

Communication Process
COMM 25902 Call# 11784 Section 003
Tuesday/Thursday 5:30-6:45 Fall 2001

Instructor: Thomas Wagner
Office: MSP D207
Office Hours: TR 4:00-5:30 and by appointment
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Required Text:

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

Objectives:

- (1) Understand the uses and principles of scientific theory as a means to test communication theories.
- (2) Improve the ability to think theoretically and understand the process of developing theory.
- (3) Develop conceptual understanding of communication theory and research.
- (4) Think reflexively about communication situations and apply communication theory to these situations.

Graded Assignments

Written Work: Written work will be graded rigorously. You should strive to develop quality analysis and application, creativity in examples, and structure and clarity in your writing. Grammar and spelling are important too, so please proofread carefully. The majority of the weight in grading will be placed on the clarity, focus, mechanics, and the elaboration/development of writing. All written work must be 12-point font, typed, one-inch margins, and double-spaced. Make use of the Writing Center, friends, and a good writing reference. What writing reference you ask? Please use APA 5th ed. style guidelines for the Theory Building Paper.

Readings: To do well in this course, you must keep pace with the assigned readings. Students who do the readings when assigned get more from the lectures, participate more effectively, and usually do better on exams. You should be prepared to ask and answer questions, provide thoughtful commentary, and engage in meaningful discussions of assigned readings by the due dates listed on the schedule. Please ask questions when you feel lost or confused.

Exams: There will be three objective, non-comprehensive tests given. Test questions may be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in, or short answer. A make-up test will be given only in the case of an extreme emergency.

Communication Essays: You will write essays linking your own experiences with the theories and concepts covered in the course. The writing of these essays should facilitate your ability to think reflexively about communication theory. There is a one and a quarter page minimum and a two-page maximum for each essay. Questions will be provided several weeks before each essay is due.

Theory Building Paper: Choose a theory covered in the textbook. Write your paper in three stages. First, write a literature review where the theory is explained. This section should contain at least 5 outside sources for support. Second, from having kept detailed records of the theory in action (from observations and experiences), report on the theories practical application. This section should be supported with detailed accounts of your experiences in an appendix of the paper. Third, analyze and critique the theory as it applies to actual communication situations. In this section you should make an attempt to theoretically build upon existing work and at the very end offer your opinion of how the theory applies to your life. Each of the three aforementioned sections should be at least 2 pages in length and no more than 4. The paper should be 7-9 pages, not including title page, appendixes, or references. This is an individual assignment.

Class Activities/Homework: Five times during the semester you will be asked to do a homework assignment and present your work in front of the class. These will stress creativity. These assignments will each be worth 1% of your final grade and will be announced at least one class prior to the due date.

Grading: You are responsible for keeping all graded paperwork in the event of an inconsistency between my records and yours. Your final course grade will be computed as follows:

Exams (3)	60%
Communication Essays (3)	15%
Paper (1)	20%
Class Activities/Homework (5)	5%

Grading Scale:

100-90: **A** 89-80: **B** 79-70: **C** 69-60: **D** Below 60: **F**

Course Policies

Professionalism: Please make every effort to respect your fellow classmates' right to learn. One of my highest priorities in the classroom is to facilitate an environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn. Please don't engage in activities that interfere with other students' learning (don't bring food, don't do work from other courses, etc.)

This course should make you think, develop skills, and, frankly, be a lot of fun but you have to meet it at least half way. You must do the readings, think about the concepts and theories, and listen carefully to other student's perspectives if you want to maximize your learning.

Attendance/Participation Policy: We need you in class! Your questions, contributions to discussions, and participation in group activities are crucial to your fellow classmates' learning. Students are allowed three unexcused absences and three excused absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in 5% off your final grade. Only in the case of an extreme emergency, for which documentation is required, will an absence be excused. According to the University Digest of Rules and Regulations, such circumstances include "...documented illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, academic field trips, participation in an approved concert or athletic event, or direct participation in university disciplinary hearings". It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in these situations. Emergencies do not include car trouble, work conflicts, family or relationship crises, or non-school related travel plans. Should those or other unexcused situations arise, you have three class meetings that you can miss without affecting your grade. If you choose to use these days, do so wisely!

Cheating and Plagiarism: University standards apply with regard to plagiarism and cheating. Please review the policy in your student handbook if you have any questions. Think twice before resorting to plagiarism or cheating because both are wrong and because students are caught regularly in both of these dishonest activities. Students who plagiarize any part of their work or cheat on an exam will fail the assignment/exam, may fail this course, and possibly have academic sanctions placed upon them from the university.

Late Work: Late work is not accepted. Only in the case of an extreme emergency, for which documentation is required, will late work be accepted. This also includes missing exams. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in these situations.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the 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 accommodations is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Services Center (330) 672-3391.

Course Registration: It is the policy of Kent State University that students are not permitted to attend classes for which they are not officially enrolled. It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper enrollment of classes. Students should review their official class schedule during the first two weeks of the semester to ensure proper enrollment. Errors should be corrected by Friday of the second week of classes. If registration errors are not corrected, and students continue to attend and participate in classes for which they are not formally enrolled, they will not receive grades for those courses at the conclusion of the semester.

Class Calendar Tentative Schedule

<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Text/Assignment Due</u>
<u><i>Building Communication Theory</i></u>	
<u>Week 1</u>	
8/28 Introduction to Course, Attribution Theory	
8/30 Theory Building & Importance of Communication	Chapter 1
<u>Week 2</u>	
9/4 Functions of Theories	Chapter 2
9/6 Testing of Theories	Chapter 2
<u>Week 3</u>	
9/11 Paradigms: Covering Laws	Chapter 3
9/13 Human Action, Systems	Chapter 3
<u>Week 4</u>	
9/18 Research Methods	Appendix A
9/20 Research Methods/ Exam Review	Review for Exam Comm Essay 1 Due
<u>Week 5</u>	
9/25 Exam 1	
<u><i>Theory Building in Major Approaches to Communication</i></u>	
9/27 Personality Traits	Chapter 4
<u>Week 6</u>	
10/2 Communication Traits	Chapter 4
10/4 Persuasion Approaches	Chapter 5
<u>Week 7</u>	
10/9 Persuasion Theories	Chapter 5
10/11 Compliance Gaining Strategies	Chapter 5
<u>Week 8</u>	
10/16 Verbal Behavior/ Language	Chapter 6
10/18 Verbal Behavior Theories	Chapter 6

	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Text/Assignment Due</u>
<u>Week 9</u>		
10/23	Nonverbal Behavior	Chapter 7 Comm Essay 2 Due
10/25	Nonverbal/ Exam Review	Chapter 7, Exam Review
<u>Week 10</u>		
10/30	Exam 2	
<u><i>Theory Building in Communication Contexts</i></u>		
11/1	No Class	
<u>Week 11</u>		
11/6	NCA Report, Interpersonal Theories	Chapter 8
11/8	Interpersonal Theories	Chapter 9
<u>Week 12</u>		
11/13	Group Theories	Chapter 9
11/15	Organizational Contexts	Chapter 10 Comm Essay 3 Due
<u>Week 13</u>		
11/20	Mass Media Contexts	Chapter 11
11/22	No Class 🎯 Thanksgiving Break	
<u>Week 14</u>		
11/27	Mass Media Theory	Chapter 11
11/29	Intercultural	Chapter 12 Theory Building Paper Due
<u>Week 15</u>		
12/4	Intercultural	Chapter 12
12/6	Health Communication, Review for Final	Chapter 13, Review For Final

FINAL EXAM Tuesday December 11 5:45-8:00 p.m.