

## **COMM1100 Communication in Society**

**School of Communication | Fall 2018**

**Distance Learning (exclusively online)**

**Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Matthews**

- Email: See communication policy for details
- Office: 3107 Derby Hall
- Office hours: Tuesday 12-1pm & Wednesday 1-2pm & virtual meetings via Skype by appointment

**TA: Sean Burrige**

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- Office: 3075 Derby Hall
- Office hours: Tuesday 1-2pm and by appointment (in-person or via Skype)

**TA: Mikhail Smith**

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- Office: 3086 Derby Hall
- Office hours: Wednesday 2pm-3pm, Thursdays 1pm -2pm, and by appointment (in person or online)

**TA: Shan Xu**

- Email: xu.1724@osu.edu
- Office: 3041 Derby Hall
- Office hours: Mondays 9-10am and by appointment (in-person or via Skype)

### **Communication Policy**

Because of the size of our class and its online nature, we designed our communication policies to ensure timeliness, collaboration, and simplicity. Please aim to adhere to the policy closely. Deviating from the policy may result in undue delays or us missing your messages altogether.

### Things to avoid

- Canvas mail/messenger & Canvas' submission comments. Both of these are unreliable.
- Weekend emails and messages sent around 6PM or later on weekdays. Under most circumstances, we will respond to messages of this sort on the next business day.
- Sending emails that are not from your OSU email address. Messages to our OSU accounts from non-osu email services are regularly marked as spam and since their delivery cannot be tracked, you may not use them as evidence of communication attempts.
- Unprofessional emails. Please ensure that your email messages are professional and informative by including your course info in the subject line, a salutation, adequate yet concise body text, closing, and your full name.
- Emails that require immediate attention. We aim to answer emails with 24 hours of receipt on business days. Be proactive and plan ahead.

### First source

Your first and most important resource is the [course discussion boards](#), because it is likely that your question has already been asked and answered. For general course questions, use the General Course Questions discussion board. For assignment specific questions, use the specific discussion board for each assignment.

### Second source

If you wish to remain anonymous or have more sensitive questions, send your specific TA an email. In short, your TA is your lifeline for this course. Your TA will have an intimate knowledge of your work and should be your resource for all questions and concerns regarding content, class scheduling, accommodations, or any other class related issues not addressed in the discussion boards.

### Third source

If after referencing the discussion board and contacting your TA you feel that you still have questions or concerns, you may email the professor: Matthews.345@osu.edu

## **Required Materials**

1. Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. (2019). *A first look at communication theory*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill. Note: I will be teaching from the 10th edition of this book, so if you choose to buy an earlier edition be advised that the page numbers and content will not necessarily correspond – and you are responsible for the content of the 10th edition. **The OSU bookstore sells the book at a discount.** Please note that we will not use McGraw Hill Connect in this course. Rather, we will use OSU's Carmen.

However you must use Connect to activate the eBook if you purchased this instead of the loose leaf (LL) version. [See this page on instructions for activating the eBook.](#)

2. Additional course materials and readings via the [Files](#) section of Carmen
3. Access to a computer/laptop, a high-speed internet connection, current web browser with video-related plugins, and speakers/headphones. This course is taught exclusively online. As a result, you must be comfortable using your computer. Additionally, you must ensure that your computer functions properly and that you use some form of data redundancy (e.g., cloud backups or physical duplication). Please see the technology policy below for more details.

## Course Description

This course provides an overview of some of the major theories guiding our understanding of communication in various contexts (i.e., interpersonal, small group, organizational, intercultural, mass media). Additionally, it fulfills the GE requirement for social science: individuals and groups.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

Generally, students understand the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources.

More specifically:

- Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
  - Fulfilled by lecture videos and readings which focus on increasing our understanding of individuals and groups, and methods utilized to study these ideas. Exams, quizzes, discussions, and the C-REP program requirement will assess this outcome.
- Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in social and cultural contexts of human existence, and the processes by which groups function.
  - 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. Exams, quizzes, and discussions will assess this outcome.
- Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.
  - 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. Exams, quizzes, and discussions will assess this outcome.

## Typical weekly structure

For a typical work week, I release new content on Saturday at 12:01AM. Everything for that week is due the following Friday by 5:00PM.

In a typical week, everyone must complete the weekly reading quizzes. Depending on your group number, you may also have to complete a tri-weekly assessment. For tri-weekly assessments, each week, one-third of the class submits an engagement activity, one-third submits study guide essays, and one-third has no extra assignment. The module is person-specific. In other words, it will tell you exactly what you have to submit for any given week.

## Assessments

1. **Three Exams.** The exams are intended to be rigorous tests of your knowledge. I have designed the exams to be difficult to motivate you to keep up with the material each week and to study as you would for a standard exam. The exam material covers the lecture and study guide content. The exam questions are applied rather than definition-based. There will be 3, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams. Each exam will be about 30 questions in length. You will have about 60 minutes to complete each exam. Exams are open book and open notes. However, the time limit will greatly constrain your ability to look up individual answers. You must be knowledgeable of the course material to perform well on the exam within the allotted time. You will only have one attempt to complete each exam. Lateness penalties do not apply to exams. You must complete exams during the specified time window. You may not work in groups on the exams. I do not drop or replace poor exam grades. Please prepare well using the study guide. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).
2. **Five Hours of C-REP.** All students in COMM 1100 must participate in the Communication Research Experience Program (“C-REP”). If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#). The C-REP program is not directly related to course content. C-REP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. The program asks you to contribute to ongoing research at OSU by volunteering in an approved research study or by completing an alternative assignment. For a detailed overview in C-REP and its requirements, [see this document](#). Your participation in C-REP counts for 5% of your course grade in this course, meaning that for this class C-REP is NOT extra credit. Participation can take the form of:
  - o Completing FIVE hours of C-REP research studies, OR
  - o Completing FIVE C-REP alternative written assignments, OR

- Completing a combined total of FIVE hours of research studies and alternative writing assignments.
3. **Weekly Quizzes.** Quizzes are meant to encourage you to do the readings and stay on track with the course. They are not representative of the course's exam questions, as the quiz questions are more fact/definition-based and much easier than exam questions. Most weeks will have a reading check quiz. You can take each reading quiz up to three times. I will record your highest grade. The automated quiz system draws questions from a pool, meaning that when you retake the quiz it may present new questions. As a result, begin taking the quiz well ahead of the deadline to learn from your mistakes and achieve the highest score possible. The system will automatically open new quizzes at 5:01pm EST on Fridays, and close existing quizzes at 5:00pm EST on Fridays each week. I will drop your lowest quiz score at the end of the semester. Missing a quiz earns you a zero for that week's quiz. You may not work in groups on the quizzes. Lateness penalties do not apply to quizzes. You must complete the quiz within the specified time window.
  4. **Tri-weekly Engagement Activities.** The engagement activities are meant to help you apply abstract concepts to concrete (i.e., real world) applications. Engagement activities ask you to post to a discussion forum specific to your core group. You will have the same group members throughout the semester. Seeing how others respond to the posts should help you discover new ways to think about the same idea. The activities will include varied tasks but most will ask you to post a short response to a prompt to the appropriate discussion forum. For most weeks, I will embed an engagement activity prompt in my lecture videos (some prompts will span multiple slides). These prompts will be obvious--containing the words "Engagement Activity" on the slide. You will not be able to view the posts of others until you post your own submission. You will not be able to edit your submission after posting but you may comment on the posts of others if you'd like. Merely commenting on others' posts does not count as an engagement activity submission. Specific instructions and grading criteria will appear on the assignment page when released to the class. Lateness penalties do apply to engagement activities. You may submit after the deadline up to the specified cutoff but your grade will be penalized accordingly. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).
  5. **Tri-Weekly Study Guide Essays.** The study guide essays are meant to help you prepare for the exams gradually to discourage cramming. Like the engagement activities, you will complete the study guide essays with your core group using a discussion board. I highly encourage that you participate above and beyond the minimum requirements, as the study guide is the best way to prepare for the exam. The assessment asks that you answer brief prompts in a short-essay format. Each set of prompts correspond to a specific a lecture video and corresponding reading. Specific instructions and grading criteria will appear on the assignment page when released to the class. Lateness penalties do apply to study guide essays. You may submit after the deadline up to the specified cutoff but your grade will be penalized accordingly. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).
  6. **Three Concept maps.** The concept maps are solo projects that encourage you to explore a single theory deeply. They ask that you represent certain domains of information visually and provide examples of the concept components. Specific instructions and grading criteria will appear on the assignment page when released to the class. Lateness penalties do apply to concept maps. You may submit after the deadline up to the specified

cutoff but your grade will be penalized accordingly. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).

## Grading Plan

Exam I	15%
Exam II	15%
Exam III	15%
Quizzes	20%
Engagement Activities	10%
Study Guide Essays	10%
Concept Maps	10%
<a href="#">C-REP</a>	5%

## Grading Policy

I will use the standard OSU grading scale. I will not round grades. If this course is required for you to graduate or to avoid academic probation/expulsion, I expect you to perform at your best to avoid an undesirable outcome. Be proactive. Be professional.

A 93.00-100%	B 83.00-86.99%	C 73.00-76.99%	D 60.00-66.99%
A- 90.00-92.99%	B- 80.00-82.99%	C- 70.00-72.99%	F 0-59.99%
B+ 87.00-89.99%	C+ 77.00-79.99%	D+ 67.00-69.99%	

## Additional Policies

- **Deadlines.** Assume that all deadlines are in Eastern Time (ET).
- **Late work.** You may submit engagement activities, study guide essays, and concept maps after the deadline. Exams and quizzes, however, are exempt from the lateness policy. In other words, you must complete exams and quizzes during the specified submission window. Penalties for work that may be submitted late are as follows:
  - -25% on work turned in 1 second to 23:59 hours late
  - -50% on work turned in 24 to 47:59 hours late
  - Work turned in 48 hours late or more will not be graded and will receive a 0

- **Professionalism.** You must ensure that the work you submit is correct. Submitting files that are corrupt, the wrong version, the wrong format, missing components, the wrong file type, etc. is unprofessional. It is your responsibility to check on the integrity of your work immediately following submission. We will not inform you if your work fails these standards. If we cannot view your work, you will not receive credit for your submission. Standard lateness penalties apply to unprofessional work.
- **Technology issues.** 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. 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. 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 your TA only when this is not possible, at which point accommodations may be made, depending on the circumstances.
- **Grade appeals.** You may send your TA an email to instigate a grade appeal within 1 week after the grade has been posted. Appeals must have strong evidence-based arguments that reference specific components of the assignment's grading criteria. Appeals can result in an unchanged grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.
- **C-REP.** A few general notes about your C-REP participation:
  - If you are in multiple courses with a C-REP component, the required research hours are additive. For example if you are enrolled in COMM 1101 as well, you will be required to complete another 5 credits, for a total of 10. Each study counts towards one course only, though you can decide which.
  - Studies may be offered online or in-lab. If you are a distance learner who is unable to attend studies on the Columbus campus, you should prioritize online studies or alternate assignments.
  - Do not wait until the last minute to sign up for studies. Researchers typically withdraw studies when they have enough data. Studies tend to disappear rapidly as the semester comes to a close.
  - Online studies will have a listed end date, but the researchers may revise this if they collect enough participant data. Therefore, do not sign up for online studies that you do not intend to complete immediately.
  - Every semester a handful of students are unable to complete all 5 hours because they wait too long to sign up for studies. If you put yourself in this situation, there is nothing I can do to rectify it. Be proactive.
  - For information on completing your C-REP requirement, see [the C-REP Student Guide](#), visit the [C-REP discussion forum](#), or contact Shannon Poulsen ([poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu)).



## OSU Policies

- **Academic misconduct.** All work should be your original work. You must use citations when presenting ideas that are not your own using APA style. You must complete all submitted work by yourself. You may not reuse work from a past or current semester. 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/>
- **Disability services.** 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, [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu).
- **Sexual misconduct/relationship violence.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)
- **Diversity.** 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.
- **Copyright disclaimer.** The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.
- **Student academic services.** Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services’ website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>



## Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Deadlines
1	Tues 8/21  (atypical start date due to first week starting on Tues)	<u>Course introduction</u>  <i>Syllabus</i>	<u>Submit before 11:59pm on 8/26</u>  1. Syllabus quiz 2. Core group introductions 3. Weekly reading quiz
	Sun 8/26  (atypical due date due to first week starting on Tues)	<u>Communication theory</u>  <i>Ch. 1</i>	
2	Mon 8/27  (atypical start date due to first week starting on Tues)	<u>Communication theory</u>  <i>Ch. 2, 3</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 8/31</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Study Guide Short Essays 3. Groups 17-32: Engagement Activity 4. Groups 33-48: Nothing due!
	Friday 8/31  (first regular due date)	<u>Mapping the field &amp; Research methods</u>  <i>"Keyton" PDFs (Ch. 4)</i>	
3	Sat 9/1  (first regular start date)	<u>Mapping the field &amp; Research methods</u>  <i>"Keyton" PDF (Ch. 14)</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 9/7</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Nothing due. Work on your concept map. 3. Groups 17-32: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 33-48: Engagement Activity
	Fri 9/7	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u>  <i>Ch. 5, 7</i>	
4	Sat 9/8	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u>  <i>Ch. 8, 10</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 9/14</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Engagement Activity 3. Groups 17-32: Nothing due. Work on your concept map.
	Fri 9/14		

			4. Groups 33-48: Study Guide Short Essays
5	Sat 9/15	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 9/21</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. <b>Concept map I</b>
	Fri 9/21	<i>Ch. 13</i> <u>Relational Communication</u>  <i>Ch. 12</i>	
6	Sat 9/22		<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 9/28</u>  • <b>Exam I</b>
	Fri 9/28	<i>No readings</i>	
7	Sat 9/29		<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 10/5</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Study Guide Short Essays 3. Groups 17-32: Engagement Activity 4. Groups 33-48: Nothing due.
	Fri 10/5	<u>Relational Communication</u>  <i>Ch. 14</i>  <u>Processing &amp; communication</u>  <i>Ch. 15</i>	
8	Sat 10/6		<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 10/12</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Nothing due. 3. Groups 17-32: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 33-48: Engagement Activity
	Fri 10/12	<b>Fall break 10/11 &amp; 10/12</b>  <u>Processing &amp; communication</u>  <i>Ch. 16, "The Media Equation"</i>	
9	Sat 10/13	<u>Rhetoric</u>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 10/19</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Engagement Activity 3. Groups 17-32: Nothing due.
	Fri 10/19	<i>Ch. 22</i>  <u>Communication Ethics</u>	

		<a href="#"><u>Deontology</u></a> (1, 2, 2.4, 3), <a href="#"><u>Utilitarianism</u></a> <a href="#"><u>video</u></a> , <a href="#"><u>Kantianism</u></a> <a href="#"><u>video</u></a>	4. Groups 33-48: Study Guide Short Essays
10	Sat 10/20	<u>Mass communication</u>  <i>Ch. 25, 26, 27</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 10/26</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. <b>Concept Map II</b>
	Fri 10/26		
11	Sat 10/27	<i>No Readings</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 11/2</u>  • <b>Exam II</b>
	Fri 11/2		
12	Sat 11/3	<u>(Mass Media) Effects</u>  <i>"Social Learning"</i>  <u>Mass Media Effects</u>  <i>Ch. 28, 29</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 11/9</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Study Guide Short Essays 3. Groups 17-32: Engagement Activity 4. Groups 33-48: Nothing due.
	Fri 11/9		
13	Sat 11/10	<u>Mass Media Effects</u>  <i>Ch. 30, "Sparks (2016) Sexual Content"</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 11/16</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-16: Nothing due. 3. Groups 17-32: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 33-48: Engagement Activity
	Fri 11/16		
14	Sat 11/17	<u>Mass Media Effects</u>  <i>"Sparks (2016) Violent Media Effects"</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 11/23</u>  1. Groups 1-16: Engagement Activity 2. Groups 17-32: Nothing due. 3. Groups 33-48: Study Guide Short Essays
	Fri 11/23		
15	Sat 11/24		

	Fri 11/30	<u>Intercultural communication</u> <i>Ch. 31, 32, "Morality"</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 11/30</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. <b>Concept Map III</b>
16	Sat 12/1	<u>Gender</u>  <i>Ch. 34, 36</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 12/5</u>  • Weekly quiz
	Wed 12/5  (atypical due date due to semester end)		
Finals	12/7-12/13	Specific Exam III times for COMM1100 TBA	<b>EXAM III</b>