

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 352: COMMUNICATION THEORY

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Fall 2016 Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and By Appointment

Course Description:

Communication Studies 352 is designed for you to further develop an understanding of the theory underlying people's communicative interactions. This course examines concepts and contexts relevant to the study of human communication. By the end of the semester, you should have achieved the following course objectives

- to connect the scientific, humanistic, and critical/cultural studies ways of defining and studying communication to specific communication theories
- to understand the theoretical perspectives associated with the sub-disciplines in the major
- to understand how to develop a theoretical foundation, rationale, and research questions or hypotheses for a research study
- to practice the principles of effective written and oral communication
- to practice the principles of relationship building and group interaction
- to practice accessing and utilizing available resources
- to practice reviewing and synthesizing the literature on an organizational or interpersonal communication topic

Required Text:

Griffin, E.. (2014). *A first look at communication theory* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill. Additional readings may be posted to Blackboard.

Course Philosophy

You have two responsibilities in this course: You must participate and you must think. This is a hands-on experiential class and not a lecture-based class in which you will learn new material from the instructor. We will spend very little time talking in class and you will spend almost all of your time demonstrating what you have learned in your time as a communication studies major. Because learning is an interactive process and others are depending upon you to be an active group/audience member, no more than three (3) absence, excused or unexcused, will be allowed (this includes any meetings called by your research or project teams as well as our in-class meetings). **Four or more absences will result in a failing grade.**

Assignments

1. There will be three exams worth twenty (20) percent each.
2. There will be two short reaction papers throughout the semester totaling ten (10) percent of the final course grade. Each assignment will ask students to apply specific theories to their everyday life. These guidelines are detailed in a separate handout.
3. A final semester research paper will comprise twenty-five (25) percent of the final course grade. For this 8-10 page paper, students will select one theory to study in depth and

construct an annotated bibliography and literature synthesis. This assignment is detailed in a separate handout.

4. Participation in class discussion and activities will be worth five (5) percent of the final course grade. Students' willingness to share observations and experiences is crucial to the success of this class. When readings are assigned, students are expected to come to class not only having read the material, but also prepared to contribute to discussion in meaningful ways (see course philosophy). Everyone will be assigned to lead contributions for at least one theory. One's participation grade can be lowered by engaging in disruptive behaviors (see policies and procedures).

Grading: Grading is done on a ten-point scale. There are no provisions for rescheduling presentations and late papers are not accepted. **MAKE YOUR TRAVEL PLANS ACCORDINGLY.** Also, expect to be graded on spelling, punctuation, grammar, style, as well as the content and organization of your work. You are required to complete your own work and to accept "no unauthorized assistance." Your signature on each assignment indicates you have followed the University Honor Code. You are welcome to talk with me about any assignment or draft before the due date. Finally, you cannot pass the course without completing ALL of the assignments. Any student earning below a C- (70% of the possible points) will be assigned the grade of F for the class.

Communication: The easiest and quickest way to reach me is via email. I check and respond to email messages at least once a day. *Email communication is appropriate* for clarifying assignment requirements, setting up appointments, and receiving feedback about pieces of assignments you have completed. *Email communication is NOT appropriate* for discussing grades, turning in completed assignments, or typing anything you would not be willing to say face to face.

Policies and Procedures

- Any student who has registered with Disability Services is responsible for contacting me concerning accommodations. Any student who believes he or she may have a disability that has not been documented should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865-974-6087 in 100 Dunford Hall.
- All papers are to be double-spaced using 1" margins and 12-point Times New Roman font. Your name should not be used as a header on any paper and all papers should contain a title page. Signing your paper indicates that you received "No Unauthorized Assistance." No electronic versions of papers or assignments will be accepted. Any paper that contains more than one error per page (grammatical, mechanical, style, spelling, failure to proofread, etc.) will be returned. Students have up to one week to revise a returned final paper with each new version of the paper earning a full letter-grade deduction.
- All electronic devices (cell phones, iPads, laptop computers, etc.) should be used only for classroom purposes. If you have the need to use mediated communication (including textbooks, *The Daily Beacon*, iPods, laptops, smartphones, etc.), please do not come to class. No electronic devices will be allowed during presentations because they serve no educational purpose when you are an active audience member.
- For your own protection, you are expected to keep a photocopy or electronic copy of all

assignments submitted.

- All grade change requests must be made in writing at least 48 hours *after* the assignment has been returned. Your written request should include a persuasive argument with claims and evidence for why the grade you earned is inappropriate with respect to the assignment's requirements.
- All papers must use proper APA Style for formatting, in-text citations, and references.
- Students utilizing technology for their presentations should have all files loaded on to the computer and tested prior to the beginning of class on the day they present.
- CCI recognizes and values diversity. Exposing students to diverse people, ideas and cultures increases opportunities for intellectual inquiry, encourages critical thinking, and enhances communication and information competence. When all viewpoints are heard, thoughtfully considered, and respectfully responded to, everyone benefits. Diversity and fairness unite us with the wider professional and global community.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS (flexible)

DATE	TOPIC
August 18	Course Introduction
August 23	Chapter 1: Launching Your Study
August 25	Chapter 2: Talk about Theory
August 30	Chapter 3: Weighing Your Words
September 6	Chapter 4: Mapping the Territory
September 8	Chapter 31: Communication Accommodation Theory
September 13	Chapter 5: Symbolic Interactionism/Constructivism
September 15	Chapter 10: Social Information Processing Theory
September 20	Exam Review
September 22	EXAM 1
September 27	Chapter 11: Relational Dialectics
September 29	Chapter 12: Communication Privacy Management Theory
October 4	Chapter 7: Expectancy Violations Theory

October 6	Chapter 17: Functional Perspective on Group Decision Making
October 11	Reaction Paper #1 Due
October 18	Chapter 19: Cultural Approach to Organizations
October 20	Chapter 20: Communicative Constitution of Organizations
October 25	Chapter 21: Critical Theory of Communication in Organizations
October 27	Exam Review
November 1	EXAM 2
November 3	Chapter 14: Social Judgement Theory
November 8	Reaction Paper #2 Due
November 10	Chapter 30: Agenda Setting Theory
November 15	Chapter 32: Face Negotiation Theory
November 17	Chapter 33: Speech Codes Theory
November 22	Chapter 35: Standpoint Theory; RESEARCH PAPER DUE
November 29	Chapter 36: Muted Group Theory
December 1	Exam Review
December 5	EXAM 3