

**BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
The City University of New York  
Department of Speech, Communications and Theatre Arts

**COURSE TITLE**

3 credits	Fundamentals of Public Speaking	Fall 2022
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**MEETING TIME AND PLACE**

SPE 100-1900	Mon/Wed 7-8:15pm	Fiterman 510
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**FACULTY**

Aug 29 - Sep 21  Karim Muasher <a href="mailto:kmuasher@bmcc.cuny.edu">kmuasher@bmcc.cuny.edu</a> (Allow up to 3 days for a response)  Office Hours: Tue/Thu 12-1:3pm (By appointment only)	Sep 28 - Dec 19  To Be Announced
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The aim of this course is to develop effective skills in speech communication. The student examines how to generate topics and organized ideas, masters elements of audience psychology and practices techniques of speech presentation in a public forum. All elements of speech production and presentation are considered.

**PREREQUISITES**

Fundamentals of Public Speaking (SPE 100 or SPE 102 for non-native speakers) is a required course for all BMCC students except Allied Health majors. Before registering for SPE 100 or SPE 102, students must have completed or be exempted from: ENG 088, ESL 094 and RDG 062.

**COVID POLICY**

This class is a mask-friendly environment. If you are feeling sick at all, please notify your professor and stay home.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Organize and deliver an outline for a presentation.  
"How can I make my ideas clear to others?"

2. Identify how physicality affects audience and speaker psychology.  
"What stories does the body have to tell?"

3. Use different tactics to engage audiences.  
"How do I keep people interested?"

## COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

1. Do your own work - no plagiarism allowed.
2. Attend every class - this experience only works if we all do it together.
3. Embrace discomfort - take risks and let yourself be challenged in order to grow.
4. Be welcoming to everyone - open your heart to others and let yourself grow.

The following actions may be grounds for IMMEDIATE FAILURE in the class:

1. Plagiarism.
2. Missing more than 2 classes.
3. Consistently not participating in class activities.
4. Not delivering one of your presentations.
5. Harmful language or discrimination.

## UN-GRADING POLICY

Instead of focusing my efforts on GRADING by constantly ranking your performance (assigning a number, score, or letter to everything you do) I will be focusing on UN-GRADING by making qualitative assessments (posing questions and making comments that invite you to go deeper in your learning.) and asking you to assign yourself a grade.

Of course, grades are the norm in most school settings, and I appreciate their relevance to your academic goals. Throughout the semester, I will ask you to complete 3 self-reflections in which you will take into account your attendance, completion of assignments, participation, and learning to assign yourself a grade. The average of these four grades will be your official grade at the end of the semester.

\*I do reserve the right to change any self-assigned grades I perceive as grossly inaccurate (for example, if a student who rarely came to class and only submitted a small fraction of assignments gave themselves an A).

If all of this worries you, I simply encourage you to engage enthusiastically with the class as the best way to receive a good grade. You are also welcome to check in with me at any point in the semester to have a conversation about your progress.

You have most likely not encountered this kind of approach before. Please do not take it as a signal that this class will be an "easy A." Please DO take it as a signal that I want your time in this class to be exciting, rigorous, and meaningful.

**CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

TOPIC	DAY	HOMEWORK DUE	IN-CLASS WORK
Building Community	Mon Aug 29		Module 1: The Discomfort Scale The Science of Learning Learning Goals
Project: Personal Narrative	Wed Aug 31		Module 2: Body Language Ten Meter Tower Power Poses
	Wed Sep 7		Module 3: The Mind/Stimulus and Response Pendulation
	Mon Sep 12		Module 4: Storytelling  Module 5: Outline Vs Essay Topic Selection
	Wed Sep 14	Module 6: Outline	Module 7: Description Gesture Rubric + Practice
	Mon Sep 19	Project Performance Day 1	Performance Observations
	Wed Sep 21	Project Performance Day 2	Performance Observations  Module 8: Self-Grade 1
	Project: Informative Speech	Wed Sep 28 - Mon Nov 7	TBD
Project: Persuasive Speech	Wed Nov 9 - Mon Dec 12	TBD	TBD
Final Reflection	Mon Dec 19	TBD	TBD

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

This is a ZTC (Zero Textbook Cost) course, everything you need will be on the course website.

## **PARTICIPATION POLICIES**

College policy: Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in in-class or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student's responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

My policy: In order for you to get the most out of this experience, it's essential that you attend and participate in every class, and complete every speech project. If you fall behind, or know that you are going to fall behind, in your participation, please be in touch with me ASAP so that we can make a plan

## **OPENLAB**

Each student must have an account on the BMCC OpenLab. Click on [THIS LINK](#) for instructions on how to sign up. After signing up, you will need to navigate to the course website and click the JOIN button.

## **EMAIL**

Each student must have an active BMCC email account that they check on a daily basis. Why? Because I will inevitably contact you via your BMCC email and you don't want to miss it. Also, it's a great tool! The college sends out lots of emails with resources that can be helpful to you. You can login to your email at [https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/email/student\\_email.jsp](https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/email/student_email.jsp)

## **BMCC POLICY ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure of how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's website, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu)