

A Speech Workshop – what is that?

A Speech workshop is a 3 weeks intensive course in rhetoric – we speak, analyze, discuss, reflect, plan – and speak some more.

A Speech workshop is meant to be a safe zone where you have the chance to experiment and improve your individual skills in oral communication guided by a supervisor (like me, Henrik Juel) and in positive cooperation with the other students.

The workshop involves a lot of practical on-the-floor speaking exercises, as well as presentations and discussions of analytical and theoretical concepts from the vast repertoire of classical and modern rhetoric. You will learn about rhetorical ideals and dirty tricks - and acquire tools that can help you to analyze the speeches of others, and help you to create and perform great and appropriate speeches yourself in a variety of modern situations.

Your future job-interview might very well be conducted online – so let us prepare for that, and for many other situations involving elegant and persuasive speech!

The “methods” of this workshop are truly “oral”: we do not write manuscripts, and we do not depend on written notes. We have other ways of developing and memorizing the main points we want to deliver. Focus is on being present and in live contact with the actual audience. Understanding the mechanisms of live performance, and gradually improving your own speaking skills in a safe environment also makes it easier to overcome undue inhibitions. We turn negative nervousness into positive rhetorical performance.



Collaborative speech-development exercise



Speech-line – open air speaking-

What about **the 80% attendance** rule?

Usually not a problem in the speech workshop, we will work around it, even if you have jobs, children, illness or a wedding to take care of. But keep me informed in due time when problems occur – more to be explained on the first day.

Product

At the end of the workshop all students give a well-prepared individual speech for an audience of other students (the Showtime session). The speeches are to be persuasive, argumentative or appealing, but the individual style can include humor, irony and narratives. Preparing this speech includes producing a communication plan that analyses and explains the target group, the situation, the purpose, the rhetorical tools applied and the intended effect of your oral performance.

A more **detailed program** will usually be sent to you just before/at the start of the workshop to your ruc e-mail. Also, info and updates as we go along will be sent by e-mail, so check it regularly — don't search in vain at Moodle or study.ruc.dk or intra or other less reliable places.

More info about the semester, a graphic overview, and videos and essays about Speech, Rhetoric (and Film and Video and so on): look at my own web-site, especially under "On-going Courses and Workshops" www.henrikjuel.dk

Readings for the Speech workshop:

One book is usually our basic literature, that's it:

Jonas Gabrielsen & Tanja Juul Christiansen: *The Power of Speech* (available in the ruc-campus bookshop, you can order it online, a Danish version is also available, and older students may have a copy you can buy or loan). To be read during the first week.

Additional/free – if you want to be warned about my philosophical and pedagogical considerations, see Henrik Juel: *The Need for Oratory Skills in the Digital Age*, 2019 <http://www.henrikjuel.dk/Essays/OratorySkillsInTheDigitalAge.pdf>

So, looking forward –
We will be talking!

Henrik Juel