

Course Title: Mastering Academic Communication

Instructional Hours: This course meets for two hours twice a week for 16 weeks, totaling 64 hours in the semester.

Course Description: This class will help develop students' communicative ability through discussion, collaboration, and active listening utilizing various mediums including project-based learning, Socratic method, debate, and real-world experiences. Students use English in a variety of communicative ways to be successful in a formal academic environment. Students will bridge their language between the classroom and community. They will use systems thinking and proactive problem solving to analyze and discuss intersectional current local, national, and global issues.

Course Objectives:

- Students will share personal ideas, opinions, and research about local, national, and global issues.
- Students will analyze current topics, events, affairs utilizing critical thinking skills.
- Students will collaborate on socially relevant projects both in the classroom and out in the community.
- Students will debate current socio-political arguments while integrating their active listening skills.
- Students will learn local, national, global cultural dynamics.
- Students will learn formal and informal communication strategies for academic, professional, and interpersonal settings including turn-taking, interrupting, and hedging.
- Students will improve their fluency in meaningful ways for real time conversations and discussions in the classroom and the world beyond with native and multilingual speakers.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand standard spoken language, live or broadcast on both familiar and unfamiliar topics normally encountered in personal, social, academic or vocational life.
- Give clear, systematically developed descriptions and presentations, with appropriate highlighting of significant points, and relevant supporting detail.
- Develop an argument systematically with appropriate highlighting of significant points, and relevant supporting detail.
- Explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.
- Spontaneously shift from a prepared text and follow up interesting points raised by members of the audience, showing fluency, accuracy, and ease of expression.

Assignments:

- Discuss and analyze articles and media from various sources.
- Attend, take notes, and share information about lectures and SSU classes.
 - Multiple opportunities to attend lectures on subjects ranging from engineering, to arts, humanities, sciences, tourism, and more.
- Participate in community activities including: lectures, debates, meetings, films, presentations, and social events both on and off campus.
- Research and present on local points of interest, history, and cultural topics.
 - Native American sites and modern tribal influence, Luther Burbank, Wine Industry, Tech Industry, Music, Festivals, etc.
- Develop opinions and put forward different views in a formal debate format.

Grading:

Class participation/discussion: 30%

Written assignments: 20%

Presentations: 20%

Quizzes: 15%

Exams: 15%

100-98% = A+; 97-93%=A; 92-90%=A-

89-88%=B+; 87-83%=B; 82-80%=B-

79-78%=C+; 77-73%=C; 70-72%=C-

69-68%=D+; 67-63%=D; 62-60%=D-

59% and below = F