

# COMM 1100 – Communication in Society (AU16)

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**Office:** Derby Hall 3001

**Office Hours:** Monday 1:00-3:00pm (office) | Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm (online) | Or by appointment

**C-REP:** Jessica Frampton ([frampton.22@osu.edu](mailto:frampton.22@osu.edu))

Contact for C-REP related matters only

**Course description:** The purpose of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of what communication science is, and an overview of some of its major theories and methods. It will provide a basic understanding of several communication disciplines: mass communication; political communication; interpersonal communication; intercultural communication; influential communication; and group communication. This course fulfills the GE Social Science – Individuals and Groups requirement.

## Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
  - This will be fulfilled by lectures and readings which focus on increasing our understanding of individuals and groups, and methods utilized to study these ideas. This will be assessed through exams, review questions, short posts, and practically through C-REP engagement.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural contexts of human existence, and the processes by which groups function.
  - This will be fulfilled by considering theories which aim specifically to explain people and their communicative behavior, as well as focusing on cultural and ethnic influences on communicative behavior, and is assessed through exams, review questions, and short posts.
3. Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.
  - This will be fulfilled by focusing on how theories covered help us understand individual or group dynamics, as well as how the media play a role in the maintenance of power relations between various entities. This is assessed by exams and short posts.

**Students with disabilities:** This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking assistance in a timely manner. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to contact me privately to discuss your specific needs, or contact the Office for Disability Services to coordinate your documented disabilities. The Office of Disability Services are located at 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 23th Avenue, and can be reached at 614-292-3307 (TDD: 614-292-0901).

### Course Requirements:

- **Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. (2015). *A first look at communication theory*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.**  
I have worked with McGraw-Hill to secure a discount on the book. Purchasing through the campus book store with ISBN 9781260064971 will cost \$99, rather than the normal \$120 for a new edition.  
*NOTE: it may be cheaper to buy or rent the earlier 8<sup>th</sup> edition – however, content varies between editions. Not all chapters are found in the earlier edition, and it is your responsibility to ensure access to the required readings.*
- **Additional course readings and materials**, available via Carmen.
- **Access to a working computer/laptop with high-speed internet connection.** This course is taught exclusively online. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that their equipment is in working order and they know how to use it, as well as having a back-up plan in case something goes wrong.

### Methods of Assessment:

Assignment	Grade %	Due date
<b>Midterm #1</b> This will cover all content in weeks 2 through 6.	15%	Sa 10/1
<b>Midterm #2</b> This will cover all content in weeks 7 through 11.	15%	Sa 11/5
<b>Midterm #3/Final</b> This will cover all content in weeks 12 through 16.	15%	We 12/14
<b>C-REP Participation</b> All students enrolled in COMM 1100 and 1101 are required to participate in the School of Communication’s Research Experience Program – see below.	5%	Fr 10/7, 9pm & We 12/7, 9pm
<b>Reading Checks</b> There will be 12 short reading check quizzes throughout the semester, reviewing the readings for the week. The lowest 2 scores are dropped.	25%	Various
<b>Short Papers *</b> There will be six short paper (1-2 pages) assignments across the semester, designed to test your application of the methods, theories and concepts covered in recent weeks. Your lowest paper grade is dropped.	20%	Various
<b>Course Engagement</b> As an online alternative to attendance/participation, up to 5% of your grade can be achieved through class engagement – see below.	5%	Ongoing

\* **Specific guidance on this assignment, including rubrics, will be available on Carmen later this fall.**

**Grading policy:** the standard OSU grading scale will used for assessments on this course, namely:

A	93-100%	B	83-86.99%	C	73-76.99%	D	60-66.99%
A-	90-92.99%	B-	80-82.99%	C-	70-72.99%	E	Below 60%
B+	87-89.99%	C+	77-79.99%	D+	67-69.99%		

Note: I can only give you the grade you have earned. *There will be no rounding of final grades*, no matter how close you are. If you are concerned about your grades, be proactive and make an appointment so that you can discuss your progress so far, and identify ways to improve going forward – initiative pays off!

## General Expectations for Online Classes

There are often a number of misperceptions about online classes, which it's useful to try and address up-front. Please note the following:

- **"Online classes are easier"** – this isn't necessarily true, nor is it necessarily true that they're harder. Just like any two physical classes, there will be differences in the difficulty level. Generally speaking, the online version of a class won't be substantially different than a physical version of the same class, but will just vary due to the online delivery (so assignments may vary but will focus on similar outcomes. This course will be comparable to the physical COMM 1100 class, and other online and physical 1000-level courses.
- **"I can work at my own pace"** – this is partially true, in that you aren't tied to specific lecture times. However, few online courses allow you the ability to completely dictate your pace. Further, some students must take part in activities weekly to satisfy funding requirements. As such, each week will be delivered as a module, which will be made available a little earlier for students who want to get started early. Modules will officially open on Sunday, and must be completed by the following Saturday, giving you a 7-day period within which to cover the content, readings, and assignments.
- **"It's all quizzes"** – this isn't true. There are often more quizzes than you might find in a regular classroom-based courses, but again it varies between classes. In this course, quizzes are used as a reading check to determine how well you're understanding the material (because you can't raise your hand and ask a clarifying question). You can take each week's quiz 3 times, although questions vary between attempts. If you don't do well, this should be a cue to review the readings before trying again to maximize your potential for both the quizzes and the course generally.

## Technology:

As a general rule, technical failure does not constitute an excuse for submitting work late. This rule is more important with online courses. You are, per course requirements, obligated to have regular access to a working computer/laptop and high-speed internet access (for the purpose of viewing course lectures). It is your responsibility to make sure your devices are in working order, which includes hardware and software. Technical problems which are documented by the University's Office of the Chief Information Officer ([https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/system\\_status](https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/system_status)) will be permitted as these are outside of your control. If you experience a problem with an OSU system (email, Carmen) which OCIO have not reported, it will be your responsibility to raise a ticket with them. Only after they confirm your situation was out of your control will an accommodation be made. Note that a situation like this is extremely rare – a lot of resources go in to making these systems operate correctly.

If you find yourself experiencing a technical issue that impacts your ability to take part in essential class activities, your first response should be to make alternate arrangements. You should email me only where this is not possible, at which point accommodations may be made, dependent of the circumstances.

## Carmen:

All course content will be delivered through the classes Carmen page, which is located at <http://carmen.osu.edu>. For students who have taken classes at The Ohio State University before, you'll notice that Carmen has undergone some changes – the system powering the web site is changing, and this class will be using the new version of Carmen – Canvas. Most changes are cosmetic, and course content will be easy to locate. If you are having difficulty finding something, please contact the TA for guidance.

The following resources are provided by the Office of Distance Education and eLearning (ODEE), and may be useful in getting to grips with the new system:

- [Getting Started with Canvas \(for Students\)](#)
- [Setting up Notifications and Email Settings](#)
- [Navigating Your Canvas Course \(for Students\)](#)

### Technology Help:


For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- Self-Service and Chat support: <http://ocio.osu.edu/selfservice>
- Phone: 614-688-HELP (4357)
- Email: 8help@osu.edu

### Midterms:

Three online midterm exams will be held over the semester. They will each be 30 questions long, and you will have 45 minutes to complete it in. You will only have one attempt to complete each midterm, and will be administered via the LockDown Browser in Carmen which prevents you from accessing other screens whilst taking the midterm.

Because there is no way to prevent students from using their notes or textbook in an online examination, these exams will be open-book and you are encouraged to use these resources. However, please be aware of the time limit: you have less time than you might in a seated exam because you won't have to rely entirely on recall. You will not have time to look up individual answers, so familiarity with the content will be essential, as will clear and well organized notes.

To assist you with preparing notes for the midterm, note the use of this symbol in lecture videos →  They will give you cues to narrow down your review.

### C-REP Participation:

All students in COMM 1100 must participate in the Communication Research Experience Program ("C-REP"). C-REP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. The purpose of this requirement is to teach you about the empirical research that is conducted in the field of communication by giving you first-hand experience as a participant. Your participation in C-REP counts for 5% of your course grade in this course, and this is **NOT** extra credit.

Participation can take the form of:

- Completing FIVE hours of C-REP research studies, **OR**
- Completing FIVE C-REP alternative written assignments, **OR**
- Completing a combined total of FIVE hours of research studies and alternative writing assignments.

A few general notes about your C-REP participation:

- **You must complete at least 2.5 hours by 9pm on Friday October 7th** (although you are welcome to complete more than 2.5 hours by this initial deadline).
- **You must complete all participation by 9pm on Wednesday December 7th.**
  - Note that you should NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for studies – there may not be many left by the end of the semester especially. Every semester a handful of students are unable to complete all 5 hours because they leave it too late to sign up for studies. If you put yourself in this situation, there is nothing I can do to rectify it.
- Additionally, no more than half of your credit can be completed in online studies. The other half must be completed through lab-based studies or alternate assignments.
  - Again, failure to sign up for enough lab-based studies in time is your responsibility, not mine.
  - Note: researchers of lab-based studies are required to include an additional 0.5 credits in the credit offered, to compensate the participant for time travelling to the site (i.e. a lab-based study taking an hour, which is normally worth 1 credit, will be offered for 1.5 credits).

*For information on completing your C-REP requirement, see the relevant documents on Carmen.*

## Reading Checks

Most weeks will have a reading check quiz. These short checks are designed to test your knowledge of the readings for that week. You can take each reading check three times, and your highest grade will be recorded. Questions will be drawn from a pool, meaning that when you retake the quiz it may deliver new questions. As such, I would recommend taking your first attempt a little before the deadline – that way, if you don't do very well, you will have time to review the readings before your next attempt, which will maximize your chances of improving your score.

Quizzes will be opened at 12:01am EST on Tuesdays, and close at 11:59pm EST on Saturdays each week, giving you 5 days to take part. 25% of your final grade is based on these reading quizzes, with your lowest two scores dropped.

## Short Papers

There will be six short papers over the course of the semester, and will each respond to a prompt which will be made available around 2 weeks before the deadline (with the exception of the first, the methods short paper, which will be available 1 week before the deadline). A short paper should be 1-2 pages long, meaning that it *must* fill at least a single page entirely, without spaces, and should not extend beyond 2.5 pages – these will be enforced. The prompt will indicate what is being looked for in grading, and your grade will be based on how well your paper addresses 4 themes listed in that prompt.

## Attendance, Participation and Engagement:

Because the course is offered online, class attendance cannot be monitored in quite the same way as a traditional classroom-based course. However, it is essential to remain participating in the class on a regular basis. For some students, such as those receiving scholarships or other financial aid, it is required that they engage regularly with their courses. And for any student, remaining on top of content and assignments is essential. Therefore, it is a course expectation that students log in to the Carmen page at least once per week.

To facilitate this expectation, there is at least one assignment per week which contributes towards the final grade. Therefore, it is essential to treat this class as you would a physical class – participate regularly, and ensure you are aware of and keep up with readings, lecture content (delivered here through weekly lecture videos) and assessments.

In addition, there will be weekly engagement activities. These will be communicated via email and the announcement section of Carmen, and contribute towards 5% of your grade. You should aim to complete at least one out of every two engagement activity to earn full credit, with the exception of the week 1 intro activities which are mandatory and fulfil 1.5% of this 5% total.

## Office Hours:

Both the TA and I have office hours twice a week. Guanjin's Monday hours will be held in her office (Derby 3001), and my Friday hours are held in mine, Derby 3049. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, office hours will be held online via CarmenConnect (<http://carmenconnect.osu.edu/>). You can access this resource using your OSU name.# and requires a small applet. There is an Adobe Connect Diagnostic Test link on the homepage (before logging in) which you should run before trying to use this service for the first time.

It is not necessary to book a time for office hours, though keep in mind that there are a lot of students in this class so you might need to wait if a few show up/log in at the same time. As a courtesy, please email be ahead of office hours if you want to go through an assignment you've had graded, so that I can review it quickly ahead of time – this will save you time as well as me.

Check Carmen when trying to utilize online office hours – we will post the office hour URL there, and if issues with CarmenConnect arise we will confirm alternative plans via Carmen.

## General Course Policies:

1. Email Policy: Because of the size of this class, and the tendency for the affordances that email communication provides us to both limit meaningful contact and stop up from seeking out information which is readily available (something which is made worse in online courses due to the ease of writing and sending messages electronically), I use a limited email policy which has proven successful in past courses. Both the TA and I hold regular office hours, which should be utilized. Any queries which students can answer themselves – check the syllabus first! – will be ignored.

**Ideally, email should be limited to request a meeting time** or give the TA or I a heads up that you are coming in to discuss something in particular. Such emails should include a brief description of your issue/question, and either the office hours you will be attending or some times when you can meet, if you are unable to attend the scheduled times. We will respond to confirm a mutual time. General questions should not be emailed, but rather you should post your question to the relevant discussion board on Carmen.

**Note:** this policy is not designed to limit or inhibit contact – quite the opposite. It is designed, and has proven to be successful in, promoting both student independence and meaningful interaction. I will happily make accommodations to this policy, however, for students registered with Student Life Disability Services (SLDS/ODS) for whom travelling to an additional location is problematic.

If the reason for your contact cannot wait until the next office hours, you are welcome to email us and we will respond as appropriate within 24-48 hours. It is your responsibility to ensure, whether emailing or coming to office hours, that you are not leaving contact to the last possible moment. Emailing the TA an hour before an assignment is due to be handed in does not shift your responsibility to complete a task on time to the TA/instructor.

2. Assistance: If there are circumstances that are affecting your performance in this class, you should inform the TA or myself of them as soon as possible. Ultimately, there may or may not (but probably will) be things we can do to assist you ahead of time, but out of fairness to your peers there is very little we can do after the fact (such cases are referred to Student Advocacy).

We can help you understand the material before assignments are due, but I will not change your grade afterwards. It is always better to come to us with any problems or suggestions early, so that we are able to do something about it. Please email to set up an appointment if this is the case.

3. Classroom Conduct: The classroom – whether physical or virtual – is a space for learning and exploring ideas in an open, safe environment. This is only possible if we are respectful of one another, even where we disagree. Harassment, intimidation, discrimination, and any other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Please treat each other as you would like to be treated, and let me know if you have any concerns.
4. Deadlines and Late Submissions: Deadlines are non-negotiable, except in the instance of university-recognized circumstances. Because all assignments can be completed over a number of days, documentation must be provided which indicates your inability to complete an assignment during the entire period. Quizzes and midterms close at the deadline and can only be reopened upon receipt of satisfactory documentation. Written work which is submitted after the deadline but before 24 hours have passed will lose 10%; work submitted between 24 and 48 hours late will lose 20%. Work submitted after 48% will not be graded and the student will forfeit those points.
5. Grade challenges: grade challenges must be made within one week of the grade being posted (the time will be based on when I email the class to indicate that the grade has been posted), so make sure you check emails/grades regularly. To challenge a short paper grade, send an email detailing your grievance to the TA. To challenge a quiz or midterm grade, send an email detailing your grievance to the instructor.

## **Academic Misconduct**

All students at the Ohio State University are bound by the Code of Student Conduct (see <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>). Violations of this code in this class, especially pertaining to 3335-23-04 on Academic Misconduct will be aggressively prosecuted through the procedures the university has set up to deal with violations of the Code. You are responsible for being familiar with the Student Code, and ignorance of the Code is not an excuse for violating it. Examples of violation of the Code of Student Conduct includes cheating on exams (e.g., such as using cheat sheets, providing answers to or receiving answers from another student, sending or receiving electronic communications pertaining to examinable material during the exam period).

**If I or the TA believe you have violated the Code of Student Conduct, we am obligated by university rules to report our suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM: see <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam.html>).** At no point am I afforded the opportunity to make a judgment about whether the matter warrants further investigation or if it should be let off with a warning – these are determinations to be made by COAM only.

If COAM determines you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

## Tentative Schedule

(any changes will be communicated via email and Carmen announcements)

Week	Dates	Themes and Topic	Reading(s)	Assignment(s) Due
1	Tue 8/23 to Sat 8/27	<b>Course Introduction</b>	Syllabus	Syllabus quiz; intro activities: Due 8/27 by 11:59pm EST
2	Sun 8/28 to Sat 9/3	<b>Foundations of Communication</b> - What is communication? Theory? - Social scientific research - Interpretive research	- Chapter 1 - Chapter 2	Reading check #1: Due Saturday 9/3 by 11:59pm EST
3 <sup>a</sup>	Sun 9/4 to Sat 9/10	<b>Research Methods in Communication</b> - Scientific methods - Qualitative methods - The point of research	- <i>To be confirmed, see Carmen</i>	Reading check #2: Due Saturday 9/10 by 11:59pm EST
4	Sun 9/11 to Sat 9/17	<b>Foundations of Communication</b> - Evaluating theories <b>Interpersonal Communication I</b> - Symbolic interactionism - Constructivism	- Chapter 3  - Chapter 5 - "Constructivism"	Methods short paper: due Monday 9/12 by 11:59pm EST  Reading check #3: Sat 9/17, 11:59pm EST
5	Sun 9/18 to Sat 9/24	<b>Interpersonal Communication II</b> - Pragmatics - Social penetration theory - Uncertainty Reduction theory	- Chapter 13 - Chapter 8 - Chapter 9	Reading check #4: Due Saturday 9/24 by 11:59pm EST
6	Sun 9/25 to Sat 10/1	<b>Interpersonal Communication III</b> - Expectancy violation theory	- Chapter 7	Theory short paper 1: due Monday 9/26 by 11:59pm EST
<b>MIDTERM #1</b> Opens Wednesday 9/28, 12:01am EST; ends Saturday 10/1, by 11:59pm EST				
7	Sun 10/2 to Sat 10/8	<b>Mass Communication I</b> - Uses & gratifications theory - Cultivation theory - Spiral of silence theory	- Chapter 28 - Chapter 29 - "Spiral of silence"	Reading check #5: Due Saturday 10/8 by 11:59pm EST
8 <sup>b</sup>	Sun 10/9 to Sat 10/15	<b>Mass Communication II</b> - Education-entertainment - Affective disposition theory - Mood management theory	- "Education-entertainment" - "ADT/MMT"	Reading check #6: Due Saturday 10/15 by 11:59pm EST

<sup>a</sup> Content reduced to account for school closure: Labor Day

<sup>b</sup> Content reduced to account for school closure: Fall break



Week	Dates	Themes and Topic	Reading(s)	Assignment(s) Due
9	Sun 10/16 to Sat 10/22	<b>Political Communication</b> - Agenda-setting - Priming and framing  - Gatekeeping	- Chapter 30 - <i>To be confirmed, see Carmen</i> - "Gatekeeping"	Theory short paper 2: due Monday 10/17 by 11:59pm EST  Reading check #7: Sat 10/22, 11:59pm EST
10	Sun 10/23 to Sat 10/29	<b>Persuasion &amp; Social Influence I</b> - Social judgment theory - Elaboration likelihood model - Cognitive dissonance theory	- Chapter 14 - Chapter 15 - Chapter 16	Reading check #8: Due Saturday 10/29 by 11:59pm EST
11	Sun 10/30 to Sat 11/5	<b>Persuasion &amp; Social Influence II</b> - Diffusion of innovations theory	- "Diffusion of innovations"	Debate analysis short paper: due Monday 10/31 by 11:59pm EST
		<b>MIDTERM #2</b> Opens Wednesday 11/2, 12:01am EST; ends Saturday 11/5, by 11:59pm EST		
12 <sup>c</sup>	Sun 11/6 to Sat 11/12	<b>Intercultural Communication I</b> - Communication accommodation theory - Face negotiation theory	- Chapter 31  - Chapter 32	Reading check #9: Due Saturday 11/12 by 11:59pm EST
13	Sun 11/13 to Sat 11/19	<b>Intercultural Communication II</b> - Genderlect theory - Standpoint theory - Muted group theory  <b>Group Communication I</b> - Groupthink	- Chapter 34 - Chapter 35 - Chapter 36  - "Groupthink"	Theory short paper 3 check-in: by Monday 11/14, 11:59pm EST  Reading check #10: Sat 11/19, 11:59pm EST
14 <sup>d</sup>	Sun 11/20 to Sat 11/26	<b>Group Communication II</b> - Functional group theory	- Chapter 17	Theory short paper 3: due Monday 11/21, 11:59pm EST
15	Sun 11/27 to Sat 12/3	<b>The Cultural Context</b> - Organization as culture - Semiotics - British Cultural Studies	- Chapter 19 - Chapter 26 - Chapter 27	Reading check #11: Due Saturday 12/3 by 11:59pm EST

<sup>c</sup> Content reduced to account for school closure: Veterans Day

<sup>d</sup> Content reduced to account for school closure: Thanksgiving

Week	Dates	Themes and Topic	Reading(s)	Assignment(s) Due
16	Sun 12/4 to Wed 12/7	<b>Other useful theories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural imperialism</li> <li>- Social information processing theory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Cultural imperialism”</li> <li>- Chapter 18</li> </ul>	See below
FINALS	Fri 12/9 to Thu 12/15	<b>MIDTERM #3</b> Opens Friday 12/9, 12:01am EST; ends <b>Wednesday 12/14, by 11:59pm EST</b>		Communication reflection: due Sat 12/10, 11:59pm EST  Reading check #12: Due Saturday 12/10, by 11:59pm EST