The public is obsessed with social networking and the new ways to connect online, but scholars have been studying connectivity for decades. A fundamental aspect of such connection is communication. Communication creates a relationship between individuals in various ways, and the large set of these relationships form networks. In this class, our task will be to observe and understand the various ways in which communication may be directly observed or inferred and the consequences that such communication has for humans who are embedded in networks. New research shows that if you want to understand this new phenomenon, you have to start with the real, everyday, face-to-face networks we have always had, ever since we were huddled around campfires on the Serengeti. We will first explore how networks have been formed, through face-to-face communication, for millennia. As we gain an understanding of the role that communication has for the development of networks, we will move on to an understanding of network properties more generally. For example, we will discuss how network structure impacts how information flows in a network. With an understanding of network properties in place, we will explore how human communication networks are formed and operate by examining a number of topical contexts, including emotion, interpersonal relationships, economics, the political world, online networks, and more. Through examining a variety of contexts we will develop an understanding of how networks operate in general, and also the instances in which the mode of communication may have a strong impact on how the network functions.

The format of this course is social. Science is a social activity, so there will be a large emphasis on soliciting feedback from and providing feedback to your peers.

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand how and why social networks are a critical component of social and behavioral science;
2. Gain familiarity with social science research pertaining to social networks in a variety of application areas (communication, health, economics, politics, etc.) and be able to relate the work in the various areas to each other;
3. Gain familiarity with social network terminology and theories of connectivity and interaction;
4. Be able to relate their own research questions and ideas, both formally and informally, to peers, and to provide constructive feedback to one another.

**Course Materials**

  This book is available on Amazon and there is also a Kindle version.
- We will also make use of chapters from a textbook on network analysis published online (chapters will be uploaded to Carmen):
  This book is an excellent introduction to networks and network analysis – if you’d like to learn more about formal network analysis this is a good starting point!
- All scientific articles assigned are available via Carmen.
- **Students will need to create a free Top Hat account.** Top Hat is a mobile audience response system has been adopted campus-wide at OSU. Starting in Fall 2015, it is free to use for students. We will use it throughout the course for both reading quizzes and class participation. You can access the system via the URL on the front page of the syllabus or use an app on your iOS or Android device. At minimum, you will need a phone capable of sending SMS text messages, but to take advantage of the full functionality of the system (particularly for class participation), I strongly encourage those who do not have a laptop or tablet they can bring to class to purchase one. An inexpensive Android tablet can be found online for $50 or less. A limited number of iPads are available for checkout for free at the library.

**Requirements**

1. **Daily Reading Quiz and Participation (15%)**

   Students are required to complete the required readings for each day prior to the start of class. In the beginning of each lecture, students will use Top Hat to complete a short multiple-choice quiz testing basic comprehension and recall of major facts from the readings assigned for that day. There will be no trick questions, although students who do not do the readings carefully (e.g., just skim them) will not do well. Quizzes missed due to absences cannot be made up, but **the lowest four quiz scores will be dropped** prior to the calculation of the final grades. At times, I will use Top Hat to poll the class or ask questions related to the lecture that are for participation credit only. Combined, the reading quizzes and participation opportunities will comprise **15% of your course grade.**
2. **List of Questions and Hypotheses**

Five questions about social networks and/or social media that you are interested in and three hypotheses related to each question are due in class on September 13. Examples include: What makes networks work? Why do people occupy different positions in the network? What makes people influential? What makes them susceptible to influence? What kinds of networks work best and why?

3. **Topic and annotated bibliography (5%)**

You must choose a topic for your first paper and write annotations of five scientific articles related to your topic (four to six sentences per article entry) and bring this to class on September 25. At least three of these must be from sources outside the syllabus. Your annotations should answer questions such as these: (a) What is the main thesis of the article? Summarize its conclusions in a couple of sentences. (b) Who is the author? Has s/he written other articles or books? (c) What kind of journal is the article published in? Who is its audience? (d) How did the article help you in trying to narrow the focus of your research? (e) What is the scope of the article? Does it present a broad overview? Does it zero in on a very specific topic? **5% of your course grade.**

4. **First paper draft**

A draft of your first paper is due in class on October 2. BRING 2 HARD COPIES: One for peer review and one to turn in. Your partner will evaluate the draft for (a) clarity, (b) structure, and (c) fulfilling the goals of the assignment (see below).

5. **First paper (20%)**

A 1200 to 1500 word synthetic literature review is due on October 9. Please submit via CARMEN. The goal of this paper is to use course material from the syllabus and outside sources to (a) describe a topic, (b) show why it is important, (c) analyze what we currently know about the topic based on current scientific research, and (d) explain what a next step would be in advancing our understanding of the topic. This next step can be very, very small, but it must be your own idea, and it will be very helpful if you can use this to guide your thinking for the second paper! **20% of your course grade.**

6. **Second paper (20%)**

A 1750 to 2000 word research design is due on December 6. You and at least two (but no more than 5 total) other students of your choosing must work together to compose a research design that addresses a component of social network analysis of your choosing. In this paper, you are required to demonstrate your understanding of (a) the framework/theories of the course (with reference to at least three scientific articles), (b) your use of a research design to better understand some aspect of networks, and (c) your ability to critically reflect on how your research project would address previous research that you cite.

7. **Midterm and Final exams (20% each)**

This course will employ a midterm and a final exam. These exams will be designed to evaluate your comprehension and ability to apply the information presented in the course, and will
include both objective and subjective components. If the times/dates for the exams conflict with a religious holiday, bring this to my attention by the end of the first week of class so we can negotiate potential alternative arrangements. Having more than one exam on the same day or plans to miss class to travel for a holiday does not constitute a reason to miss an exam in this course.

My grading system is largely a percentage based system where 90%+ = A, 80% - 90%+ = B, 70% - 80%+ = C, 60% - 70%+ = D, less than 60% = E, and any + or − determinations are based on proximity of your grade to the cutoffs. I reserve the right to modify this system downward depending on the distribution of grades. In other words, if only one student exceeds the 90% threshold, but five hit 89%, I may choose to move the cutoff for an A- to 89%.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

*Introduction to Social Networks (August 23 & August 30)*
- August 30
  - *Connected*, Chapter 1 – pages 3 - 32

*Social Network ideas and terminology (September 6 & 11)*
- September 6
  - Hanneman, Chapters 1-3 – pages 2 - 25
- September 11
  - Hanneman, Chapters 4-5 – pages 26 - 59

*Emotional Contagion (September 13, 18 & 20)*
- September 13
  - *Connected*, Chapter 2 – pages 33 - 60
  - 5 questions and 3 hypotheses for each question due
- September 18
- September 20

*Love and Sex (September 25 & 27)*
- September 25
  - *Connected*, Chapter 3 – pages 61 - 94
  - Annotated bibliography due in class
• September 27

*The Spread of Health Behaviors (October 2 & 4)*

• October 2
  – *Connected*, Chapter 4 – pages 95 - 134
  – Paper 1 draft due in class – bring 2 copies

• October 4

*Economic Networks (October 9, 11 & 16)*

• October 9
  – *Connected*, Chapter 5 – pages 135 - 171
  – PAPER 1 DUE

• October 11

• October 16

*MIDTERM EXAM (October 18)*

*Political Networks (October 23, 25 & 30)*

• October 23
  – *Connected*, Chapter 6 – pages 172 - 209

• October 25
  – W. P. Eveland and M. H. Hively, “Political Discussion Frequency, Network Size, and ‘Heterogeneity’ of Discussion as Predictors of Political Knowledge and Participation”,
October 30

The Evolutionary Basis of Social Life (November 1, 6 & 8)
- November 1
  - Connected, Chapter 7 – pages 210 - 252
- November 6
- November 8

Social Media (November 13, 15 & 20)
- November 13
  - Connected, Chapter 8 – pages 253 - 286
- November 15
- November 20

The Human Superorganism (November 27, 29 & December 4)
- November 27
  - Connected, Chapter 9 – pages 287 - 306
- November 29
- December 4
Wrap-up and review (December 6)

- PAPER 2 DUE

FINAL EXAM (Wednesday, December 13, 2:00 -- 3:45)

Course Policies and Miscellaneous

Late or Absent Assignments and Missed Exams

Unless otherwise notified, assignments are due by the beginning of class on the date due. An assignment will not be accepted more than 24 hours after the due date. The only exceptions to these rules are totally unforeseen circumstances that are convincingly documented no later than 24 hours after the due date. If you are late turning in an assignment, you delay progress in the course for myself and others.

Grade Appeals

You have one week from when the grades or assignments are posted on Carmen or returned in class (whichever occurs first) to appeal the grade. You must submit a typed, double-spaced statement to the instructor explaining why you are appealing your grade and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, lectures, and/or answer keys. If you choose to appeal your grade, I reserve the right to decrease the original grade if a grading mistake or oversight resulted in it being erroneously high.

Attendance

There is no formal attendance policy for this course. However, you should always attend class. If I believe attendance is slipping, I reserve the right to create an attendance policy. Not attending class will make learning the course material difficult. Some of the material that you will be responsible for will only be presented during lecture.

A couple of FAQ about Attendance

1. I have a personal/medical emergency or must miss class for other legitimate reasons. How can I make up the points I lose?
   I do not make distinctions between excused and unexcused absences, because doing so would put me in the uncomfortable position of having to decide what constituted a sufficient reason to make an absence an excused one. To accommodate all of our students diverse experiences, challenges, and needs without drawing arbitrary lines, I simply allow every student to miss up to four classes without penalizing their quiz grade, regardless of the reason for the absence(s).

2. What if I have to miss more than four classes?
   If you expect to miss more than four classes, I strongly encourage you not take this class. Although it will still be possible to pass the course, you will likely miss a great deal of material and will probably not get the grade you want. If unexpected circumstances result in you missing many classes during the course of the semester, your best course of action is to
withdraw prior to the deadline. If you must withdraw after the deadline due to an emergency, I am happy to write a letter of support to get your withdrawal processed retroactively. Please see an academic advisor to learn about your options.

**Academic Misconduct**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term academic misconduct includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/.

**Tentative Nature of the Syllabus**

This syllabus represents a contract in the works. Events that transpire over the semester may require me to modify the administration of this course and therefore the syllabus. In the event I need to modify the syllabus, I will announce the modification in class and on CARMEN. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to keep up with any such modifications.

**School of Communication Diversity Statement**

The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

**Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions) that have been certified by the Office of Student Life Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Student Life Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue; telephone 614-292-3307, sls@osu.edu; sls.osu.edu.

**Unpaid Fees**

Faculty rules specify that students are to have their fees paid by the first day of enrollment for the quarter. [Faculty Rule 3335-9-12]. If you have not paid your fees, you will not be allowed to continue attending class until: 1. your fees are paid, OR 2. You have met with a Communication Advisor and Financial Aid and are working to get your fees paid.

**Copyright and Appropriate Use of Course Materials**

Professor Robert Bond owns the copyright to the syllabus, exams, handouts, study aides, in-class
lectures and other materials distributed or demonstrated in this course. They are provided solely for the educational use of students enrolled in this course. You are not permitted to copy or redistribute them for purposes unapproved by the instructor; in particular you are not permitted to publicly post or otherwise redistribute course materials or your lecture notes. Unauthorized use of course materials may be considered academic misconduct and a violation of copyright law.
A few FAQ about Top Hat

1. **How can I review the quiz questions I missed?**

   The grade book on Top Hat will indicate which questions you answered correctly and which you got wrong. It will also show you the first few words of each question. If you would like to see the full question and/or the correct answer, please come see me at office hours. (This option is available only to students who attended class on the day the quiz was given.) Also, feel free to write down/take a screen shot of each question for study purposes, although remember that the questions will also be available to you for review prior to the exam using the Top Hat tournament.

2. **I am having problems connecting to the OSU wi-fi during class. How can I complete the reading quiz and participation questions if I can’t connect to the internet?**

   Make sure that you have registered your cell phone number on your Top Hat student account and have your phone with you in class. This will allow you to submit answers via SMS text message if you run into internet problems. Another option is to connect to Top Hat using your mobile internet, if you have a data plan.

   If the internet connection is lost unexpectedly during a Top Hat session and you are using the Top Hat app on your phone or mobile device, the app will give you the option of saving your answers in “Offline Mode.” You will need to record the four-digit question code and your responses will be automatically uploaded to Top Hat when the internet connection is re-established. You can find more information about Offline Mode here: https://support.tophatmonocle.com/hc/en-us/articles/200200514-Offline-Submission-Mode-Video-Tutorial. Note that Offline Mode is available only to students who are logged in while the question is active, and the app records an internal timestamp to verify that this is indeed the case. You cannot use this feature to submit answers late if you were not logged in when the questions are available.

   **Please be sure that you understand all of these options and know what to do if you run into problems using Top Hat. You will be responsible for making sure your answers are submitted and recorded correctly. Please contact Top Hat directly at support@tophat.com if you run into problems with anything.**

3. **My internet connection is fine, but for some reason Top Hat will not let me submit my response.**

   If you encounter an error message saying “Submission Failed, Please Retry” or see that the submission button is disabled (but there is still time available to submit an answer), click the answer you are trying to submit and take a screenshot of the question. Send the screenshot to support@tophat.com. Be sure to CC me on your e-mail.

   If the question won’t load on your device, submit your response via SMS text message.

4. **I’ve submitted my response via SMS text message, but Top Hat responded with an error message saying the question code is incorrect. I verified the question code I’m using and it is indeed correct.**

   Carefully check the question code again. If it is correct, your response was likely recorded successfully, despite the error message. You can check in the Top Hat grade book to verify that this was the case. If the response was not recorded, take a screenshot of your text message
(including timestamp and error message) and e-mail it to Top Hat technical support at the e-mail listed above. Again, CC me on the e-mail.