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# SP 501 Communication for Christian Leaders

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**SP 501**  
**COMMUNICATION FOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Intensive Course Format**

**TEXT: Duane Litfin, Public Speaking: A Handbook for Christians, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Baker Book House, 1992.**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**The overall objectives of this course are that you will:**

- **Explore a variety of communication theories and be able to develop your own model of the communication process.**
- **Acquire tools to better understand your listeners.**
- **Develop resources for constructing effective presentations; while biblical and theological studies will be essential sources, we'll investigate outside sources from which you can draw.**
- **Develop organizational skills in the development of presentations.**
- **Examine components of effective communication such as non-verbal communication, vocal dynamics, word choice.**
- **Focus on three critical areas of communication: communicating information; making emotional appeals; communicating to persuade.**
- **Explore secondary ways to enhance the effectiveness of your presentations, such as the incorporation of visual aids.**
- **Improve your ability to listen critically and evaluate others' presentations.**

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

1. **Read Litfin prior to the beginning of class, finishing no later than session two. Outline each chapter in a format that is best understood and remembered.**
2. **Fill out at least five critique sheets of sermons/messages that you hear outside the context of the class.**
3. **One exam**
4. **Three major presentations**
5. **A final (5-7 page) paper.**

## EVALUATION

1. **Class participation and attendance – 10%**
2. **Three presentations – 60%**
3. **Exam – 10%**
4. **Final paper – 10%**
5. **Readings, reviews, evaluations, critiques – 10%**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### SESSION #1

1. **Lectures**
  - **What this course is all about**
  - **Orientation and introduction**
  - **Aristotle Revisited**
  - **A basic ‘Primer for Communication’ (summary of Litfin)**
2. **Speech #1: “My Journey”, maximum length 5-7 minutes. Tell your own faith-journey, call to ministry, or anything else you choose that will help us get better acquainted with one another.**
3. **Case Study:**  
**The class will observe an oral presentation, looking for principles of communication.**

### SESSION #2

1. **Litfin – reading completed; submit outline.**
2. **Speech #2: A 10-12 minute presentation on a topic of your choice. It can be a sermon, gospel talk, a speech to inform, etc. Keep in mind basic principles of organization (e.g., introduction, body, conclusion) and practice/prepare for coherent and clear delivery.**
3. **Lectures:**
  - **Orality and Narrativity**
  - **Models of Communication**

*(continued)*

**4. Exam**

**5. Critique sheet #1 due**

### **SESSION #3**

- 1. Presentation/sermon #3: A 10-12 minute presentation to persuade.**
- 2. Oral reading of the Bible. Bring a passage of scripture to read. It can be any passage that could be read for a morning worship service. Practice it.**
- 3. Critique sheets # 2 and #3 due.**
- 4. Case studies.**
- 5. What five or six principles have you gleaned thus far that will shape your speaking?**

### **SESSION #4**

- 1. Critique sheets #4 and #5 due.**
- 2. Your final paper (5-7 pages) This will be given orally in class.**
- 3. Summary: 'Having had this class, so what?'**