

GS21 1143 ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR SCIENTISTS

Spring 2017

Meeting times: Thursday, 10:00 – noon plus one hour outside of class for reviewing videos.

Course Coordinator: Dr. Shawn Bratton (sbbratton@mdanderson.org), Office: SRL 1.112
Dr. Richard Wood (rwood@mdanderson.org), Office: SRD1.132

Locations: Conference Center Auditorium (most sessions)
Lab 4 Conference room (Jan 19, March 30, Apr 27, May 4, May 11)

Date	Topic
Jan. 12	Principles of Public Speaking, why it's important! Examples of good/bad talks.
Jan. 19	"My story and my life's goals" (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Jan. 26	"My story and my life's goals" (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Feb. 2	How to prepare an excellent talk and give constructive criticism
Feb. 9	General Science Topic #1 - Not in your area (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Feb. 16	General Science Topic #2 - Not in your area (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Feb. 23	National Meeting Talk #1 - Your Research (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Mar. 2	National Meeting Talk #2 - Your Research (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Mar. 9	Spring Break
Mar. 16	Elevator Speech (3 min): Critiques and Discussion
Mar. 23	Lay Seminar #1 - A talk for your mother (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Mar. 30	Lay Seminar #2 - A talk for your mother (20 min): Critiques and Discussion
Apr. 6	Famous Scientist (20 min) #1: Critiques and Discussion
Apr. 13	Famous Scientist (20 min) #2: Critiques and Discussion
Apr. 20	Toastmaster's Extemporaneous Speaking (10 min): Critiques and Discussion
Apr. 27	Chalk Talk (30 min) #1 - Job Interview: Critiques and Discussion
May 4	Chalk Talk (30 min) #2 - Job Interview: Critiques and Discussion
May 11	Chalk Talk (30 min) #3 - Job Interview: Critiques and Discussion

Note: depending upon class size, video reviews scheduled for the following week may be replaced by additional talks; in this instance, critiques and discussion will occur immediately following a given talk without the benefit of video review.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course the student will be able to:

1. Speak more clearly and effectively.
2. Critique (in a non-threatening manner) the oral presentations of others.
3. Organize and prepare a successful seminar, geared toward your peers and lay audiences.
4. Prepare for a successful chalk talk that clearly delineates your future research goals.

Grades will be determined as follows:

	<u>Points</u>	<u>Scale:</u>
Attendance	25	90-100 = A
Participation	15	80-89 = B
Written Self and Peer Critiques	20	70-79 = C
Quality of Presentations	25	65-69 = D
Improvement on Presentations	15	< 65 = F
Total	100	

Attendance is very important, not only to help you improve on your presentations skills, but also because speaking slots will be assigned in an orderly fashion for each student and your absence will disrupt the schedule.

Improvement in presentation skills is a major goal of the course. Drs. Bratton and Wood will base this score on (a) average scores from peer evaluations and (b) his scores from evaluations of the student's presentations.