

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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# ML111: Introduction to Public Speaking

Course Lecturer: Haddon W. Robinson, PhD

## Course Description

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Welcome to *Introduction to Public Speaking*. This course is based on a series of lectures given by Dr. Haddon W. Robinson, who held the title of Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and, though now deceased, is widely regarded as an expert in the area of preaching. Dr. Robinson was named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world in a 1996 Baylor University poll. This course provides a thorough perspective on several important, practical, and effective concepts in public speaking.

## Course Objectives

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Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Have something important to say to his/her audience.
2. Arrange material so listeners will receive it.
3. Understand and apply the theory behind speaking as listeners like it.
4. Understand the five steps in preparing a speech that listeners like.

## Course Lecturer

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*Haddon W. Robinson, PhD (1931-2017)*

**Education:**

- University of Illinois, PhD
- Southern Methodist University, MA
- Dallas Theological Seminary, ThM

**Teaching Career:**

- Harold John Ockenga Distinguished Professor of Preaching, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- Senior Director of the Doctor of Ministry program and Interim President, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
- President, Denver Seminary
- Professor of Homiletics, Dallas Theological Seminary
- Professor of Speech, University of Illinois
- Teacher, preacher, and lecturer at churches and campuses on six continents

### Other Career Highlights:

- Known worldwide as a phenomenal expository preacher, teacher, and communicator of God's Word
- Named among *Christianity Today International's* "Top 25 Most Influential Preachers from 1956-2006"
- Named one of the twelve most effective preachers in the English-speaking world (1996)
- 2008 Living Legend Award, E.K. Bailey Ministries
- Director, Dallas Youth for Christ
- General Director, Christian Medical and Dental Society
- Cohost, *Discover the Word* radio program, a worldwide ministry airing on over 400 stations
- President, Evangelical Theological Society (1984)
- Executive committee, Evangelical Theological Society

### Publications:

- Prolific writer, authoring works for a wide range of publications, including *The American Lutheran Magazine*, *Bibliotheca Sacra*, *Christianity Today*, *Moody Monthly*, and *Leadership and Decision*
- Editor for the *Christian Medical Society*, the *Theological Annual*, and *PreachingToday.Com*
- Writer for *Our Daily Bread*
- Author of several books, including *Decision Making By the Book*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *What Jesus Said About Successful Living*, with his most impacting work being *Biblical Preaching*, a text used at more than 100 seminaries and Bible colleges in North America and around the world

## Course Methods

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Throughout this course, a number of methods will be used to engage the students in learning and processing information, interacting with other students (when possible), and applying the learning to their lives. These methods include the following:

### Media/Materials

The course will include media presentations of lectures and supplementary materials to be viewed and/or read throughout the lessons of the course.

- **Video-based teaching**

The primary teaching session in each lesson is provided in video format. If you do not have the bandwidth required to view the video, we provide the option of listening to the lesson or reading the lesson from a transcript.

- **Multisensory learning**

For students who wish to use a medium other than video, we provide the option of reading the lesson from a transcript of the teaching video (found in the Class Time activity). Students can choose the medium (or combination of media) that most closely aligns with their individual learning styles.

### Interaction

Whether sitting in a traditional classroom or studying from a distance, students benefit from interaction and collaboration with other students. In order to meet this need in distance theological education, CUGN offers structures and resources to encourage effective community interaction in

this course.

### **Response Time**

This forum fosters peer-to-peer interaction in a global, threaded discussion. Students are required to respond to relevant questions posted by the instructors; students are also encouraged to read and respond to the posts of fellow students.

## **Lesson Objectives**

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At the end of each lesson, students should be able to accomplish the objectives listed below.

### **Lesson 1: Do You Have Something Important to Say?**

- Have something important to say to your listeners.
- Arrange the material so listeners will receive it.
- Understand the theory behind speaking as listeners like it.
- Understand the first two steps in preparing a speech that listeners like.

### **Lesson 2: What Are You Talking About?**

- Arrange your material so listeners will be able to receive it.
- Explain the theory behind speaking as listeners like it.
- Define the third and fourth steps to preparing a speech that listeners like.

### **Lesson 3: What Difference Does It Make?**

- Arrange the material so listeners will receive it.
- Discuss the theory behind speaking as listeners like it.
- Recount all five steps to preparing a speech that listeners like.

## **Course Requirements**

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The student must complete the course requirements within a 90-day period. Those requirements include:

- Viewing the Class Time lectures for each lesson
- Participating in the Response Time forum by posting answers to all questions
- Taking three quizzes and a final examination, scoring a 70% or higher average

Additional information about these requirements is provided below.

### **CLASS TIME**

The Class Time section of the course includes the following:

**Lectures:** The lessons in this course include 10–20 minutes of lecture. These instructional lectures are required viewing, and can be watched as many times as needed. The same content is available in an audio file and a text file (PDF) (located in the Class Time activity) for students who can benefit from this alternative media.

Lesson 1: Do You Have Something Important to Say?

Lesson 2: What Are You Talking About?

Lesson 3: What Difference Does It Make?

## RESPONSE TIME

Participants will interact with other students worldwide in an ongoing asynchronous threaded forum of several course topics in each lesson.

In order to get the fullest benefit from the Response Time forum, students should complete the assignment after they have completed Class Time. Then they should return to Response Time after finishing the lesson to see how others respond. The following steps are instructions to the students for completing the assignment:

- Enter Response Time.
- Read the instructions and click the Discussion Question you wish to respond to first.
- Read the Discussion Question and share your thoughts with others.
- Repeat for each Discussion Question.
- Take the time to read other students' postings.

CUGN requires that students' Response Time posts consist of at least 2 to 3 well-developed paragraphs. Think of posts as mini-essays, where you present an idea and support that idea with details, examples, personal experiences, etc.

Objective: to develop critical thinking skills through personal interaction with the content of the course and the responses of others within a diverse community of learners.

## QUIZZES AND EXAM

The quizzes and exam will cover the material from the Class Time lectures.

## Course Grading and Requirements

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### QUIZZES AND EXAM

Quizzes	40% of Course Grade
Final Exam	60% of Course Grade

## OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements noted in this syllabus will be validated before credit is awarded to any student.

## Optional Resources

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If you suffer from public speaking or performance anxiety, CUGN recommends the following course from SpeakMeister: *Master Your Public Speaking Fear*, a highly interactive and engaging course designed specifically for anyone with public speaking or performance anxiety. The course is especially valuable for those wanting to enter ministry, but who have a fear of speaking in public or in groups. The course content is based on latest research in neuroscience and cognitive-behavioral psychology.

What You'll Learn:

- How to manage public speaking or performance anxiety
- The mechanics of fear and how to control your nervous system
- What causes your anxiety to escalate and how to control it

To purchase the course, visit the following link: <https://speakmeister.com/edu/product/master-your-public-speaking-fear/>

**Please note:** *Master Your Public Speaking Fear* is an optional, supplemental course and is not free of charge.