

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**COMMUNICATION PROCESS (COMM 25902, Call # 11816, Sect. 003)**  
 Spring, 2002; M, W, @ 4:45 - 6:00, Room D 301, MSP  
 Dr. Bruce Riddle, Instructor

Office: D101B, Music & Speech Building  
 Office Hours: Mon., 9 - 11; Wed. 3:30 - 4:30; & Fri. 1 - 2.  
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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.

**Recommended Text:**

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

**Course Goals:**

This course will cover a broad overview of the major theories of human communication. You will be expected to gain 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. You will express this understanding through outside assignments, class participation, a communication theory paper, other written assignments and exams. Your text will be a major source for these concepts.

**Course Requirements and Grading Scale:**

1. **Participation:** Students will earn from five (5) to six (6) points for each timely submission of **outline notes** from the assigned readings. These notes will be accepted only on the days each reading assignment is first presented in class. No credit will be given for late assignments. These notes should be typewritten if possible, or legibly handwritten. There is no prescribed format other than the notes should clearly show that you have carefully read the material. Students should be careful to do their own work: using the work of others is plagiarism. There are 14 reading assignments worth a total of 75 points.
  
2. **Written Assignments:** All written assignments are to be submitted the day they are due. Work submitted by e-mail will not be accepted.

**Abstracts:** Each student will submit two one page, typed, single spaced abstracts of research articles published in Communication Journals. The APA Style Manual is to be used to format your abstracts. This assignment requires the submission of two copies of the abstract. For the first abstract, there will be six (6) journal articles on reserve in the library. You must tell me in advance which article you have chosen. For the second abstract, you will choose a recent article (1995 to the present). 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. Please note that the instructor has access to previous abstract assignments. The use of work that is not your own will result in appropriate disciplinary action prescribed by the University code of conduct. **Do your own work.** (50 points each)

### **Theory Application Paper.**

Students should select a communication theory discussed in class for this assignment. The paper should describe the theory and show how it can be applied in every day life. Your paper should explain the meaning of the theory, where and how it is used and what it means in a real-life context. The paper will be typed, double spaced, follow APA style guidelines, and be 6 to 8 pages in length not counting the bibliography. *Two copies of the paper and a copy of an example of a real-life context illustration will be submitted the day the assignment is due.* Real-life context examples can be found in newspapers, magazines, books, movies, TV shows, etc. (100 points).

### 3. **Exams**

Three non-comprehensive exams worth 100, 125, and 150 points will be summed to count as 58% of your grade. The exams will be comprised of various question types such as multiple choice, T/F, and short answer. Questions on all exams will come from lectures, the textbook, reports, and additional assignments. Each student is responsible for reading all material. Make-up exams will be given only due to excused absences and will be in essay and/or oral exam format.

### 4. **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 KSU policy.

### 5. **Attendance**

Your presence in class is expected. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining handouts, notes, etc. from a classmate. You are responsible for keeping track of your own attendance record, and you are expected to inform me of the reasons for each of your

absences from class. Although sending me an e-mail is helpful, it does not constitute approval of your absence. Unexcused absences equivalent of one week of classes are normally permitted without penalty. Beyond these number of absences, each missed class will reduce your grade by 5 %. Class will begin promptly at the scheduled hour. You are expected to be present and ready to begin at that time.

## 6. 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 (330) 672-3391.

**Grades:** Grades will be based on a total of 650 points:

	Point Value	My Score	
Exam 1	100	_____	A: 585-650
Exam 2	125	_____	B: 520-5584
Exam 3	150	_____	C: 455-519
Abstract 1	50	_____	D: 390-454
Abstract 2	50	_____	0-389
Theory Paper	100	_____	
<u>Reading outlines</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>_____</u>	
Total	650	_____	

## Communication Journals

Choose an article (1996 - present) from one of the journals listed below for abstract #2.

Communication Education	Communication Quarterly
Communication Studies	Health Communication
Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media	Journalism Quarterly
Management Communication Quarterly	Quarterly Journal of Speech
Southern Communication Journal	Western Journal of Communication

