CMST 1311 Introduction to
Communication Studies
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DEPARTMENT SYLLABI

Use this link to access the syllabi for all Department of Communication courses

https://www.uttyler.edu/communication/syllabi/Links to an external site.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of human communication across personal, social, and public contexts. Students will examine how meaning is created, shared, and interpreted through intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, organizational, public speaking, and mass communication. Emphasis is placed on understanding communication as a practical skill that shapes relationships, decision-making, leadership, and society.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A. Foundations of Communication

    a. Explain core concepts and models of human communication.

    b. Identify major communication contexts and their purposes.

    c. Describe how meaning is created and interpreted.

B. Oral Communication

    a. Create and deliver effective oral presentations.

    b. Communicate ideas clearly and confidently in front of others.

    c. Adapt speaking style to audience, purpose, and setting.

C. Interpersonal Communication

    a. Analyze communication in relationships and everyday interactions.

    b. Apply communication strategies to improve relational outcomes.

    c. Demonstrate active listening and feedback skills.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies

- Available for **free** through Canvas as an open educational resource
- Students are encouraged to download the text for easy access
- No textbook purchase required

GRADED COURSE REQUIREMENTS INFORMATION

- **Assessments (60 points total)**

  Assessments evaluate students' understanding of communication concepts and theories presented in readings and lectures.

- **Reflections (70 points total)**

  Reflection assignments require students to analyze communication experiences, apply course concepts, and engage in structured self-reflection.

- **Lesson Responses (30 points total)**

  Lesson responses assess engagement with assigned readings and lectures and require students to demonstrate comprehension and application of course material.

- **Neologism Experiment (20 points)**

  This assignment examines language creation and meaning-making in communication.

- **Career Communication Strategy Plan (10 points)**

  Students will develop a basic communication strategy related to career and professional contexts.

- **Persuasive Speech (20 points)**

  Students will prepare and deliver a persuasive speech demonstrating effective oral communication skills.

- **Total Points: 210**

  There is **no traditional midterm or final exam**. Students demonstrate learning through completing assignments, assessments, reflections, and presentations.

Basic Requirements

The course requires access to a reliable computer and internet connection.

Other requirements include:

- A device capable of accessing Canvas, email, and course materials

- Ability to view lecture videos and submit typed assignments

- Microsoft Word or compatible software capable of exporting .DOC or .DOCX files

- Internet access (this is an asynchronous online course; no Zoom meetings are required)

Communication

If you have a question, concern or just want to talk about something related to class, call or send me a text at **903-780-5813**. I will get back to you as soon as possible.

- You can also send me an email.

- Check the Announcements tab of Canvas.

- If there is any valid reason that you cannot turn in work on time, contact me.

Completing Work on Time

Assignments are posted in Canvas and each has a deadline. Missing a deadline results in a deduction. Those who miss an assignment without an excused absence may not get the opportunity to make up the assignment.

Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students Academic Honesty

The University's academy honesty policies apply. You, and only you, must do the work that you submit. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, unattributed use of others' work (including test and paper "banks"), disruption of class, and discourtesy to, or harassment of, other students or your instructor. Anyone caught cheating will earn a "0" for that assignment and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or

obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. Students caught plagiarizing will fail the assignment, may fail this class and will be subject to academic and disciplinary action. Go here for

http://www.uttyler.edu/judicialaffairs/scholasticdishonesty.php (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

UT Tyler's Statement on AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code.

Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity.

The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Each assignment has a posted value and information on the purpose of the assignment and how the grade is determined. If there is confusion on how to carry out the assignment, call or text me at **903-780-5813** BEFORE you do the assignment.

Grading Scale

Your final grade is determined by the points you have acquired as a percentage of the total points available.

- A: 90-100%

- B: 80-89%

- C: 70-79% D: 60-69%

- F: 59% and below

Check Canvas frequently for the status of your grade. You will not be given an opportunity to do extra work to improve your grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A. This course is an asynchronous, online course. This means that we will not have scheduled meeting times each week, but you are required to log into Canvas throughout the semester. If you have not spent time on Canvas before the census date (Jan 16), your attendance will be recorded as "not attended." Additionally, you are required to complete the course requirements according to the provided schedule. This includes watching lecture videos, reading textbook chapters, and completing assignments by the listed due dates.

Census Date: The census date for the semester is Jan 16tth. This is the final date for many enrollment-related actions, including adding new courses, changing sections, or dropping courses without incurring grades of "W" or "Q". Census is also the second drop for non-payment date each academic session. See the Office of the Registrar website for additional details

Week One: Monday 1/12 – Sunday, 1/18	
Module requirements: 1. Read course syllabus & schedule 2. Reflection Assignments and Rubric Overview 3. Models and Comm Competence 4. Read chapter 1	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Reflection 1 "Humans I don'tunderstand" 2. Lesson Response 1 (Ch 1)
Week Two: Monday, 1/19 – Sunday, 1/25	
Module requirements: 1. Perceiving Self and Others 2. Neologism Assignment Overview 3. Read chapter 2-3	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Reflection 2 "Humans I don't 2. understand" 3. Lesson Response 2 (Ch 2)
Week Three: Monday, 1/26 – Sunday, 2/1	
Module requirements: 1. Assessment 1 2. Nonverbal Communication 3. Read chapter 1-3 and chapter 4	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Assessment 1 2. Lesson Response 3 (Ch 4)
Week Four: Monday, 2/2 – Sunday, 2/8	
Module requirements: 1. Listening and Relationships 2. Read chapter 5, 7	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Neologism Experiment 2. Lesson Response 4 (Chs 5, 7)
Week Five: Monday, 2/9 – Sunday, 9/15	
Module requirements: 1. Interpersonal Communication 2. Read chapter 6	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Reflection 3 "Interpersonal strategy for improvement plan"
Week Six: Monday, 2/16 – Sunday, 2/22	
Module requirements: 1. Read chapter 4-7	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.** 1. Lesson Response 5 (Ch 6) Assessment 2
Week Seven: Monday 2/23 – Sunday, 3/1	

Module requirements:
1. Small Group Development
2. Work on Reflection 4
3. Read chapter 13

Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.
1. Lesson Response 6 (Ch 13)
2. Reflection 4 "Conformity and Conflict

Week Eight: Monday, 3/2 – Sunday, 3/8

Module requirements:
1. Assessment 3
2. Org Comm Leadership
3. Read chapter 13-14

Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.
1. Assessment 3
2. Reflection paper 5"Workplace team leadership plan"

Week Nine: 3/9 – Sunday, 3/15

Spring Break – No Module Requirements

Week Ten: Monday, 3/16 – Sunday, 3/22

Module requirements:
1. Work on Career Comm Strategy Plan
2. Assessment 4
3. Read chapter 14

Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.

1. Lesson Response 7 (Ch 14)

2. Assessment 4

Week Eleven: Monday, 3/23– Sunday, 3/29

Module requirements:
1. Preparing and Delivering a Speech
2. Persuasive Speech Overview
3. Read chapter 9-10

Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.
1. Career Comm Strategy Plan

Week Twelve: Monday, 3/30 – Sunday, 4/5

Module requirements:
1. Informative and Persuasive Speaking
2. Speaking in Various Contexts
3. Read chapter 11

Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.
1. Lesson Response 8 (Ch 12)

Week Thirteen: Monday, 4/6 – Sunday, 4/12

Module requirements:	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.**
1. Assessment 5 2. Media and Technology 3. Read chapter 12 and chapter 9-12	1. Assessment 5 2. Lesson Response 9 (Ch 15)

Week Fourteen: Monday, 4/13 – Sunday, 4/19

Module requirements:	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.**
4. Recording Persuasive Speeches 5. Read chapter 15	1. Reflection 6 "Media as Society—What media do you watch and what is it promoting?" 2. Persuasive Speech

Week Fifteen: Monday, 4/20 – Sunday, 4/26

Module requirements:	**Due by Sunday, by 11:59 p.m.**
1. New and Social Media 2. Read chapter 16	1. Lesson Response 10 (Ch 16) 2. Reflection 7 "Social media life strategy"

Week Sixteen: Finals Week, Monday, 4/27 – Friday, 5/1

Requirements:	**Due by Friday, by 11:59 p.m.**
1. Assessment 6 2. Read chapter 15-16	1. Assessment 6