

## **LOOM.04.068 : Public Speaking in Science**

### **Instructor:**

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### **Course Description**

To examine the principles of public speaking in science, to put these principles to practice in a relaxed atmosphere of peers, to receive feedback and to improve our ability to speak in public. Two particular formats will be emphasized: the conference presentation and the class lecture.

Topics covered shall include: defining your audience, handling nerves, use of technology, room arrangement, eye contact, preparation, body language, use of the podium, “hums and ahs”, graph presentation, tables, figures, statistics, introducing a speaker, dealing with questions, etc, etc, etc.

This is a course about speaking, so unlike most classes, the instructor will NOT be the one doing most of the talking. The course will start with an initial set of lectures, for a week or two. Afterwards, or interspersed with the lectures, students will be expected to give several oral presentations or various length, in English. One of these lectures shall be on some aspect of their thesis work and another on something not related to their thesis work. Also, check the official information online <https://www.is.ut.ee/pls/ois/tere.tulemast>

### **Location**

Primarily at Vanemuise 46 room 129, but some lectures will also take place in other rooms.

### **Schedule**

September 28. - December 3. (Academic weeks 5-14)  
Tuesday 12.15 - 14.00  
Friday 12.15 - 14.00

Yes, you are expected to attend, even when you are not the one presenting. Yes, you are supposed to show up on time.

### **Course Credits**

3 EAP (Euro AP) (= 2 former Estonian AP), or about 80 academic working hours (1 academic hour is 45 minutes).

### **Grading**

Yes, there will be grades assigned. This is a real course, and it is technically possible to fail.

## **Textbooks**

Effective Speaking: Communicating in speech (Paperback)

by Christophe Turk

- Paperback: 288 pages
- Publisher: Taylor & Francis; 1 edition (November 21, 1985)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0419130306
- ISBN-13: 978-0419130307

The Quick and Easy Way to Effective Speaking (Mass Market Paperback)

by Dale Carnegie

- Mass Market Paperback: 224 pages
- Publisher: Pocket (March 1, 1990)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0671724002
- ISBN-13: 978-0671724009

## **Useful Websites**

[Twenty-five years of PowerPoint](#).- A BBC article celebrating the 25 anniversary and dreading the decline in the quality of presentations over the same time span. Cause and effect or coincidence?

[Six Minutes](#).- A public speaking and presentations skills web site

[Gapminder](#).- Some of the best use of graphics, and modern presentation technology.

[TED](#).- Extremely good talks by notable people. Well, there are some exceptions.

[Course Site](#).- Temporarily, until I figure out the official UT system, which is in Estonian.