

CARIBBEAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Educating and training ministerial leadership



COM112 Public Speaking

Mission Statement

CST is committed to connect, serve, and train for Pentecostal ministry, leadership, and missions throughout the world.

Professor

Course Description

This course has been written to increase your skill in public speaking and your awareness of the importance of the ministry of speech in all areas of life in all human cultures. Its main emphasis from beginning to end is on the values of Christian ministry through speech. The course has twelve lessons under four units of study. These units deal successively with introductory comment on speaker and speech, resources available to the speaker, the speaker and his audience, and intercultural aspects of speech. Many study questions are interspersed throughout the course. Your answers to some of these questions should cause you to begin to practice valuable speech habits, which, if you continue them, will enrich your ministry through speech.

Resources

You will use *How to Speak in Public*, an Independent-Study Textbook by Louise Harrison, as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Holy Bible is also required. Bible quotations in the Independent-Study Textbook are from the New International Version unless otherwise noted. Some assignments require you to access the Global University Library Web site or other academic sources. Instructions for accessing the Web site are provided in the Undergraduate Writing Assignment Guidelines (UWAG) in the Student Packet. If you are enrolled in this course for three credits, the third credit will be earned by completing a collateral reading assignment (CRA). This assignment is based on the textbook *Public Speaking: A Handbook for Christians*, 2nd ed., by Duane Litfin. The instructions for completing the CRA are in the Student Packet.

Objectives

The key concepts presented in the lesson are derived from the objectives. Study each objective carefully as you begin each lesson. First, identify the key concepts presented in the objective, and second, identify what each objective is asking you to do with the key concepts. For example, in the objective, *Assess the positive and negative ways that colonialism affected the spread of Christianity*, the key concept is colonialism affected Christianity. In this objective you are asked to assess positive and negative ways—or show the good and bad effects colonialism had on the spread of Christianity.

Course Procedures

Classroom lectures, group discussion, audio-visual presentations, handouts, and case studies constitute some of the various methods that will be utilized in order to attain the course objectives.

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Course Introduction

Speech is a ministry just as is writing. The ministry of speech is even more widespread in the world than the ministry of writing. This becomes evident when we recognize that all who minister through writing minister in some way (publicly or privately) through speech also, but that not all who minister through speech even know how to write. Ministry is service. The word applies to secular functions as well as to religious activity. The various ministries of speech fulfill the purposes of speech. Some main purposes of speech are: to entertain, to inform, to persuade, to inspire, and to actuate. To actuate listeners through speech often requires more skill and dedication on the part of the speaker than does entertaining or informing them—or even persuading them when persuasion falls short of actuation. Persuasion sometimes includes actuation, but not always. This will be explained in detail in the course.

Although this course has references to and explanations of the secular ministries of speech, its main emphasis is on Christian ministry through speech. This is why “speaking to actuate” is so important in the course. In Christian circles, the main purpose of most speeches should be to cause action—either the beginning or the continuation of biblical, spiritual action that works in the physical realm as well as in the spiritual realm. In a very real sense, true Christianity is commitment to action. May the study of this course help you to better understand the values of all ministries through speech. I especially hope it will aid you to improve your speech and use it to influence people to live for God.