

Communication Process
Fall 1999

Comm 25902:12053-002

Tues and Thurs 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Rozell Duncan

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Wed. 5:30 – 6 p.m.

(Between 10:00 a.m. & 10:00 p.m.)

Required Text: Infante, D.A., Rancer, A.S., & Womack, D.F. (1997). Building Communication Theory. (3rd. Ed.) Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

Recommended Text: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (4th. Ed.) Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Course Description: This course presents an overview of the major theories in the field of communication.

Purpose of the Course: The purpose of this course is to develop an understanding of the theoretical paradigms that impact human communication. The emphasis is on developing a trained individual faculty for explaining the communication phenomena in a variety of contexts.

Course Objectives: A broad overview of the major theories in the field of communication will be covered in this course. Students are expected to acquire an understanding of the uses and principles of scientific theory, specifically those used to explain communication phenomena within a variety of contexts. You should be able to identify major assumptions of communication theory in different areas of communication research and apply communication concepts in actual communication contexts. Outside assignments, class participation, a communication theory paper, various other written assignments, and exams will be utilized to demonstrate student understanding.

Course Requirements:

Outline Notes: You are expected to read the assigned readings prior to the lecture. You will submit outline notes from the assigned readings on the first day the material is presented in class. Up to five (5) points will be awarded for each timely submission of outline notes. Outline notes should be legible (this means handwritten notes are acceptable), however typewritten is preferred. Format of the notes is student choice; however, it should be obvious that you have carefully read the material. Each student is expected to do his/her own work. Late outline notes will not be accepted for credit. (75 points).

Written Assignments:

Abstracts: You will submit two one-page abstracts using APA format from different communication journals. Each abstract is worth 50 points and must be single-spaced and typed. This syllabus contains a list of journals from which articles may be chosen. Failure to use a journal listed will result in failure of the assignment. On the day the assignment is due, you **must** submit two copies of the abstract and a copy of the journal article. Each abstract should be original and reflect your understanding of the article. **Do your own work.** The submission of work done by someone else will not be tolerated and is subject to disciplinary action as prescribed by the University Code of Conduct. (100 points)

Theory Application Paper: You will select a communication theory discussed in class for this assignment. Your paper should describe the theory, where and how it is used, what it means in a real-life context, and how it can be applied in every day life. The paper must be 6 to 8 pages long (not including the title page or bibliography), typed, double-spaced, and follow APA format. Two copies of the paper and a copy of the real-life context illustration will be submitted on the day the assignment is due. Real-life context examples can be found in newspapers, magazines, books, movies, TV shows, and etc. (100 points)

Exams: Three non-comprehensive exams will be given over the lectures, textbook, and any material discussed in class. The exams will be comprised of various question types such as multiple choice, T/F, matching, fill-in, and short essay. Make-up exams will be given only due to an approved excused absence and will be essay format. Make-up exams will be given on the day of the final after the student has completed the final exam. (100, 125, 150)

Cheating/Plagiarism: Cheating is the intention “to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation.” Plagiarism is presenting “as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own ideas or work derived from an existing source without full or proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.” **These offenses will not be tolerated.** Violators will receive an “F” in the course and will be further subject to University policy.

Attendance Policy: **READ THIS CAREFULLY.** You are expected to be present for every class. Two unexcused absences will be permitted without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond two will cost the student the loss of an increment in grade for each absence over the limit up to six absences. Miss seven classes and you cannot complete this course. Excused absences are determined by University guidelines and must be documented. Attendance sheets will be circulated at the beginning of class; therefore, it will be wise to arrive on time. Arriving late disrupts the class and is discourteous to other students and the instructor. Any tardiness of more than 15 minutes will be considered as an absence. *It is YOUR responsibility to sign the Attendance Sheet each class. If your signature is not there, you will be considered absent.*

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Student Services Center, phone (330) 672-3391.

Communication Journals

Choose an article (1995 to present) from one of the journals listed below for your abstracts. Remember, a copy of the article **must** be submitted the your abstract.

Communication Education
Communication Quarterly
Health Communication
Management Communication Quarterly
Southern Journal of Communication
Central Journal of Communication

Critical Studies in Mass Communication
Communication Studies
Journalism Quarterly
Quarterly Journal of Speech
Western Journal of Communication
Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media

Course Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
<u>Building Communication Theory</u>		
8/31	Introduction to Course	
9/2	Comm: Definition/Functions	Chp. 1 Outline Notes Due
9/7	About Theory	Chp. 2 Outline Notes Due
9/9	“ “	
9/14	Paradigms, Perspectives	Chp. 3 Outline Notes Due
9/16	“ “	
9/21	Research Methods	App. A Outline Notes Due
9/23	“ “	
9/28	No Class – Library Work	
9/30	Research Strategies	Abstract 1 Due
	<u>Meet in the Library, Electronic Classroom 3rd floor Room 333</u>	
10/5	Classical Era	App. B Outline Notes Due
10/7	Contemporary Theory	
10/12	Exam 1	
<u>Theory: Major Approaches</u>		
10/14	Traits	Chp. 4 Outline Notes Due
10/19	Persuasion	Chp. 5 Outline Notes Due
10/21	“	
10/26	Verbal Behaviors	Chp. 6 Outline Notes Due
10/28	Nonverbal Behaviors	Chp. 7 Outline Notes Due
11/2	Nonverbal Behaviors Con't	
11/4	No Class – Library Work	
11/9	Exam 2	Abstract 2 Due
11/11	No Class – Veterans Day	

Communication Contexts

11/16	Interpersonal Context	Chp. 8 Outline Notes Due
11/18	“ “	Theory Paper Due
11/23	Group Context	Chp. 9 Outline Notes Due
11/25	No Class – Thanksgiving	
11/30	Organizational Context	Chp. 10 Outline Notes Due
12/2	Mass Media	Chp. 11 Outline Notes Due
12/7	Intercultural Context	Chp. 12 Outline Notes Due
12/9	Applied Contexts	Chp. 13 Outline Notes Due
12/14	Exam 3 (Final Exam) Tuesday 5:45 – 8:00 p.m.	

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus if deemed necessary.

Grades

Grades will be based on a total of 650 points.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>
Abstract 1	50	_____
Abstract 2	50	_____
Outline Notes	75	_____
Chp. 1	_____	
Chp. 2	_____	
Chp. 3	_____	
App. A	_____	
App. B	_____	
Chp. 4	_____	
Chp. 5	_____	
Chp. 6	_____	
Chp. 7	_____	
Chp. 8	_____	
Chp. 9	_____	
Chp. 10	_____	
Chp. 11	_____	
Chp. 12	_____	
Chp. 13	_____	
Theory Paper	100	_____
Exam 1	100	_____
Exam 2	125	_____
Exam 3	<u>150</u>	_____
Total	650	_____

Final Grading Scale

585 – 650	A
520 – 584	B
455 – 519	C
390 – 454	D
0 – 389	F

Communication Process
Fall 1999, Information and Syllabus Agreement

PLEASE SIGN & RETURN (A copy of this agreement will be provided for your records)

Name: _____

Local Address: _____

Local Phone Number: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Class Standing: _____

Major: _____



Agreement

I, _____ (print name) as a student in Dr. Duncan's Communication Process Class (Comm 25902, Section 12053 – 002) for the Fall 1999 Semester, have read this syllabus. I understand what is expected of me as a student regarding:

Course policies _____ (initials)

Class requirements _____ (initials)

Assignments _____ (initials)

Due Dates _____ (initials)

Attendance policy _____ (initials)

Unless I request otherwise, Dr. Duncan has my permission to use portions of my student identification number as a method of distributing test scores and grades _____ (initials).

Signature

Date