COM 114 TEST OUT: WRITTEN EXAM AND SPEECH REQUIREMENTS

Part 1: Written Exam
The written exam consists of 50 multiple choice questions about presentational speaking. Students wishing to prepare can consult any college-level public speaking textbook including *Effective Presentations* by Morgan & Natt. Students must score 70% (35 out of 50 correct) or more to pass.

Exam questions are based on the course objectives which include:
- effectively analyze an audience and use that analysis to adapt a message
- demonstrate the ability to organize information using an appropriate organization structure
- utilize supporting materials and evidence
- utilize informative and persuasive strategies
- demonstrate effective verbal and non-verbal delivery skills
- utilize group communication skills
- create and use visual aids effectively
- develop effective introductions and conclusions

One hour is allotted for the exam. If the exam is taken during the academic school year, students will be informed of the results of the written exam via a sealed envelope with their name that can be picked up after 12:00pm (noon) two business days after the exam in BRNG 2114 (the main office of the Brian Lamb School of Communication). Students who take the written exam during the summer STAR program will have their results mailed within one week of taking the exam. Those who pass the written exam will be given a speech date and time. The speech component of test out will occur during the fall or spring semesters.

Part 2: Speech Presentation
After passing the written exam, students will be required to present an informative or persuasive speech about the assigned current event topic. An informative speech gives the audience new and interesting information. A persuasive speech urges some specific course of action. For example, if the current event topic was Wildfires in Canada, an appropriate informative topic might be about the causes of the fires, or innovative strategies for fighting the fires. An appropriate persuasive speech topic might be advocating for tighter regulations of the oil industry as the oil soaked sand is what is burning. The audience will be comprised of other students completing the oral portion of test out. A video may be made of each speaker. The basic requirements for the speech are as follows:
- The speech must be 5-7 minutes in length.
- The speech is to be delivered extemporaneously, that is, neither read from a manuscript or detailed note cards nor memorized.

DISTINGUISH yourself
• A visual aid consisting of at least two PowerPoint slides is required. A computer with projection capabilities is provided.
• One copy of the presentational outline must be provided at the time of the speech.
• Speech must have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. At least five recent sources must be used to develop the speech, and these must be included in a reference page that is submitted with the speech outline. The outline must be in APA format.
• At least five sources must be cited orally in the speech.
• The speech must be original work constructed specifically FOR test out. If academic dishonesty is detected in the outline, the student will not be permitted to complete the oral presentation, will automatically fail the oral presentation, and may be reported to The Office of the Dean of Students.

Students completing the oral presentation must remain at the session for its duration to serve as audience members for students also completing the oral portion of test out. The session is approximately 60-90 minutes long.

An experienced COM 114 instructor will evaluate the speeches and decide if the student passes or not. Decisions cannot be appealed. Speeches will be judged on delivery, organization, content, and mechanics. The sample evaluation form below which is subject to change, provides a more detailed example of how speeches will be evaluated.

Questions about test out may be emailed to testout@purdue.edu

COM 114 TEST OUT SPEECH EVALUATION FORM

INTRODUCTION:
____ Captured attention
____ Stated thesis
____ Related topic to audience
____ Established speaker credibility
____ Previewed main points
____ Provided transition to body

BODY:
____ Organized main points clearly and logically
____ Included transitions between main points
____ Used accurate, relevant and timely supporting materials in sufficient quantity
____ Cited at least 5 sources accurately in speech
____ Used relevant, professional visual aids that enhanced audience understanding
____ Explained visual aids clearly
____ Used an oral language style appropriate to topic and audience
____ Used a variety of supporting material (statistics, examples, narratives)
____ Supporting material corresponded to the main points

CONCLUSION:
____ Provided transition to conclusion
____ Restated thesis
____ Summarized main points
____ Ended with a memorable final thought (clincher)
DELIVERY:

___ Used adequate and inclusive eye contact
___ Used effective vocal delivery (appropriate rate and volume, clear articulation,
    varied inflection, and no vocal fillers)
___ Used effective physical delivery (posture, gestures, movement)
___ Delivery was extemporaneous
___ Presentation appeared well rehearsed and practiced