

COMM 5365

Title: COMM 5365 Communication Capstone

Instructor: Dr. Brent Yergensen

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 1:30-2:30

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Description: This course is the culmination of your learning experience in the COMM graduate program. It is designed for you to reflect upon and to showcase your academic work. You will develop and present a digital portfolio grounded in your graduate studies.

Students complete this course in the last semester of their MA program.

Prerequisites: COMM 5308, COMM 5310

Objectives (Student Learning Outcomes). Note: those highlighted in bold are Graduate Program SLO's:

1. **Theoretical Knowledge** - Students will be able to explain communication from a variety of communication theoretical perspectives.
2. Integration – Students will be able to integrate knowledge and skills gained in graduate work.
3. **Communication Assessment** - Students will be able to evaluate the communication rules, norms, listening skills, and rhetorical strategies used by people.
4. Presentation – Students will be able to showcase their work in a digital portfolio that prioritizes, organizes, and shows best work.
5. Adaptation – Students will be able to adapt work completed in graduate studies to a specified targeted audience.

Overview:

3 outcomes:

1. Weekly module reports (6@5 pts each—the last week just turn in final project)
2. Weekly discussions with peers (7@3 pts each)
3. Final Project 30 pts each (turned in the final week)
4. Project decision and evidence (3 points)

Three paths:

1. Applied workplace experience, internship style new project if with current employer— Project Report is a portfolio with images, structure, and evidence. This can be a website, a single document, or a series of document if the work completed is readily documentable with files that can be provided. A final letter from a supervisor demonstrating hours that were worked is required.
2. Media production, option for students with production background.
3. Research project, analytic rather than social scientific unless IRB approval is already granted for a previous project. Students are allowed to use a previous project from a class, but 7,000 words of new content is required.

15 hours work/week.

Module reports 5 points each (30 total, 5x6 milestone reports)

Path	Applied Workplace Experience	Media Production	Research Project
Module 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide contract letter of new appointment or project • 200 word report on 3 key accomplishments, totalling 15 hours of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of project planning, technology used, platform outcome • 200 word report on 3 key accomplishments, totalling 15 hours of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of project, description if expounding on previous study. • 200 word report on 3 key accomplishments, totalling 15 hours of work.
Module 2	200 word report on 3 key accomplishments, totalling 15 hours of work.		
Module 3			
Module 4			
Module 5			
Module 6			
Module 7	Turn in final project	Turn in final project	Turn in final project

Project Report 30 points

Weekly feedback sessions in discussion.

Each week, post a question for your peers that could help you with your project. Examples for each format could be:

1. For an applied project, "This week I'm required in my new project to put together a training for new hires on best practices for succeeding in our workplace. So far I've come up with a. frequent interaction with supervisor and b. avoiding gossip. However, I need more ideas. What would you recommend for a training module for new hires?"
2. For a media production project, "Finishing my animation script, I need to a conclusion that leaves an impact. If you were to leave something funny and memorable for your audience of your short film, what kind of things do you find humorous?"
3. For a research project, "As part of my study I need to justify the importance of studying Facebook addiction. So far I've looked into escapism and how people compare their lives with others. But, I'm looking for a third justification for the study. Can you share ideas on how to best justify a study on how Facebook addiction is problematic?"

Students are also required to respond to 5 other students' questions in order to help each other progress.

This course uses several different assessment tools to evaluate aspects of learning and performance such as assignments, participation, presentations and/or written submissions.

Grading scale:

- A 90% or greater
- B 80% to 89.99%
- C 70% to 79.99%
- D 60% to 69.99%
- F 59.99% and below