

Amy E. Mendes

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Also published as Amy Elizabeth Durham

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Rhetorical theory and criticism; political performance and demagoguery; ethics of evidence and plagiarism in public speaking; AI in communication pedagogy; small group communication pedagogy; assessment and curriculum design.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Lecturer, School of Communication, Film, and Media, University of West Georgia (Aug. 2022–Present)
- Instructor, School of Communication, Film, and Media, University of West Georgia (Aug. 2021–Aug. 2022)
- Part-time Instructor, Department of Mass Communication, University of West Georgia (Aug. 2020–May 2021)
- Lecturer, Communication Department, Dalton State College (Aug. 2016–Jul. 2020)
- Part-time Instructor, Communication Department, Georgia Highlands College (Aug. 2015–Aug. 2016)
- Visiting Lecturer, Communication Department, Berry College (Aug. 2012–Aug. 2015)
- Part-time Instructor, Department of Mass Communication, Francis Marion University (Aug. 2010–May 2012)
- Coordinator of Speech Instruction, Department of Mass Communication, Francis Marion University (Aug. 2002–Dec. 2003)
- Part-time Instructor, Department of Mass Communication, Francis Marion University (Aug. 2001–Aug. 2002)
- Adjunct Faculty, Florence-Darlington Technical College (Aug. 2001–May 2002)

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Higher Education Administration, University of Alabama, Aug. 2023.
- Dissertation: Plagiarism in Persuasive Speaking: The Influence of Plagiarism Behaviors on Intercollegiate Forensics Competition.
- Master of Arts (M.A.), Communication Studies, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, May 2010.
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Communication Arts, Berry College, Dec. 1994.

TEACHING

University of West Georgia (2020–Present)

- COMM 1100 Human Communication (Hybrid; Online)
- COMM 1110 Fundamentals of Public Speaking (Hybrid; Online—full semester; Online—8 week)
- COMM 3200 Rhetoric and Social Influence (Hybrid)
- COMM 3320 Small Group Communication (Hybrid; 8-week)
- COMM 3340 Advanced Interpersonal Communication (Hybrid; Face-to-Face)

Dalton State College (2016–2020)

- Fundamentals of Public Speaking
- Human Communication

Georgia Highlands College (2015–2016)

- Human Communication

Berry College (2012–2015)

- Rhetoric and Public Address

Francis Marion University (2001–2003; 2010–2012)

- Basic Speech Course; Honors Speech
- Introduction to Mass Communication
- Curriculum support: contributed to redesign of the Mass Communication curriculum (2010–2012).
- Administrative duties (Coordinator of Speech Instruction, 2002–2003): scheduling, advising, and institutional effectiveness reporting.

Florence-Darlington Technical College (2001–2002)

- Introductory Speech
- Business Communication
- Technical Communication for Nurses
- Business English

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Mendes, A. (2016). Digital demagogue: The critical candidacy of Donald J. Trump. *Journal of Contemporary Rhetoric*, 6(3/4), 62–73.
- Mendes, A. (2014). Abuse of evidence in persuasive speaking: An un-conventional solution. *National Forensic Journal*, 32, 22–28.

Dissertation

- Mendes, A. E. (2023). Plagiarism in persuasive speaking: The influence of plagiarism behaviors on intercollegiate forensics competition (Publication No. 30489677) [Doctoral dissertation, University of Alabama]. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.

Conference Proceedings (as listed in vita)

- Mendes, A. (2017). "What even is plagiarism?": Measuring undergraduates' comprehension of source attribution standards in a Public Speaking class. *Proceedings*, 86 (Spring).
- Mendes, A. (2016). A grounded theory of the justification of exclusion. *Proceedings*, 85.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Accepted / Forthcoming

- Mendes, A. (2026, April 9–12). "Cheat" with me: Incorporating GenAI transparently in the public speaking classroom [Conference presentation; accepted]. Southern States Communication Association Annual Convention, Birmingham, AL.

Delivered

- Mendes, A. (2026, February 26–28). Six Seasons and a Thesis: Teaching Group Communication (Tuckman, Fisher, SCT, Kolb) via Community [Conference presentation]. Georgia Communication Association Annual Convention, Mercer University.
- Mendes, A. (2026, February 26–28). Entitled transgression as status work: A grounded theory of "asshole style" in contemporary political performance [Conference presentation]. Georgia Communication Association Annual Convention, Mercer University.
- Conrad, M., & Mendes, A. (2025, February 7–8). Implementing and managing AI in the public speaking classroom: A roundtable discussion [Facilitated discussion]. Georgia Communication Association Annual Convention, University of West Georgia.
- Mendes, A. (2019, February 15–16). Plagiarism behaviors in a public speaking class: Measuring undergraduates' comprehension of source attribution standards [Conference paper]. Georgia Communication Association Annual Convention, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA.
- Mendes, A. (2019, February 15–16). Evaluating teaching in the public speaking classroom: A review of the literature [Conference paper]. Georgia Communication Association Annual Convention, Clayton State University, Morrow, GA.
- Johnston, L., Mendes, A., & Tucker, B. (2018, April 4–8). Freeing student costs: A collaborative look at developing departmental textbooks [Panel presentation]. Southern States Communication Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Mendes, A. (2017, March). Students' perceptions of plagiarism in an undergraduate communication course [Paper submitted]. Dalton State College Conference on Teaching and Learning.
- Mendes, A. (2016, July 23). From Wallace to Trump: A grounded theory of the justification of exclusion [Conference paper]. Alabama Communication Association Convention, University of Mobile, Mobile, AL.
- Mendes, A. (2016, February 19–20). The rhetoric of exclusion: A grounded theory [Conference paper]. Georgia Communication Association Convention, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, GA.

- Mendes, A. (2013, November). Abuse of evidence in persuasive speaking: An unconventional solution [Conference paper]. National Communication Association Convention, Washington, DC.
- Mendes, A. (2013, July). Justifying prejudice: Exclusionary apologia [Conference paper]. Alabama Communication Association Convention, Montevallo, AL.
- Durham, A. E. (2000, November). Oral interpretation of literature in forensics education: Engagement or encagement? [Conference paper]. National Communication Association Convention, Seattle, WA.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Top Faculty Paper, Georgia Communication Association Convention (2026).
- Top Faculty Paper, Alabama Communication Association Convention (2016).
- Top Faculty Paper, Alabama Communication Association Convention (2013).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University of West Georgia

- Faculty Council Chair, School of Communication, Film, and Media (Aug. 2025–Present).
- Chaired monthly faculty council meetings; coordinated agendas, minutes, and follow-ups.
- Supported school governance and policy work, including affirming SCFM Professional Growth and Development funding guidelines and drafting SCFM campus presence guidelines (final stages).
- Coordinated with program area leads and committees to surface issues and route action items.
- Faculty Senator (2024–Present).
- Chair, Search Committee for Director of Debate (Spring 2025).
- Rules Committee (Faculty Senate), SCFM Representative (2024–2026).
- Co-Director, Gibson Public Speaking Contest (Fall 2022; Spring 2023).
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Committee, SCFM Representative (2021–2023).
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment Committee Working Group: SEI revision timeline and process (2022).
- Gibson Speech Contest Committee (Fall 2021).
- Media Day Showcase Subcommittee (Spring 2022).
- Media Day Luncheon Subcommittee (Spring 2022).
- WolfTracks Host for prospective students (Spring 2022).

Dalton State College

- Co-Chair, Community Engagement Committee (Jan. 2019–Jul. 2020).
- Member, Honors Advisory Council (Jul. 2019–Jul. 2020).
- Faculty Senator (2018–2020).
- Department representative, Faculty Development subcommittee of the Faculty Senate (2016–2017).

Professional / Disciplinary Service

- President and Conference Co-Chair, Georgia Communication Association (Feb. 2022–Feb. 2025).
- Selected outcomes/responsibilities: (3 executive board meetings per year; annual conference business meeting; approved a new officer succession plan in 2024–2025; created and adopted revised bylaws in 2024–2025)
- Led association operations with the executive board (planning, communication, governance), including approving an officer succession plan and adopting revised bylaws (2024–2025).
- Conference leadership: coordinated venue/logistics, program development, scheduling, and volunteer staffing; increased conference attendance and paper/panel submissions year-over-year during tenure.
- Managed proposal/review workflow and program assembly; expanded reviewer pool and implemented conference awards (Top Faculty Paper, Top Student Paper, Top Faculty Panel, Top Student Panel).
- Stewarded member engagement and continuity across annual cycles; oversaw implementation of standing committees (Bylaws Review; Awards and Honors).
- Vice President and Conference Chair, Executive Board, Georgia Communication Association (Feb. 2020–Feb. 2022).
- Reviewer, National Communication Association (Spring 2021).
- Secretary, Georgia College Personnel Association (2016–2017).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- National Communication Association (2000–Present).
- Georgia Communication Association (2012–Present).
- Southern States Communication Association (2025-present).
- Alabama Communication Association (2025-present).