

COMM 1100: Communication in Society

Monday, Wednesday Friday 11:30am – 12:25pm, 131 Hitchcock Hall

Professor: Dr. Hillary C. Shulman
Email: Hillaryshulman@gmail.com
Office: 3140 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Course Policy Regarding Communication with Professor and TAs

Every student will be assigned to one TA based on their last name. On the first day of class, these assignments will be posted in lecture and then in a revised version of this syllabus that will be posted on Canvas immediately after the first class.

Students **must** first email their TA for any questions regarding content, class scheduling, accommodations, or any other class related issues. If the TA and student decide that the issue cannot be handled, **only then** can the professor be contacted. This rule is in place to ensure that communication is handled smoothly and quickly.

Students may only contact the professor for **one reason**: To schedule an individual meeting if the student is unavailable during office hours. If the student violates this policy, the professor reserves the right to ignore the student email without explanation.

Adkins - Lee

TA: Chang (Molly) Mao
Email: mao.252@osu.edu
Office: 3056 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Wed & Fri: 9:20am-11:20am

Leeman - Valentine

TA: Megan Vendemia
Email: vendemia.1@osu.edu
Office: 3032 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Tue & Thurs: 1:00 – 3:00pm

Required Text

Griffin, E. (2012). *A First Look at Communication Theory* (Ninth edition - Green). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Please note: I will be teaching from the 9th 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 9th edition.

Additional readings available on Canvas.

Course Description

Communication in Society 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).

GE Goals and Expected Learning Outcomes

COMM1100 is a GE course (Category 2, Breadth; Social Science - Individual and Groups subcategory). As a result, the following goals and outcomes are associated with this course:

Goals:

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

Expected learning outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in the contexts of human existence (e.g., psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political), and the processes by which groups, organizations, and societies function.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy-making.

(1) Individuals and Groups Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of individuals and groups.
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.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and group values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy-making.

Academic Misconduct

All students at the Ohio State University are bound by the Code of Student Conduct (see http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp). 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 believe you have violated the Code of Student Conduct, your case will be referred to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (see <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>).

Accommodation Policy

Students with disabilities who have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. When possible, documentation should be provided no later than the second week of class. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerane Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; Phone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>.

Religious Holidays

Students who will be observing a religious holiday on a class date or exam date must provide date/event written notification to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester so that alternative arrangements can be made.

SOC 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.

Policies and Expectations

Classroom Civility: It is expected that you participate thoughtfully and respectfully to class discussions. There will likely be many opinions in this class, some of which may be different than your own. Please be respectful when sharing your thoughts and responding to others, and avoid using language that may unnecessarily exclude members of the campus or classroom. Racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language will not be tolerated; if you choose to engage in such behavior, you may be asked to leave the class and will lose any points associated with that lecture. Additionally, please avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g. private conversations, using the internet for non-class purposes, texting, etc.). If your use of technology is interfering with the class climate in any way, the instructor may ask you to either stop using your electronic device, turn it off, or in extreme cases leave the classroom.

Attendance Policy: According to U.S. News & World Report, one of the Top 3 secrets of college success is to ATTEND CLASS. Although there is no formal attendance policy in this course, I do highly recommend that you come to class! Students who show up prepared and engaged perform better in the course. That being said, the decision is yours. On a related note, I realize that sometimes unexpected events occur that may potentially interfere with your course performance. When these events arise, please feel free to make your TA aware of your situation. We hope that by working together we can come up with a strategy that allows you to deal with your situation without having to sacrifice your grade in the course.

Challenging Grades: You have a two-week period after the graded assignment is posted to challenge grades. Grade challenges will be made in writing. If challenges are not made according to this process, challenges will not be considered. All grades will be posted within a week on Canvas. This allows students to monitor their grades throughout the semester in order to ensure that all assignments are posted correctly.

Assignments

1. **Exams (3 @ 25 points).** There will be 3 tests during the semester, two midterms and the final. All exams are non- cumulative meaning, for example, that Exam 2 will not include any information covered on Exam 1. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice items and will be completed using Scantron sheets. The exams will draw on material discussed in lectures and covered in the assigned readings. Make a note of the exam dates as they are **not** flexible (so please plan accordingly).

VERY IMPORTANT: BRING AT LEAST ONE #2 PENCIL TO EACH EXAM; NO PENCILS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE PROFESSOR OR TA; BRING YOUR STUDENT ID TO THE EXAM. YOUR BUCKID # WILL BE REQUIRED.

VERY IMPORTANT: WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO WITHHOLD THE EXAM IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE FIRST PERSON HAS COMPLETED/LEFT THE EXAM, YOU WILL **ABSOLUTELY NOT** BE ALLOWED TO TAKE THAT EXAM (I.E., YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO ON THE EXAM). PLEASE NOTE THIS POLICY ALSO APPLIES TO IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES. AFTER THE FIRST ACTIVITY IS TURNED IN, STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

2. **In-class Activities (12 @ 2 points each, lowest 2 will be dropped)** There will be a total of 12 in-class activities during the semester. These activities are not on assigned days – and will be chosen at random by the instructor unannounced. These activities may be provided at the beginning, middle or end of various class periods. If you show up late or leave early and miss the activity, you will receive a zero. Each exercise is worth 2 points. The lowest two scores will be dropped. These exercises are meant to assess 1) attendance and 2) attention in class. A

score of 2 will be given for acceptable answers, a score of 1 will be given when the response was unacceptable, meaning that the response demonstrated little understanding of the course material. A 0 will be given when a student is absent or chooses to respond in an inappropriate way that is, for example, unrelated to course content or disingenuous.

Because the 2 lowest grades are dropped, make-ups for this assignment are not allowed *even* if the student has an excused absence. The two courtesy drops provided are meant to accommodate excused absences and are not meant to compensate for a student coming to class and not paying careful attention to the lecture or for a student arbitrarily missing class. If a student unexpectedly has to miss class for an extended period of time, please contact your TA immediately and provide proper documentation for these excused absences. In these instances, we will try to work out an alternative assignment.

- 3. Communication Research Experience (C-REP; 5 points):** All students enrolled in COM 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. Your participation in C-REP counts for 5% of your grade in this course—it is NOT extra credit. Participation can take the form of:

- Completing 5 credit hours worth of C-REP research studies, **OR**
- Completing 5 C-REP alternative written assignments, **OR**
- Completing a combined total of research studies and alternative writing assignments.

Completing your C-REP requirement must take place during the semester. You should definitely NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for participation because people tend to procrastinate and research opportunities will be limited. In fact, it is probably wise to complete your C-REP requirement as early as possible in the semester when demands on your time are the lightest. The C-REP Student Guide on the School of Communication website tells you everything you need to know about this requirement:

<http://www.comm.ohio-state.edu/images/stories/PDFs/crepstudentguideupdate.pdf>

Both COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 require C-REP participation, and many students are enrolled in both courses simultaneously. The same C-REP participation CANNOT be counted for both courses.

Please direct any questions regarding C-REP to Jessica Frampton at Frampton.22@osu.edu. She is the only person able to help you because she is the only person who has access to the system.

Grade Assignment

Currently, I anticipate that grades will be assigned using the following percentage system:

>93% = A	>90% = A-	>87% = B+	>83% = B	>80% = B-	
>77% = C+	>73% = C	>70% = C-	>67% = D+	>63% = D	<63% = E

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, please carefully follow the directions of the teaching staff or, if deemed prudent by your own judgment, contact 911 or the University Police at 292-2121.

Tentative Nature of this Syllabus

This syllabus represents a contract in the works. Events that transpire over the term may require me to modify the administration of the course and therefore the syllabus. In the event I need to modify the syllabus, I will announce the modification in class and post the revised syllabus to Canvas. Ultimately it is your responsibility to keep up with any such modifications and be aware of current policies, deadlines, etc.

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading*</u>
1	1/9 (M) 1/11 (W) 1/13 (F)	Introduction Theory and Research Theory and Research	Chapter 4 Chapter 2
2	1/16 1/18 1/20	NO CLASS – MLK DAY Theory and Research Interpersonal: Theory	Chapter 1 Chapter 4
3	1/23 1/25 1/27	Interpersonal: Theory Expectancy Violations Relational Dialectics	No reading Chapter 7 Chapter 11
4	1/30 2/1 2/3	Self-Disclosure Self-Disclosure Self-Disclosure	Chapter 9 Chapter 8 Chapter 12
5	2/6 2/8 2/10	Online Relationships History Social Information Processing Catch up + Review	Chapter 10 No reading
6	2/13 2/15 2/17	Exam 1 Group Comm: Functional App. Group Comm: Performance	Chapter 17 TBD
7	2/20 2/22 2/24	Intercultural Comm: CAT Intercultural Comm: Face Intercultural Comm: Speech	Chapter 31 Chapter 32 Chapter 33
8	2/27 3/1 3/3	Social Influence: SJT Social Influence: ELM Social Influence: Dissonance	Chapter 14 Chapter 15 Chapter 16
9	3/6 3/8 3/10	Social Influence: Cialdini Organizational Comm: Culture Organizational Culture cont'd	TBD Chapter 19 No reading
10	3/13	SPRING BREAK	

	3/15 3/17	NO CLASS ENJOY!	
11	3/20 3/22 3/24	Organizational Comm: Power Catch up + review Exam 2	TBD
12	3/27 3/29 3/31	Gender Comm: Genderlect Gender Comm: Muted Group Gender Comm: Standpoint	Chapter 34 Chapter 36 Chapter 35
13	4/3 4/5 4/7	Political Comm: Agenda-Setting Pol Comm: Spiral of Silence Pol Comm: General	Chapter 30 TBD TBD
14	4/10 4/12 4/14	Media: Race Card Media: Uses and Grats Media: Social Learning	TBD Chapter 28 TBD
15	4/17 4/19 4/21	Media: Cultivation Theory Media: Violence Media Violence cont'd	Chapter 29 TBD TBD
16	4/24	Catch up + review	
Final Exam: Friday April 28th 4:00 – 5:45pm			