

Introduction to Communications and Speech

Course Overview and Syllabus

Course Number: LA1027

Grade level: 9-12

Prerequisite Courses: None

Credits: 0.5

Course Description

Beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication, this course offers fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding. High school students enrolled in this one-semester course will be guided through engaging lectures and interactive activities, exploring themes of self-awareness and perception in communication. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students are given the opportunity to critique and analyze speeches in the course.

Course Objectives

Throughout the course, you will meet the following goals:

- Understand verbal and nonverbal aspects of human communication
- Evaluate factors that impact the quality of communication, including interpersonal relationships, gender, and culture
- Analyze communication on multiple levels, including interpersonal, small group, and organizational
- Prepare and deliver effective presentations and speeches for a variety of purposes

Student Expectations

This course requires the same level of commitment from you as a traditional classroom course would. Throughout the course, you are expected to spend approximately 5–7 hours per week online on the following activities:

- Interactive lessons that include a mixture of instructional videos and tasks
- Assignments in which you apply and extend learning in each lesson
- Assessments, including quizzes, tests, and cumulative exams

Communication

Your teacher will communicate with you regularly through discussions, email, chat, and system announcements. You will also communicate with classmates, either via online tools or face to face, as you collaborate on projects, ask and answer questions in your peer group, and develop your speaking and listening skills.

Grading Policy

You will be graded on the work you do online and the work you submit electronically to your teacher. The weighting for each category of graded activity is listed below.

Grading Category	Weight
Assignments	10%
Essays	0%
Lesson Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	50%
Cumulative Exams	20%
Additional	0%

Scope and Sequence

When you log into Edgenuity, you can view the entire course map—an interactive scope and sequence of all topics you will study. The units of study are summarized below:

Unit 1: Communications: Foundations of Communication

Unit 2: Communications: Understanding Verbal and Nonverbal Messages

Unit 3: Communications: Listening and Responding; Culture and Gender Differences

Unit 4: Communications: Interpersonal, Small Group, and Organizational Communication

Unit 5: Speech: Introduction to Public Speaking

Unit 6: Speech: Preparing and Delivering Your Speech

Unit 7: Speech: Informative and Persuasive Presentations