# **Workshop on Public Speaking**

## Dr. Gaetano Vaudo

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

You want to know how to use words correctly and powerfully, before approaching a professional world. The main goal for this Course is to provide the student with an effective strategic approach to hold a speech in a professional environment, enhancing student’s professional awareness. Student will take advantage of theory, as well as practical exercises, to develop a better use of language and communication. In particular, the laboratory will focus on the importance of the role held by the audience in thinking and building an effective speech, on the credibility of the speaker, on powerful communication tools and the importance of a positive reaction to the challenges involved in a speech situation, especially a job interview.

At the end of the course, students will be able to correctly structure a speech with introduction, body and conclusion, to identify key ideas to communicate and the necessary supporting evidence, to enhance the body language. Although students will practice on structuring a short speech, they will have acquired the method and notions essential to structuring a longer and more articulated information speech. In addition, they will be able to approach job interviews, paying the utmost attention to the interlocutor’s expectations and needs.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. Think before speaking: effective attitude and actions.

The powerful ‘attack’: attracting attention.

Exercise with brief assigned to students and present in front of the class.

2. Identify the theme of the speech and enhance it in the assigned time.

Exercise on key messages students want to communicate in their speech and on the supporting arguments.

3. The short speech and the structure as "thoughts still in progress ": expressing a thought in a clear and structured way.

Exercise in pairs, with speech in front of the class.

4. The job interview: get in tune with the interviewer, authoritative and reliable look

Interview simulation

5 Communicate confidently through body and voice: the postures to be used and those to be avoided; intonation as the basis of expressiveness.

Final speech of students in front of the class

***READING LIST***

B. Bryski-T. Brown, *Public Speaking For Success: strategies for diverse audiences and occasions*, Fifth Edition, Hayden-McNeil Publishing, Inc., Plymouth, 2018.

Teacher will suggest some readings in class.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The 20 hours’ laboratory is open to a maximum of 25 students, who must be present in class for at least a 70% of the total amount of the hours (a little more than a day of absence allowed). The educational approach will invite students to think over the Classical lessons from Rethoric and modern Theory of Language, analyzing concrete examples and constantly

interacting with peers in class. A Coaching approach in the interaction between teacher and students is always privileged. Exercises will consist in speeches facing the class, one to one speech simulations, working with peers.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Class attendance and constant active participation will be part of the evaluation. Students are required to be enthusiastic and motivated and give an original and valuable contribution to the work in class.

At the end of the course there is also an oral exam in which students will have to perform a short speech in front of the lecturer and the other students and whose theme will be the same for all and will be provided in class. Coherent and reasoned speech structure, effective ideas and their formulation, choice of arguments, consistency in the use of body language and voice and effective of the thesis will be evaluated.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

*Prerequisites*

A basic knowledge of English is useful.

*Notes*

The course does not include providing notes or slides. Students are required to independently take notes and ask questions if content is not clear. In this regard, continuous discussion with classmates is encouraged through a collaboration that stimulates continuous exercise in discourse, the spontaneous creation of group work and support for those forced to be absent. The lecturer will see students at the end of each lesson in the same classroom.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching and assessment will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.