

# *Communication 1370 – 10410: Introduction to Communication Studies*

Spring 2025

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM – 10:20AM

UGLC 128

Dr. Richard D. Pineda

Office: Cotton 202

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 -10:00  
and by appointment

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## **Course Reading Material:**

- \* Communication Pathways (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) on TopHat (Join code: 504134)
- \* Additional readings to be posted on Blackboard

**The course will have the reading and assessment material on TopHat and videos, supplemental reading material, support material, and your grade book in the BlackBoard class shell.**

**Course Description:** This course serves as dynamic and exciting introduction to the field of communication. Through the course of the term, you will be exposed to a wide range of topics grounded in communication theory. The course is best suited for students who have decided to major in communication and want a broad survey of the different areas of the field. The class is in a lecture format, but I am believer in active learning, so we will have activities that create space to interact with your peers as well as engage in discussion of topical issues of the day.

**Objectives and Learning Outcomes:** The objectives and learning outcomes for this course are built around the idea that you will be learning about the discipline and thinking and preparing to find a specific area of communication that interests you for future study. We will spend time talking about the sub-areas of communication as well as strategies for choosing an area of study.

1. Develop an understanding of basic communication theory including history and contemporary trends in the field.
2. Be able to contextualize and apply theory outside the classroom environment.
3. Demonstrate an ability to analyze and evaluate the ethical factors across communication formats
4. Build and develop strategies for communicating in the university environment.
5. Develop an appreciation and preparation for future study in the communication discipline.

## **Assignments:**

**Team Activities:** You will have in-class tasks to complete with your team; these are activities built around adding to your understanding and retention of course material. **(30 points)**

**Communication Observations:** Twice during the term, you will attend a communication event and complete a short assessment of the speaker and the message(s) delivered. **(2 x 5 points each – 10 points)**

**Exams:** Four exams will be assessed during the term. Each exam covers a specific section of material from the course. **(4 x 15 points each – 60 points)**

**Total Points: 100**

## **Grades:**

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59-0

## **Class Policies and Procedures:**

### Large Class Caveats

The large class environment is challenging for both you as the student and me as the professor. There are several things I want to be clear about in order to maximize the experience:

- As an individual, please be as respectful as possible when you come into class. Be on time and be ready to listen, take notes, and work with your peers.
- **Always** have access to your textbook and/or readings with you in **every** class session.
- Avoid making unnecessary noise, especially talking with other students. The noise in the auditorium can get very loud, very quickly and it can be distracting to everyone.
- Focus on the material at hand – do not study for other classes, read the newspaper, stare off into space!
- Misuse of computer technology and/or cell phones, PDAs, and/or texting devices will not be tolerated. I reserve the right to dismiss you from a class session if I find you in violation of this rule.

### Attendance

Every student is expected to attend every class session and take an active role in the classroom environment.

A student with **more than three absences** should expect the professor will drop the student from the class with a grade of “W” before the course drop deadline and with a grade of “F” after the course drop deadline.

Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to verify what will happen after reaching the excess absence point.

Except for personal or medical emergencies, which must have official documentation, or for official university absences, approved in advance, there are **no make-ups** on exams in this class. Scheduling an appointment for yourself during the class period (medical, academic, or work-related) is a choice YOU make.

Work/employment-related absences are **not excused absences.**

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the professor of extended absence. In cases of prolonged absence, the student should investigate the feasibility of withdrawal from the course.

### Exam Policy

Exams are scheduled based on course material and maximum efficiency of time. **Exams can not and will not be re-scheduled for students.** You must sit for the exam on the scheduled day. **No one will be allowed to take the fourth exam earlier than the date scheduled by the University.**

### Email

I am email accessible – in fact, I love email. If you need to ask questions or clarify class discussion, I will happily respond via email. If you need direction or ideas for papers and/or assignments, we can communicate via email as well. Do not email through BlackBoard – use the utep.edu address.

**\*\* Email submission of assignments is not acceptable. You must follow the upload guidelines on BlackBoard for assignment submission. \*\***

### Academic Dishonesty

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

### Accommodation Policy

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

### Grade Grievances

Grade grievances must be submitted to me in writing, prior to making an appointment to discuss the matter. Any grade grievance must occur within one-year from the end of the course. If we cannot come to a reasonable conclusion, you should contact the department chairperson. If you still have concerns at this point, you may consult with and/or file a grade challenge with the Chairperson of the Student Welfare and Grievance Committee. Contact the office of the Faculty Senate (747-5178) for more information.

**A final note** – your grades are available the entire semester on BlackBoard. If there are errors or issues with your posted grades, they need to be discussed with me before the final grade is set. **Your final grade in class is non-negotiable and points WILL NOT be awarded at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.** Please do not send emails requesting additional points or extra credit at the end of the term.

### Tentative Class and Reading Schedule

*Please note this schedule is tentative and subject to change. I am a firm believer in keeping a dynamic schedule to allow for discussion and adequate coverage of material. I would much rather jettison material to allow for better understanding and discourse on a particular area – I assure you I will avoid major change if possible. Additionally, please be aware if an issue of topical significance arises nationally or internationally, we may shift focus onto that event.*

**\*\*All readings are designated by chapter name and number in Top Hat or by the author name as posted on BlackBoard and **should be read before the class meeting** indicated by the date on the left.\*\***

Communication Foundations: The opening chapters of the text lay out the foundations of communication and provide insight to how the discipline started and why it is an important part of academic study.

W1 January	21 23	Introduction, Syllabus, Course Assumptions, and Intentions Strategic Collegiate Session “Communicating on Campus”
W2	28 30	Team Assignments and team building – 1 <sup>st</sup> team activity Kinsley – Why They Really Run (Blackboard) Magdin – The Super Electoral Year Overview to Political Communication
W3 February	4 6	Smith: Presidential Campaign Communication Chp 1 (Blackboard) Smith: Presidential Campaign Communication Chp 2 (Blackboard)
W4	11 13	Module 1: Basics of Communication Module 2: Communication, Culture, and Diversity
W5	18 20	Leeds-Hurwitz: History of Intercultural Communication (Blackboard) <b>EXAM #1</b>
W6	25 27	Module 3: Perception and the Self Module 4: Dialogic Communication

Contexts of Communication: Moving from the fundamental basics of communication processes, we engage a variety of contexts where communication is applied and engaged. This examination takes into specific fields of communication and exposes the intricacies of the discipline. We will study areas such as interpersonal communication, organizational communication, argumentation, computer-mediated communication, and cultural communication.

W7 March	4 6	Module 5: Language Module 6: Nonverbal Communication <b>Communication Observation #1 due</b>
W 8	18 20	<b>EXAM #2</b> Midterm Recap
W 9	25 27	Module 7: Listening Module 8: Relationship Development
W 10 April	1 3	Module 9: Relationship Maintenance Module 18: Small Group Communication
W 11	8 10	Hallahan, et al, Defining Strategic Communication Ragas and Roberts, Communicating CSR and Brand Sincerity
W 12	15 17	<b>EXAM #3</b> Module 12: Interpersonal Conflict
W 13	22 24	Silvestri: Mortars and Memes: Participating in Pop Culture from A War Zone Module 11: Mediated Relationships
W 14 May	29 1	Module 19: Leadership Kauffman, Real Time Leadership
W 15	6 8	Strategic Collegiate Session “So now what?” <b>Final Exam Review</b> <b>Communication Observation #2 due</b>
May	9	<b>DEAD DAY – NO CLASS MEETING</b>
		<b>May 15 EXAM #4 – 10:00AM – 12:45PM</b>