeal process is afforded to students who desire to dispute a grade or any decision that affects the student's ability to complete

and earn a grade for the course, provided it is not related to a violation outlined in the LSCO Student Code of Conduct, including academic dishonesty.

Faculty who suspect violation of academic honesty, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, or abuse of resource materials may assign an academic penalty. Students must be notified of their right to appeal before the academic penalty is imposed.

Students subject to penalty due to academic honesty have the right to appeal the decision. Refer to the current LSCO Catalog for details on the appeal process.

Electronic Communication

LSCO students are required to use either their LSCO Blackboard account or their LSCO email account (Office 365 / Microsoft Outlook) for all electronic communication. In order to ensure the privacy and identity of the student communicating via electronic methods, LSCO faculty will direct students to use their LSCO email accounts rather than personal accounts. If a student has trouble accessing their LSCO email account, they should contact the LSCO Help Desk at (409) 882-3033 or helpdesk@lsco.edu.

Attendance Requirements

Federal regulations require students who receive financial aid to have begun "attending" and participate substantially in each course for which they are enrolled on or before the official census reporting date outlined on the LSCO Academic Calendar. Students documented as "not attending" a course upon the census date are assumed (for financial aid purposes) to have not begun attendance for that course, negatively affecting their financial aid eligibility and disbursement.

Attendance in an ONLINE course is verified by substantial participation in the course on or before the census date published in the LSCO Academic Calendar. Substantial participation in this online course is defined as logging in and completing/participating in at least one requirement of the course. Note: Simply logging in to your online course does not constitute attendance.

Hybrid classes are a mix of face-to-face and online environments. Students will be expected to attend a certain number of classes as required by the instructor. (Include the policy on absences and tardiness.) In addition to classroom attendance, your weekly active participation in the online component (Blackboard and/or homework software) will be considered and expected.

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software) will be considered and expected.

Last Day to Drop the Class is April 17th!

Make-up Work Policy

There is no make-up work for this class. All students who are enrolled in the class are expected to meet each Deadline for submission.

Classroom Etiquette

- Face-to-Face - No food, drink, tobacco, cell phones, etc.
- Hybrid - Since face-to-face meetings in the classroom may be replaced by online meetings through discussion boards, emails, and/or Blackboard Collaborate, students are expected to follow the rules of netiquette in these forums.
- **Online** - Since face-to-face meetings in the classroom may be replaced by online meetings through discussion boards, emails, and/or Blackboard Collaborate, students are expected to follow the rules of netiquette in these forums

Exam Policy

Exams will be given in person every Tuesday for the first five minutes of class. This will be based on the lecture and reading from the previous week.

Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Students should use AI technology responsibly and ethically. This includes refraining from using AI to engage in harmful or unethical activities, such as generating false information, spreading misinformation, or engaging in malicious behaviors. The use of AI should align with the principles of academic integrity, honesty, and respect for others. Students are responsible for adhering to LSCO's Academic Honesty policy found in the Student Handbook. LSCO's full AI policy can be found at [AI Policy | Lamar State College Orange \(lSCO.edu\)](https://www2.lSCO.edu/Syllabi/Spring%2026/Cortez%20Gabriel/SPCH-1311-60S%20-%20Intro%20Speech%20Communication%20Syllabus.html)

Expected Time Requirement for this Course

For every hour in class (or unit of credit) taught in a 16-week session, students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. Example: For a 3-credit hour class taught in a 16-week session, students should prepare to allocate approximately 6 to 9 hours per week outside of class studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit hour taught in a 10-week summer session, students should prepare to allocate approximately 10 to 15 hours per week outside of class studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit hour taught in an 8-week session, students should prepare to allocate approximately 12 to 18 hours per week outside of class studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit hour taught in a 5-week summer session, students should prepare to allocate approximately 20 to 29 hours per week outside of class studying and completing assignments.

Grading and Evaluation Method

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS= 33.3% of your final grade

Exam knowledge will cover information from the textbook as well as information from lecture notes. You must READ your TEXT in this class. The exams will be composed of multiple-choice and true/false questions. These will be presented at the beginning of class.

SPEECHES = 33.3% of your final grade

There will be two speeches during this semester: an informative speech and a persuasive speech. Each speech presentation will be graded on organization, research and supporting materials, adherence to time restrictions, preparation, and delivery. The Informative Speech will be between 4 – 6 minutes in length. The Persuasive Speech will be between 5 – 7 minutes in length. Not following time requirements will result in a 10% deduction of final speech grade.

ASSIGNMENTS = 33.3% of your final grade

There will be homework given to demonstrate your comprehension of the textbook. Your answers will demonstrate your ability to understand terms and reflect them through explanations/analysis.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION**Speeches:**

Informative Speech..... 50%
 Persuasive Speech.....50%

Participation:

Homework Assignments..... 25%

Assignments:

Assignments..... 25%

Evaluation Method:

A	90 – 100%	Exceptionally well-prepared completion of assignments indicating effort, individual style, and impact expected of effective communication.
B	80 – 89%	Well prepared completion of assignments indicating original application of course materials and individual imagination distinctly superior to “C” effort.
C	70 – 79%	Satisfactory completion of assignments indicating effort normally expected of the majority of students
D	60 – 69%	Unsatisfactory completion of assignment demonstrating a lack of effort or understanding
F	0 – 59%	Failure to complete assignments or failure to demonstrate understanding

Instructor Response Time

The instructor will respond to emails within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. On weekends and holidays, the instructor will respond to emails from students within 24 hours of the first business day following the weekend or holiday.

Participation Requirements

Weekly participation and engagement in the courses are critical for student success. Assignments should be completed by the due date. No late work is accepted in the course. Students should also refer to the instructor's attendance policy for additional information.

Review of Test Grades

If the student has an issue with his/her grade, the instructor must be contacted no later than three days after receiving the grade.

Student's Responsibility

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the rules, policies, regulations, and ethical standards of Lamar State College Orange as those contained in the current LSCO Catalog and schedule of classes.

Syllabus Content

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus if deemed necessary. All changes will be provided to the students orally or in writing before the implementation of the change.

Textbook and Required Materials Access

Every student **MUST** have access to the required textbooks by the second week of class. The student will be responsible for all assignments given. Failure to have a text may result in being dropped from the class. Failure to follow instructions (written or oral) will result in penalties.

STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

Mental Health Resources

TimelyCare is a virtual health and well-being platform that is available 24/7 for all non-dual credit enrolled LSCO students. There is no cost to eligible students for this service. TimelyCare™s providers offer emotional support, mental health counseling, health coaching, psychiatry, and basic needs support. Non-Dual Credit students enrolled in classes can log in to the TimelyCare website or app available at timelycare.com/LSCO.

Advocacy Information

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is encouraged to contact the advising office for guidance on how to identify possible resources. Please notify the instructor of your circumstance if you are comfortable doing so.

Equal Opportunity to Educational Programs

Lamar State College Orange (LSCO) is an equal opportunity educational institution and does not discriminate against any person regardless of race, sex, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status, in admissions, educational programs, student activities or employment. For further information about this policy, contact the Accessibility Coordinator at (409) 882-3393.

Title IX of the Education Amendments

LSCO prohibits discrimination, including sexual harassment and retaliation, against any student on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or any other basis prohibited by law. Any student who believes that he or she has experienced prohibited conduct or believes that another student has experienced prohibited conduct should immediately report the alleged acts to the Title IX Coordinator, Rebecca Gentry, at Rebecca.Gentry@lSCO.edu.

Blackboard Resources

LSCO students will access Blackboard through the MyGator portal. Login credentials will use the following format: username@my.lSCO.edu and Password. For help in identifying your Username/Password, visit <https://www2.lSCO.edu/sspr/>.

Blackboard student resource videos and help-sites are available at <https://www.lSCO.edu/distanceed/blackboard-student.asp>.

Career Coach

Lamar State College Orange provides career advising services to all students and alumni through Career Coach, an online career planning tool. Career Coach assists students through all phases of developing, initiating, and implementing career plans.

Information regarding employment opportunities and career options are provided along with access to live local job postings. Full-time and part-time employment opportunities, as well as internships, are available through Career Coach. Visit <https://www.lSCO.edu/advising/career-planning.asp> for more details on how to use LSCO's Career Coach to plan for and learn more about your future career.

Gator Assistance Services

Lamar State College Orange provides currently enrolled technical students support for daycare costs as well as other services.

Visit <https://www.lSCO.edu/advising/gator-assistance.asp> for details on assistance services.

OASIS (formerly) Gator Success Center

Students are encouraged to make an appointment or walk in to receive tutoring, support services, or access to an open computer lab. Face-to-face and online supplemental instruction sessions are available to help students through any LSCO course. Reach out to learning.center@lsco.edu for more information on how students can receive academic support.

Library Services

Students are encouraged to visit library.lsco.edu to find the library's current operating hours, access the catalog to locate print materials, and access GatorSearch to explore the vast electronic collection. The library provides over 77 electronic database collections that include eBooks, newspapers, magazines, academic journals, and streaming video. The physical library contains a specialized collection of research materials specifically chosen to support the degrees and courses offered. Additionally, Students with research questions or questions about library services are encouraged visit the library in person, call 409-882-3352, access the chat on the library webpage, or to email their question to lscolibrary@lsco.edu.

Student with Disabilities

Under the Texas State System, Lamar State College Orange complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with disability. We strive to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them.

Students who believe they have a disability requiring an academic adjustment/auxiliary aid are encouraged to contact the Accessibility Coordinator at (409) 882-3393 or visit the Advising Office. Students are encouraged to apply before the start of the semester when at all possible. The Accommodation Request Form and details regarding the appropriate documentation needed can be found here: <https://www.lsco.edu/advising/disability.asp>. Once approved, the signed accommodation form provided by the Special Populations Advisor must be submitted to the instructor at least two business days in advance of need.

Students with questions about the accommodations they receive in class should contact their instructor or the Accessibility Coordinator.

Upswing 24/7 FREE Tutoring Services

Lamar State College Orange provides currently enrolled students with access to online tutoring through a partnership with Upswing, an online tutoring platform. Tutors are available 24/7 online in almost every subject.

Visit <https://www.lsco.edu/tutoring/online-tutoring.asp> for details on how to log-in to the FREE services.

INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Campus Closure

In the event of an emergency campus closure in excess of three class days, Lamar State College Orange's classes will continue via the use of Blackboard. In such an instance, the college website, www.lsco.edu, will have

information concerning the event and anticipated re-opening plans.

Civility

Please be considerate of other classmates' feelings, ethnic background, cultural differences, situations, and level of maturity. Students will be asked to leave the course if disruptive or inappropriate behavior is exhibited in any of the course requirements. If your instructor feels that you have not contributed appropriately to course requirements, your final course grade may be reduced accordingly.

The instructor reserves the right to manage a positive learning environment and will not tolerate inappropriate conduct in the course. Rude correspondence (discourteous or impolite, especially in a deliberate way) in e-mails, telephone calls, in person, or comments made to other class members, the instructor, or the office staff.

Contingency Plans

Students should develop a backup plan should their computer system or their Internet provider fail. Computer or internet connectivity issues are not valid excuses for missing a deadline. The College provides many opportunities for using computer equipment, as do many public libraries. Refer to the LSCO website for operational hours of the Library and Success Center.

Credit Transfer

Students should check in advance with the institution to which they plan to transfer credit to confirm transferability. Refer to the LSCO Catalog for details on how to handle and resolve transfer disputes with public institutions of higher education in Texas.

Criminal Background Policy

LSCO awards some certificates and degrees in which a criminal history MAY disqualify candidates from becoming licensed, certified, and/or employed upon degree/certificate completion. Students with a criminal background enrolling in courses leading to a degree/certificate in Court Reporting, Criminal Justice, Cosmetology, Emergency Medical Technology, Massage Therapy, Medical Assisting, Vocational Nursing (VN), Registered Nursing (RN), Pharmacy Technician, Real Estate, or Teacher Preparation program are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to discuss the certification and/or licensing regulations of the program with the program director listed in order to learn more about the current guidelines related to criminal history as well as the right of individuals to request a criminal history evaluation letter.

Drops and Withdrawals

Never attending or ceasing to attend classes **DOES NOT** constitute a drop or withdrawal. You remain registered until you request a drop from the instructor. Failure to act in a timely manner will result in an "F" grade for the course. It is the student's responsibility to follow up with the LSCO advising office to ensure that all drops/withdrawals are processed as desired.

Grade of "Incomplete"

The grade of "I" may be given when any requirement of the course, including the final examination, is not

completed. Students seeking an incomplete should have completed at least 75% of the course requirements and be passing the course at the time of the request. Arrangements to complete deficiencies in a course should be made in advance of the end of the semester with the instructor. The instructor will process the Incomplete form online, and a confirmation will be sent to the student's LSCO email.

Incomplete work must be finished during the next long semester. If not, the Office of Admission and Records must change the "I" grade to the grade of "F." The course must then be repeated if credit is desired. An "I" grade also automatically becomes an "F" if the student registers for the course prior to removing the deficiencies and receiving a grade change. The instructor may record the grade of "F" for a student who is absent from the final examination and is not passing the course.

Grade Appeals (Complaints Related to Earned Grades)

Grade determination and awarding of grades in a course are the responsibility of the instructor and should be calculated according to college policy, procedures, and written details provided in the course syllabus. NOTE: Final grades are available to students within 48 hours of the instructor posting the grade in Banner. Students may view final grades by logging into MyGator and then accessing Gator Self-Service.

An academic appeal process is afforded to students who desire to dispute a grade or any decision that affects the student's ability to complete and earn a grade for the course provided it is not related to a violation outlined in the LSCO Student Code of Conduct. If an informal conference with the faculty member regarding an academic complaint fails to reach the outcome requested by the student, the student may initiate the formal process outlined below. Even after initiating the formal complaint process, students are encouraged to seek informal resolution of their concerns. A student whose concerns are resolved may withdraw a formal complaint at any time.

Refer to the current catalog or for details on the formal grade appeal process.

Institutional Educational Goals

Lamar State College Orange has identified seven educational goals to specify the knowledge and skills that students should gain from completing academic and technical programs with the College. These goals are:

1. Critical thinking (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to demonstrate creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
2. Communication (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to effectively develop, interpret and express of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Empirical and quantitative skills (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts and create informed conclusions.
4. Teamwork (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
5. Social responsibility (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to recognize and acquire a sense of intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
6. Personal responsibility (General Education, Technical) - Students will be able to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

7. Professional competency (Technical) - Students will be able to recognize or demonstrate skills and that depict professional values and employability. If the career has licensure or certification requirements, students may prepare for the licensure and certification in a capstone course and sit for the licensure or certificate at the end of the program.

MyGator and Log-In Credentials

Current students will access many LSCO applications through the MyGator portal. Login credentials will use the following format: username@my.lSCO.edu/Password. For help in identifying your username/Password, visit <https://www2.lSCO.edu/sspr/>.

It is a violation of College policy, state laws, and federal laws for anyone to gain or help others gain unauthorized access to MyGator or any LSCO application or service. All accounts shall be for use by a single individual - the person for whom the account was approved or assigned. This includes Blackboard accounts as well as any application within MyGator. Sharing or loaning accounts is strictly prohibited, can be construed as a form of cheating, and violates College policy, state laws, and federal laws.

Policies and Procedures

LSCO adheres to the policies and procedures established in the Texas Education Code, Texas State University System Rules and Regulations, LSCO Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual, LSCO Faculty Handbook, and LSCO Catalog.

Prohibited Items in the Classroom

No food or tobacco (including smokeless) products are allowed in the classroom. Only students enrolled in the course are allowed in the classroom, except by special instructor permission. It is inappropriate for minor children to be on campus due to the potential liability to the College, the risk of harm to the children, and decreased employee productivity due to distractions and disruptions.

Student Complaints (excluding Safety, Harassment, or Title IX)

Student-Staff and Student-Instructor Complaint Process excluding Safety, Harassment, or Title IX

LSCO believes that all matters involving a staff member (non-instructor) OR an instructor are best resolved directly with the employee. Should it not be resolved at that level, access and complete the [Student Complaint Intake](#) form within five (5) business days from the date of the offense. The *Student Complaint Intake Form* can be found in any of these locations:

- LSCO Website (Current Students)
- LSCO Catalog (Student Services, Complaints)
- MyGator Card
- Blackboard (Student Resources, Student Services, Student Resources)

After a student completes the *Student Complaint Intake Form*, they will be contacted by an LSCO employee unrelated to the offense and provided guidance on how to proceed with the Complaint process.

Refer to the LSCO Catalog (Student Services, [Complaints](#)) for details on the complaint process.

Student Complaints (involving Safety, Harassment, or Title IX)

Student-Staff and Student-Instructor Complaint Process involving Safety, Harassment, or Title IX:

Students who have experienced a safety, harassment, or title IX event should access and complete the Title IX/Clery: Anonymous Reporting Form found in any of these locations:

- LSCO Website (Sexual Misconduct & Title IX)
- LSCO Catalog (Student Services, Complaints)
- MyGator Card
- Blackboard (Student Resources, Student Services, Student Resources)

After a student completes the intake form, they will be contacted by an LSCO employee and provided guidance on how to proceed.

Refer to the LSCO Catalog (Student Services, [Complaints](#)) for details on the complaint process.

Student Privacy

The privacy of all students, including Distance Education students, is protected through strict adherence to the rules of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act. LSCO's statement regarding the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act can be found in LSCO's Catalog. Additional information regarding privacy for Distance Education students can be found in the Distance Education Handbook.