

# SENIOR SEMINAR COMM 46091 (001)

Call no. 17995 Spring 2001

Instructor: Paul Haridakis  
Office Number: 672-0174  
e-mail: pharidak@kent.edu  
Office: D204E MSB  
Office Hours: T-Th 10:30 – 12:30 p.m. and Tues. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Class: T-Th 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.  
Room: D306 MSB

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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.

## **REQUIRED 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. The paper involves several steps. Consider a hypothetical scenario in which an entity you will identify (e.g., a Corporation, Public Agency, Cable Company, Television Network) might consider moving in a certain direction regarding a communication issue or problem (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.
4. Construct a research proposal including hypotheses or research questions to be answered in the research and why conducting that research is important.
5. Explain what you would expect to find and what research method you would use to collect data and answer the questions.
6. Finally explain what the current state of knowledge in the area covered in your literature review means or can mean to the hypothetical entity/organization, and what more can be learned from your research proposal.

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. (1994). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (4th ed.). Washington, DC: APA.

#### B. Presentation of Thesis

The summary of your thesis will be presented publicly, with peer and faculty review. Currently, I anticipate that a series of public colloquia will be presented, open to the university community, for these presentations. They will be videotaped as part of your portfolio.

#### C. 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 a KSU Communication Studies alumnus who will help evaluate your portfolio.

#### D. Internet/Technology skills and miscellaneous assignments

During the seminar we will conduct various research assignments for use in class. Some will involve finding and using practical employment information and resources available on the Internet. There also will be one or more assignments dealing with use of other communication technologies. Specific assignments will be determined and assigned during the course of the semester.

Assignment grades will be lowered one letter grade if they are late. However, assignments more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

## **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 presentations (yours and those of all class members) is required and is part of your grade. Failure to be here for all classes will be hazardous to your final grade.

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 (672-2972).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Senior Thesis	150 Points	_____
Presentation of Senior Thesis	50 Points	_____
Portfolio	150 Points	_____
Presentation of Portfolio	50 Points	_____
Internet/Technology Skills and Misc. Assignments	150 Points	_____

Total Course Points = 550 Points \_\_\_\_\_

## **GRADES**

A = Excellent Scholarship	495-550 points
B = Good, Above Average	440-494 points
C = Fair or Average Attainment	385-439 points
D = Poor, Below Average	330-384 points
F = Failure	0-329 points

## **OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Everything you hand in must be typed unless otherwise noted.
- Always keep up with reading assignments for class. Book readings in 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.

# **Spring Semester Schedule**

## **COMM 46091 Senior Seminar Tentative Schedule Spring, 2001**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TEXT/ASSIGNMENT</b>
1	1/16 1/18	Intro. To class Theory, Research, & Importance of Comm.	Ch. 1 (G&L); Ch. 4 (B)
2	1/23 1/30	Your Thesis Your Portfolio	Chapter 8 (G&L)

3	2/6	Job-Hunting Skills	Ch. 5 & 6 (G&L); Ch. 1 (B)
	2/8	Job-Hunting Skills	<b>Bring resume to class</b> Ch. 7 (G&L); Ch. 2 & 3 (B)
4	2/13	Your portfolio	<b>Thesis Topic due</b>
	2/15	Your Thesis	Ch. 11 (G&L)
5	2/20	Issues & Ethics in Commun.	
	2/22	Career Opportunities	Ch. 5 & 6 (B)
6	2/27	Job-Hunting Skills	Ch. 3, 9, & 10 (G&L)
	3/1	Job-Hunting Skills	
7	3/6	Issues & Ethics in Commun.	Epilogue (B)
	3/8	Career Opportunities	
8	3/13	Issues & Ethics in Commun.	
	3/15	Career Opportunities	
9	3/20	Your Thesis	
	3/22	Your Thesis	
10	3/27	Issues & Ethics in Commun.	
	3/29	Career Opportunities	
11	4/3	Your Portfolio	
	4/5	Your Portfolio	<b>Thesis due</b>
12	4/10	Issues & Ethics in Commun.	
	4/12	Career Opportunities	
13	4/17	Career Opportunities	<b>Portfolio due</b>
	4/19	TBA	
14	4/24	Thesis Presentations	
	4/26	Thesis Presentations	
15	5/1	Portfolio Presentations	
	5/3	Portfolio Presentations	
16		<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	
		<b>Friday, May 11, 7:45 a.m., Room D306 MSB</b>	