

Presentation skills

Syllabus

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Summary: During the course I will present some guidelines on how to prepare an oral presentation. Students will be trained in small groups and individually.

Outline: The description that follows is for a class of 12 students. The course has four parts.

- First, a written document outlining essential guidelines will be distributed and reviewed with the entire class. To illustrate these guidelines, examples of both effective and ineffective presentations will be provided. This session will last 1.5 hours.

- Secondly, over three sessions of 1.5 hours each, groups of four students will present two pieces of work to their peers. This will not be academic work but rather press articles, short videos, audio interviews, or other non-academic materials on topics such as politics, arts, or sports. Each student will briefly present one piece in just a couple of minutes and another in slightly more detail (under 10 minutes). The rest of the group, including myself, will then provide feedback on the presentation.

- Thirdly, students will be grouped into pairs and assigned a debate topic to prepare. In an oral presentation with slides, one student will argue in favour of a position, while the other will argue against it. Each student must strive to present the issue in a persuasive manner, carefully framing their argument to be convincing while also anticipating opposing arguments that could undermine their position. The goal is to prepare students to face contradiction effectively in a conference setting.

- Lastly, in a 1.5-hour session, each student will individually present one of their working papers or ongoing projects under conference-like conditions, but with no audience except for myself. The presentation will last 25 to 30 minutes, followed by a one-hour discussion in which we will analyze it in detail.

When: Second semester of the second year of Phd.