

Communication 1370: Introduction to Communication Studies

Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 4:20 pm Spring 2017

UGLC – Room 128

Dr. Stacey K. Sowards

Office: Cotton Memorial, 202

Office Hours: MTWRF 9:30 am – 2:30 pm by appointment

Phone: 747-8854

Email: ssowards@utep.edu

T.A.: Oscar Moreno

Email: oamoreno2@miners.utep.edu

Course Reading Material:

- * Wood, Julia T. (2013). *Communication mosaics: An introduction to the field of communication*. Thompson-Wadsworth. 8th Edition
- * Additional readings to be posted on Blackboard

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 also 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:

Communication Observations: Two times during the semester you will be responsible for submitting a communication observation form. The form, available on Blackboard, requires that you evaluate a communicative event and apply knowledge we have learned in class thus far to your artifact/event. These assignment cannot be submitted late, no exceptions. **(2x7.5 = 15 points)**

Team Assignments: You will be part of a team of students in class responsible for a variety of exercises and assignments. Your team will meet in class and have time to complete each project before class is over. **(25 points)**

Exams: Four content exams will be given in the class over the course of the semester. Each exam will cover a specific, limited section of class material. **(4x15 = 60 points)**

Total Points: 100

A=90-100

B=80-89

Grades:

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59-0

*****Make sure to keep all assignments until the end of the semester!***** Sometimes grades are not recorded correctly, so it is wise to keep all materials until the end of the semester to double check your final grade. Note on rounding: When calculating your final grades, I will round up. For example, 89 ½/100% is an “A-” but an 89/100% is a “B+.”

Class Policies and Procedures:

Use of Laptops, Cell Phones, and Other Technologies

Use of laptops, cell phones, iPods, iPads, and other technologies during class is not permitted, unless prior permission is granted. The necessity of classroom interaction in this course negates the usefulness of these technologies as note-taking devices. The use of these technologies during class can also prove distracting to your classmates, so please refrain from using them during class, unless you are looking at a reading assignment for a team discussion activity or have prior permission from me to use such tools.

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 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!
- If you use a computer in this class, please avoid the temptation to multitask and check email/surf the web while typing notes.

Team Assignment Caveats

This class uses a team based approach to learning. You will be assigned to a team at random during the first week of class. You may not pick a specific team and you will not be allowed to move from your team once the assignments have occurred. All teamwork is done in class, so your primary responsibility to the team is to be in class everyday and to be prepared to engage in the activities.

Teamwork is challenging because it brings together different perspectives and attitudes, so you will need to work hard to achieve positive interaction with your team. Your team based points contribute to your final grade and in order to maximize those points you need to be an active part of the team.

Team assignments start with lower point values and slowly become more valuable as the term continues. Team assignments are randomly distributed, so if you miss class on any given day this is likely to have an effect on your final grade for the class.

Attendance

Every student is expected to attend every class session and take an active role in the classroom environment. Attendance will be taken every class session. Attendance in this class will be kept through the use of team activities. A student with **more than four 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 team assignments and/or exams in this class. Scheduling an appointment for yourself during the class period (medical, academic, or work-related) is a choice you make and will count against your absences in class.

The team attendance sheets are the only marker we use to count attendance. It is your responsibility to make sure your name is included on the daily sheets. If your name is not on the sheet you will not be counted present.

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.

Students are responsible for any announcements that are made in class regarding changes in the class schedule. Students are also responsible for obtaining any information they missed due to absences. The professor will not repeat lecture material.

Exam Policy

Exams are scheduled based on course material and maximum efficiency of time. **Exams cannot and will not be re-scheduled for students.** You must sit for the exam on the scheduled day; this includes the final exam which is scheduled by the University. **No one will be allowed to take the final exam earlier than the date scheduled by the University.** You must sit for the fourth and final exam to receive a grade for the course.

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, 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. CASS Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, collusion, and deliberately interfering with the work of others.

Plagiarizing means representing the work of someone else (such as another student or an author of a book, article, or internet site) as your own. If you use the ideas or words of someone else, **you must cite the source** of the original information in your paper or presentation. For this class, using your own papers completed for another class also would be considered plagiarism.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying answers from other students' papers or tests, discussing test questions with students who have not taken the test, and/or using notes when taking a test. Another example of cheating is to use a source from a text book without obtaining the original author's work. If you do not read a work in its entirety, you may misrepresent the original author's work. Another example is to copy answers from another student or to allow another student to copy from your work. Collusion refers to collaboration with another student to commit any academically dishonest act. If you provide answers to someone or knowingly allow someone to copy your work, you will be held responsible.

Invented or plagiarized work can result in an F grade for the course and may result in possible disciplinary action at the university level. Students may be suspended or expelled for engaging in academic dishonesty.

Letters of recommendation policy

Letters of recommendation should be written by someone who knows you well, thinks highly of your work, and has had you in class before. For these reasons, I will only write letters of recommendation for students who I have had in two or more classes, and received grades of B or better. If you plan on asking me for a letter of recommendation, you should provide me a copy of your resume, UTEP transcript (unofficial is acceptable), the addresses and names of the people to address the letters, and descriptions of the programs to which you are applying. I will need approximately two weeks advance notice for writing letters of recommendation. This policy is also a good guideline to follow when asking anyone for a letter of recommendation.

Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to be respectful and supportive of other students, especially during class discussions. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during all class sessions. Many different ideas will be welcomed and encouraged. However, sexist and racist comments and offensive intolerance for others will not be tolerated in this class.

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.

Class and Reading Schedule

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

WEEK 1 – Introduction and Strategic Collegiate Session I

W1	Jan	17	Syllabus and Course introduction
		19	Team orientation and first team activities

****Have a copy of the Communication Observation form with you in class.***

WEEK 2 and 3 – 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.

W2	Jan	24	Chapter 1: A First Look at Communication
	Jan	26	Chapter 2: The Field of Communication from Historical & Contemporary Perspectives
W3	Jan	31	Chapter 3: Perceiving and Understanding
	Feb	2	Summary & Discussion

WEEK 4, 5 and 6 – Communication Processes and Skills: The study of communication is the study of processes whether based in perception, language or in the exchange of symbols and gestures. As we delve into these processes, we will also study the processes of listening and investigate the role of culture and society in communication.

W4	Feb	7	Chapter 4: Engaging in Verbal Communication
	Feb	9	Chapter 5: Engaging in Nonverbal Communication
W5	Feb	14	Chapter 6: Listening and Responding to Others
	Feb	16	Exam #1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
W6	Feb	21	Communication Observation #1 Due
	Feb	23	Chapter 7: Creating Communication Climates

WEEK 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 – 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 Feb 28 Chapter 8: Adapting Communication to Cultures and Social Communities
 March 2 Leeds-Hurwitz: History of Intercultural Communication

W8 March 7 Chapter 9: Communication and Personal Identity
 March 9 Yoshino: Excerpt from *Covering*

March 13-17: Spring Break

W9 March 21 **Exam #2: Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, Leeds-Hurwitz, & Yoshino**
 March 23 Progress Check in

W10 March 28 Chapter 10: Communication in Personal Relationships
 30 Chapter 11: Communication in Groups and Teams

W11 April 4 Chapter 12: Communication in Organizations
 April 6 Wood: The Study of Communication, Gender, and Culture

W12 April 11 Wilz, Samek, Anguiano, Powell: articles from *Women's Studies in Communication*
 April 13 **Exam #3: Chapters 10, 11, 12, Wood, Wilz, Samek, Anguiano, & Powell**

W13 April 18 Chapter 14: Mass Media
 April 20 Chapter 15: Digital Media and the Online World

W14 April 25 Appiah: Excerpt from *Cosmopolitanism*
 April 27 Minh-ha: Other Than Myself, My Other Self

W15 May 2 Progress Check in; **Communication Observation #2 Due**
 May 4 Final exam review

Thurs May 11 **4:00 PM – 6:45 PM Exam #4: Chapters 14, 15, Appiah, Minh-ha**

Team members:

 Name Telephone Number Email Address

 Name Telephone Number Email Address

 Name Telephone Number Email Address

 Name Telephone Number Email Address