

# SENIOR SEMINAR COMM 46091 (001)

Call no. 11802 Fall 2001

Instructor: Paul Haridakis  
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Office: D204E MSB

Class: T-Th 10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Room: D301 MSB

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 8:45 - 9:15 a.m., 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

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## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. This course is a capstone course designed to integrate your course work in communication, knowledge, skills, and experiential learning.
2. To become aware of career possibilities in communication as well as gain an understanding of opportunities for graduate work in communication.
3. To synthesize preceding coursework and apply it in your future.
4. To consider ethics and issues in Communication.

## TEXTS

Bolles, R. N. (2001). What color is your Parachute? Berkley: Ten Speed Press.

Gill, A. M. & Lewis, S. M. (1996). Help Wanted: An inexperienced job seekers's guide to career success. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

### A. Senior Thesis

The senior thesis examines the history, values, ethics, and social perspectives of the discipline related to a particular problem or issue. You will select the topic. You, as the communication expert are to review the literature, synthesize the state of knowledge and propose any further study that should be done. Accordingly, the thesis involves several steps.

1. You may select any communication problem or issue of interest to you.
2. Conduct an extensive literature review of research and scholarship on this issue.
3. Synthesize the literature. Specifically, discuss conclusions or inferences that can be made about the current state of communication scholarship and research in the area covered in your literature review. In short, you should examine, update, analyze, and

critique the state of research and knowledge about the topic/issue in the scholarly literature.

4. Based on your synthesis of the literature, discuss future directions research should take to advance communication scholarship, knowledge and understanding about the problem/issue.

5. The senior thesis will be no fewer than 12 pages and no more than 15 pages in length.

Presentation of Thesis. The summary of your thesis will be presented publicly, with peer and faculty review.

Senior Seminar is a senior-level course with senior-level expectations. Students are required to use APA style for this assignment. Not using this style consistently throughout the paper could result in a reduced grade for that assignment. I recommend you purchase or borrow the following:

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

### B. Portfolio and Presentation of Portfolio

Development/Refinement of a portfolio. Your portfolio is a formal collection of works that covers your collegiate career. It provides evidence, documentation, and best samples of various types of creative expression and skills learning. It can be submitted as evidence of learning or as a tool to be used in an employment search. Your portfolio will contain two elements:

1. an employment portfolio (what a college graduate might show to a prospective employer), and
2. a student program portfolio (examples of work at various stages in the program).

You will present your portfolio to KSU Communication Studies alumni and faculty.

### C. Position papers

During the seminar you will write four position papers (no fewer than three pages; no more than four; typed, double-spaced) dealing with issues/topics/current events (of your choosing) in communication. Each paper will have a maximum value of 25 points apiece.

#### Requirements

1. Each paper must clearly define the nature of the issue/topic. State the relevant facts.
2. Each paper must take a definite stand (position) on how communication research/theory is relevant to or could be applied in addressing the issue.
3. Each paper must be clearly written with proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, syntax and usage.

## COURSE POLICIES

Attendance. Attendance is expected. Attendance and participation is necessary in this class. If you feel you cannot attend the classes, this is not the class for you. Your attendance at all classes and presentations (yours and those of all class members) is required.

Failure to be here for all classes may be hazardous to your final grade. Specifically, I will allow 2 unexcused absences (e.g., taken at the discretion of the student to attend a social event, fraternity/sorority event, discretionary travel, accept overtime at work, do work for another class, sleep in, etc.). Five (5) points will be deducted from your total course points for this class for each unexcused absence (beyond the 2 permitted).

An absence can be excused if it is one over which the student has no effective control. According to the University Digest of Rules and Regulations such circumstances include "for example, illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, academic field trips, and participation in an approved concert or athletic event, and direct participation in university disciplinary hearings." Absences will be excused only with written proof of such a circumstance that prevents attendance on the day in question. The written verification of absence must be provided by another person as witness or authority, and presented to the instructor within two weeks of the absence(s). An assignment missed due to excused absences shall be made up during the first class session following the absence.

Plagiarism. Cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated. University policy with regard to plagiarism and/or cheating is applicable in this course. **A student who plagiarizes could receive a zero for that assignment, a lowering of the final grade, and/or failure for the course. Probation, suspension, and/or dismissal from the university is also possible.**

Please see me for any questions regarding plagiarism or refer to your student handbook as even "unintentional" plagiarism can result in a penalty. Remember, plagiarism and cheating rules also apply to speeches.

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 in classes. You are advised to review your official class schedule during the first two weeks of the semester to ensure proper enrollment. Should you find an error in your class schedule, you have until Friday of the second week of classes to correct it. If registration errors are not corrected by that date and you do continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not officially enrolled, you are advised now that you will not receive a grade at the conclusion of the semester.

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 (672-3391).

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Senior Thesis	100 Points	_____
Presentation of Senior Thesis	25 Points	_____
Portfolio	100 Points	_____
Presentation of Portfolio	25 Points	_____
Position Papers	100 Points	_____

Total Course Points = 350 Points \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment grades will be lowered one letter grade on any assignment in this class that is late. However, assignments more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

### **GRADES**

A = Excellent Scholarship	315-350 points
B = Good, Above Average	280-314 points
C = Fair or Average Attainment	245-279 points
D = Poor, Below Average	210-244 points
F = Failure	0-209 points

### **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Everything you hand in must be typed unless otherwise noted.
- Always keep up with reading assignments for class. Readings for this class are far more than supplementary.
- No talking, reading, or sleeping while an instructor or student is addressing the class.
- This syllabus and everything on it is subject to change.

# Fall Semester Schedule

**COMM 46091  
Senior Seminar  
Tentative Schedule  
Fall, 2001**

WEEK	DATE	SUBJECT	TEXT/ASSIGNMENT
1	8/28 8/30	Intro. To class Theory, Research, & Importance of Comm.	Ch. 1 (G&L); Ch. 4 (B)
2	9/4 9/6	Your Thesis Your Portfolio	Chapter 8 (G&L)
3	9/11 9/13	Issues & Ethics in Commun. Career Opportunities	<b>Position Paper due</b> Ch. 11 (G&L)
4	9/18 9/20	Job-Hunting Skills Job-Hunting Skills	Ch. 5 & 6 (G&L); Ch. 1 (B) <b>Bring resume to class</b> Ch. 7 (G&L); Ch. 2 & 3 (B)
5	9/25 9/27	Issues & Ethics in Commun. Career Opportunities	<b>Position Paper due</b> Ch. 5 & 6 (B)
6	10/2 10/4	Job-Hunting Skills Your Portfolio	Ch. 3, 9, & 10 (G&L) <b>Thesis topic due</b>
7	10/9 10/11	Job-Hunting Skills Your Thesis	Epilogue (B)
8	10/16 10/18	Issues & Ethics in Commun. Career Opportunities	
9	10/23 10/25	Career Opportunities Issues & Ethics in Commun.	<b>Position Paper due</b>
10	10/30 11/1	Your Portfolio TBA	
11	11/6 11/8	Your Portfolio Job Hunting, Careers	<b>Portfolio due</b>

12	11/13 11/15	Issues & Ethics in Commun. Portfolio Presentations	
13	11/20 11/22	Career Opportunities <b>THANKSGIVING</b>	<b>No Class</b>
14	11/27 11/29	Career Opportunities Thesis Presentations	<b>Thesis due</b>
15	12/4 12/6	Thesis Presentations Thesis Presentations	<b>Position Paper due</b>
16		<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b> <b>Friday, December 13, 12:45 p.m., Room D301 MSB</b>	