Hello and Welcome to COMS 105: Fundamentals of Public Speaking!

Welcome to Communication Studies 105, Public Speaking, Online Hybrid, at College of the Canyons. I am Simon Kern, the instructor for this course and I look forward to meeting you at the first class on Monday, September 15th at 2:00 p.m. In the meantime, I would like to go over some important information that will contribute to your success in the class, and also help you prepare to take an online class. Failure to attend the first day of class will result in an automatic drop, regardless of circumstances.

Course Information:

Our first class session is on September 15th, and will begin at 2:00 p.m. and last until 5:45p.m. (and will include breaks). Your attendance at the first class meeting and all other Monday meetings is mandatory to successfully pass the course. Vacation plans or work commitments will prevent you from being allowed to remain in the course, so please make sure your calendar is cleared. Your participation grade and your ability to be successful would be impacted greatly if any portion of a class is missed. At the first class meeting I will provide you with a complete syllabus and course packet which will explain the course and its requirements, as well as give you a great number of useful handouts. We will also begin discussion and lecture that day.

This is a hybrid course (partially online and partially in person) where we will learn how to be successful in any public speaking situation including:

- Introductions
- Impromptu speaking
- Informing
- Persuading
- Storytelling

Every one of these situations comes up in our personal lives and at work. Knowing the strategies and the tools available to us will be the focus of this class. We will learn different speech structures and organizational patterns, speech composition, delivery, how to manage anxiety, how to prepare and practice and more.

Key Scheduling Information:

As you know, this class will meet in person only six (6) times during the semester. Those dates are

- 9/15
- 9/29
- 10/13
- 11/3
These days will mostly be reserved for speeches but there will be some lecture to clarify any questions you may have. The rest of the work (discussion boards, quizzes, exams, labs, etc.) will be on the course website.

Technology Requirements:

You must have regular access to the internet, an updated web browser (I recommend Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox), and a word processing program such as Microsoft Word or Open Office. There is a textbook for this class available at the COC Bookstore.

You can access the class at https://bb9.canyons.edu

If you already have an account in Blackboard, use your regular login information.
If you did not already have an account in Blackboard, one has been created for you.
The login information is

Username: <first initial> <last name> (for example my login is “skern”
Password:

If you are unfamiliar with blackboard, it may be a good idea to become familiar with the information on blackboard at the Distance Learning website. Look especially closely at the Blackboard tutorial, which contains instructions on accessing a class in Blackboard. You can find the distance learning website here.

http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Pages/default.aspx

More detailed information will be available in the course syllabus, which you’ll find when you log into Blackboard.

Read the syllabus closely to see when assignments are due and standards of conduct.

If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask. I’m here to help you through anything from anxiety, to writing, to practice. So let’s enjoy ourselves and help each other.

Simon Kern
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