Instructor: Michael E. Eidenmuller
Class Room: HPR 262
Office Room #: HPR 265
Office Phone #: 903.566.7093
Office Hours: TR 3:15-4:00; R 5:30-6:00
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Course Description: Survey of major theories and concepts that inform the scholarly study of human communication. Course content is highly abstract in nature and students can expect to be challenged both by the intellectual content and the language used to animate it.

Student Learning Outcomes: This seminar fulfills three learning outcomes of the graduate program in communication:

1. Theoretical Knowledge (Human Communication Theory). Students will be able to explain human communication from a variety of theoretical and perspectives.
2. Theoretical Knowledge (Mass Communication Theory). Students will be able to evaluate mass communication from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
3. Communication Assessment. Students will be able to evaluate the communication rules, norms, listening skills, and rhetorical strategies used by people.

Course Objectives:
(1) Gain factual knowledge of theories and related perspectives
(2) Learn to apply course material to improve thinking, problem-solving, decision-making
(3) Develop skills in expression oneself orally, and in writing
(4) Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

Major Requirements: 1) written research summary (10-12 pgs.) tracing the advent, development, and current status of three different communication theories located within three discrete theoretical domains (holding an identifiable position along epistemological spectrum); 2) three domain specific exams, one cumulative final exam; 3) two seminar-style chapter presentations. Written research summary material can be found in communication journals available in the university library, via ILL, Google scholar, and in my office library, among other locations. Test questions will come from class lectures, course text, and student led chapter discussions.

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Grades: Final grades in this class will reflect a standard percentaging system. 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, and 59% and below = F.

Additional Items and Responsibilities

Attendance Policy: Attend as often as you are able.

Class Participation: Students should consider themselves active, intellectual participants in the course. In order to facilitate participation, reading assignments should be completed prior to the class session scheduled for discussion. Students are responsible for completing assigned text materials and raising questions to clarify potential or actual misunderstandings.

Original Work: All assignments handed in must be original to the student. I will deal with any suspected acts of plagiarism swiftly and decisively. You may not sell/give or otherwise distribute notes, completed assignments, tapes, or materials germane to this course to other individuals unless expressly authorized by the instructor.

Students Rights and Responsibilities: To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies: Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy: Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date). Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.
**Disability Services:** In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services counselor. If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services office in UC 3150, or call (903) 566-7079.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities:** If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:** It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:** Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.