

COM 4930: Communication Practicum (Speech Lab Consulting) Spring 2022

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Office: ROL 201 (and Zoom)
Office Hours: TR 9:00-11:00AM (and by appointment)
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Course Objectives

- Increase skills in the consultation and mentoring relationship.
 - Develop awareness of liability issues in consultation.
 - Refine knowledge of presentation skills across a variety of settings.
 - Increase understanding of how scholarly training relates to life outside the classroom.
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Course Description

The Communication Practicum is a 3-credit course combining online classroom instruction with practical, hands-on communication experience. This is a course for students that have already completed an advanced level public speaking course and are ready to move on to mentoring others in the speech preparation process - specifically, within the Dial Center's Public Speaking Lab.

In the early part of this course, we focus on tools in preparation for working with the clients of the Public Speaking Lab. We examine concepts central to the consultation and mentoring relationship, including ethics, empowering others, and helping others with speech anxiety. Students will also stretch their own speaking skills to consider speeches in professional settings, such as teaching, dissertation defenses, and conference presentations. Finally, students will be asked to demonstrate their knowledge by preparing a workshop on one aspect of the speechmaking process – whether that be the narrowing and selection of a topic, the preparation of an outline, strategies for rehearsing and enhancing delivery, etc.

After the first 4 weeks of the semester, students will use their skills to assist others to develop speaking presentations. Over the course of the semester, students will spend a total of 150 hours in consultation, record-keeping, reflection, and preparation (or 10 hours per week).

Optional Texts

Connor, M. & Pokora, J. (2012). *Coaching and Mentoring at Work: Developing Effective Practice*. Second Edition. McGraw-Hill Publishing.

Newton, F., Ender, S., and Gardner, J. (2010). *Students Helping Students: A Guide for Peer Educators on College Campuses*. Second Edition. Jossey-Bass.

Most students do not opt to pick these up. However, if you plan to involve yourself more in consulting in the future, you might appreciate these readings. In particular, I'd recommend the top one.

Assignments

Office hours	5 points
Online certification trainings	20 points
'Intro to Speech' Instructional Video	20 points
Practice Consultation(s) (with past lab undergrad consultant)	10 points
Oral Exam/consultation (with Nick Dzoba)	25 points
Weekly 'Debrief' Discussions	10 points
End of Semester Reflection	10 points
Total:	100 points

Grading scale

93-100 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	63-66 D
87-89 B+	73-76 C	60-62 D-
83-86 B	70-72 C-	59 and below E

Assignment Descriptions

Online Trainings (20 points)

Since you are working with students' academic information, you are required to complete both the "FERPA basics" training and the "Maintaining a Safe and Respectful Campus" training through UF.

- Go to Myufl, my self service, and my training. You can then search both trainings and take them online.
- Submit proof of completion by **February 4th** on Canvas. You can take a screen shot of the certificates.

'Intro to Speech' Instructional Video (20 points)

Students will work in pairs to create an instructional video for public speaking beginners. Groups will first select a chapter from the SPC2608 course textbook (*The Art of Public Speaking* by Steven Lucas) to narrow the focus of their instruction (e.g., how to select a topic and purpose, speaking to inform, speaking in the online environment, delivery, etc.). Groups will then design a 6–10-minute 'instructional' video about that topic, supplementing the material from the course text with suggestions from peer-reviewed articles and group members' own experiences. See Canvas assignment for more details.

Practice Consultation(s) (10 points)

Students will complete a role play with a returning consultant. Students will role play the consultant and returners will role play a client coming in for help. You will role play this scenario for 15 minutes. Then, you will get feedback and an opportunity for questions for another 15 minutes. You will do a 2608 case or one 3218 case depending upon which course you took previously. If you want, you can request to do both. This can be done in the Speech Lab or over Zoom. Please set aside 1 hour for this practice.

Oral Exam on Client Intake (25 points)

In order to assess student effectiveness with the consultation process, each student will complete a 30–45-minute intake with me before starting in the speech lab. I will play the role of a client coming into the lab for help with a speech. Students will demonstrate the interpersonal, administrative, and public speaking skills learned in the online training portion of this practicum.

'Debrief' Discussions (10 points)

For each client contact, students will post a debrief on the Canvas 'Discussion' page. Each debrief should be about 1-2 paragraph in length and should focus on consulting skills that worked and those that could have been improved. Avoid reciting a play-by-play. Focus on what everyone else might learn from that consultation. Also, be sure to protect client identity in these debriefs. The post is more about you as a consultant than the client. Debriefs are due within 5 days of the client contact.

End of Semester Reflection (10 points)

Students will fill out an end-of-semester questionnaire reflecting on their time in the Public Speaking Lab and on their development as a peer mentor.

Late Work

Canvas debriefs are due within 5 days of client contact. Late posts will reduce your grade in the class by 1% point per occurrence.

Online trainings are due as noted in the schedule of topics. Late trainings will result in a 3-point deduction per day late.

Lab Hours/Attendance

Your Lab Hours will be conducted by Zoom. I will share the links on our Canvas site. Please be sure to sign in using UF Zoom specifically and not just your personal zoom account. Punctuality and Dependability are important in professional settings. A practicum is intended to be a move beyond the classroom and into professional practice. Students must hold 3 office hours in the speech lab per week. We will not hold lab hours on UF holidays, including 'recharge days' on Feb 25 and March 24.

Zoom guidelines:

- If you are working with a graduate consultant, you can use break out rooms for privacy.
- You should have your camera on at all times.
- Be sure to use best practices for Zoom meetings with lighting, camera angles, distractions, and dress.
- Be sure that you are in a distraction free room with no other people as these meetings are FERPA protected.

Recordings: If a student wants a copy of a recording, contact me with their email address, and the date and time of your consultation. I will share the recording and screen to be sure we don't accidentally share anything else.

Absences: Each unexcused absence will result in a 5-percentage point reduction from your overall grade.

- Whether documented or not, **all hours missed from the speech lab must be 'made up.'** You will also need to arrange a substitute for your originally scheduled time in the lab. If you get a sub and can't do a direct trade with them to take some of their hours in return, you will need to schedule the office hours you missed at some other time the speech lab is published as open. This ensures you continue to accumulate all practicum hours.

Tardiness: Tardiness means you are 1-15 minutes late to your lab hours. After 15 minutes, you are considered 'absent,' not tardy.

- Each incidence of tardiness will result in a reduction of 1% point from your overall course grade.

Dress Code: Business casual in lab and during workshops.

Professionalism

You will get as much out of your practicum as you put in. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your resume and learn more about consulting. You should learn a great deal and enjoy your practicum experience.

The Dial Center considers all practicum students representatives of the University. Students must maintain a courteous, professional attitude and protect the privacy and rights of clients (this includes protecting the identity of any clients that come into the lab and making no comments on social media about the lab or its clients).

You should conduct yourself as if you are working a salaried, full-time position. You will need to arrive at the lab on time and maintain regular hours. If you will be absent, you should contact Dr. Webster immediately as well as any appointment scheduled. If you have an appointment you must miss, you should arrange a substitute or a timely make-up to fit that client's needs. If you are in office hours and there is not client in the office, you should use the time to in some way improve the lab. For instance, you might make informative handouts or videos that help students (or that can be posted on our website).

Accommodations

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don't get in the way of your work. UF's official statement on ADA issues includes: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation." I'd appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.

Course Schedule

(This is a hybrid course. You are completing all training online. Practice consultations, the oral exam, and office hours will be on Zoom).

Week 1: January 5 – 7
Review syllabus

Week 2: January 10 – 14
Complete Module 1: 'Intro to Lab and Ethics'
Office Hours (availability for lab) due 1/14
Instructional Video Topic and Sources due 1/14
Schedule Practice Consultation and Oral Exam

Week 3: January 17 – 21
Complete Module 2: 'Building the consulting relationship.'
'Intro to Speech' Instructional Video due 1/21

Week 4: January 24 – 28
Complete Module 3: 'Helping with different types of presentations.'

Practice Consultation due 1/28 (complete with a returning consultant – see Canvas ‘Home’ page for names and emails)

Week 5: January 31 – February 4

Oral Exam due 2/4

Online Trainings due 2/4 (submit proof of completion on Canvas)

Weeks 6-15: February 7 – April 15

Hold 2 office hours per week in the Speech Lab

‘Debrief’ Discussions due weekly (on Canvas)

Week 16: April 18 – 22

End of Semester Reflection due April 22