Communication 7850: Communication Technology
Spring 2018

Instructor: Siyue (April) Li, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Tue. & Thur. 11:30-12:30 & by appt.

Class Information: Tues/Thurs 3:55-5:15, 3116 Derby

Course Objectives:
1. To explain the concepts and theories behind CMC research and their relevance to communication
2. To critically evaluate and synthesize CMC research
3. To enable students to extend this knowledge in new ways into contexts of their interest
4. To stimulate original perspectives and research on the topics

All required readings can be found on Carmen.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity: I take academic dishonesty very seriously. All students are subject to the student code of conduct (see http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp), including the student code of academic integrity. Violations of the code will result in severe penalties in this course and all violations will be reported to the School of Communication and the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

*One important note for graduate students is the fine line between re-using segments of one’s work and re-submitting one’s work. When you are writing multiple papers on the same topic across courses, it can be difficult to determine the difference. For this class, I want to see original ideas and original work that are relevant to the substance of the course. I do not want to see the same paper you’ve submitted multiple times with just a new population, a new treatment, or a few different variables to make it fit the class topic. If you have questions about the suitability of your work, please talk to me.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the rules of academic dishonesty—ignorance is not a defense. When in doubt, consult your instructor before doing anything about which you are uncertain. You should also read through the “Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity” available at https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct/student-misconduct. In this class, the penalty for academic dishonesty will be severe.
Disruptions: Disruptions and distractions (including talking during lecture; text messaging or other phone use; nonclass computer activity; or reading nonclass materials), threatening behavior, and negative participation (e.g., use of inappropriate language or derogatory speech) will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior may be asked to leave class and will suffer grade penalties.

Attendance: I expect that you will be here, physically and mentally, every day. A considerable portion of your course grade is contingent on active participation, which I track every class period. Thus, repeated unexcused absences will be penalized accordingly. Excused absences require appropriate documentation as I deem fit.

Internet Policy: For this course, you are required to have online access regularly (i.e., at least 2-3 times a week). Please use discretion in your emails: it is often much more efficient to answer questions or converse on a topic face-to-face than through email.

Disability Accommodations: If you anticipate the need for accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, please contact the Office for Disability Services, Baker Hall, Room 098, or phone (614) 292-3307. Students with documented disabilities can meet with me privately within the first three weeks of class to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this syllabus constitutes a list of basic class policies. I reserve the right to modify this information when deemed necessary for any reason. You will be notified in class, via email, and/or on Carmen if and when any changes occur.

ASSIGNMENTS

Class presentation and materials. (15%) You will choose a day that you will serve as the lead for the day’s discussion (approximately 35-40 minutes of class). In addition to conducting a discussion through the generation of appropriate and interesting questions, you will create a packet that will effectively synthesize the selected readings and provide readings and exercises about the material. The purpose of this packet is to provide everyone with a starter kit if they were to research or teach this topic.

You will upload your packet to Carmen to be shared with everyone by noon on the day before you present. Late submission will be penalized.

This packet will consist of:

- a 1 p. (single-spaced)summary/outline of each designated reading for future reference (not just the study’s abstract, but a rewording and condensation of methods, design, findings, etc., that help us see what and how things were done, along with any criticisms not provided by the authors). At least 3 discussion questions for each reading should be
included. Please consult with me to identify the designated readings, as they may not correspond with the required readings.

- an in-class exercise (which we will do if you like)
- an out-of-class assignment (which we will not complete) on the topic that would be useful for undergraduates learning this material—be creative!
- relevant multimedia (e.g., links, video clips)
- additional articles (at least 3) on your topic for further reading that do not overlap with the syllabus—include a brief summary of each (3-5 sentences)

**Midterm exam.** (20%) This exam will be an in-class, closed-book, short essay exam. The purpose of this format is twofold: first, to prepare you for the demands of your comprehensive exams; second, it is designed to prepare you for the demands of teaching and presenting your work. Although we are in an era of having information at our fingertips, you should have the ability to clearly, accurately, and spontaneously answer questions without having to consult other sources.

**Term paper.** (45%) You will develop and submit a final research paper for this course. Although your paper may continue a line of research you are conducting, it should not be a rehash of ideas you have submitted elsewhere. Most projects will fall into one of these four categories: (a) a critical review and synthesis of research on a computer-mediated communication topic; (b) a meta-analysis of a topic related to computer-mediated communication; (c) development of a theory or model of computer-mediated communication that is grounded in the literature; or (d) a literature review and focused research proposal related to computer-mediated communication. You will submit a journal-worthy paper including an introduction, lit review, hypotheses, and detailed method. All measures should be submitted as appendices. The paper should be 12-15 pages without references or appendices. APA 6th ed. format is required. Because I think peer collaboration is invaluable, you may also work with another classmate if you wish. You will share the grade regardless of individual contribution, so choose wisely.

In order to complete this paper successfully, you will need to do extensive reading of primary research articles from the published literature well beyond those on the accompanying bibliography.

- **Topic approval:** You must meet with me before **Feb. 8** to get preliminary approval on your topic.
- **Initial proposal:** Your initial proposal will include 2-3 pages (plus any references). In a synthesis paper, this would outline the scope of your literature review, argue for its need, and elaborate your goals. For a research proposal, this should include basic theoretical argumentation, rationale, and preliminary hypotheses. You will submit a hard copy of your proposal in class on **Thursday, Feb.22.**
• **Final presentation:** You will make well-prepared oral presentations of your term paper research in class in the last two weeks. Presentations must be no longer than 10 minutes (strictly enforced), accompanied by a 5-minute Q&A session. The presenters should prepare and distribute outlines to all other students.

• **Term paper due:** **Tuesday, Apr. 24 by 4 pm.** You must submit a copy via Carmen AND a hard copy or you will be penalized.

**Class participation and discussion questions.** (20%) In preparation for our class meetings, you are expected to submit two very thoughtful questions for discussion. Each question must be based on issues raised in the readings for the upcoming class meeting and must be submitted on Carmen no later than noon of the class day. Questions submitted after this time will not be accepted. At the end of the semester, your “portfolio” of questions will be evaluated for their quality. You will be graded for the relevance, thoughtfulness, and timeliness of your questions.

Active and thoughtful class participation will account for the remaining part of your grade. Active doesn’t mean nodding, breathing, and/or not falling asleep; it means making meaningful and relevant contributions to the discussion, asking challenging or interesting questions, knowing when to listen, and being a supportive participant every class.
Course Readings

Tuesday, Jan. 9 – Syllabus; No readings

Thursday, Jan. 11 – Introduction to Computer-Mediated Communication


Recommended


Tuesday, Jan. 16 - Reduced Cues, Background, & Critiques


Recommended


**Thursday, Jan. 18 - Virtual Community**


Wellman, B., & Gulia, M. (1996). Net surfers don’t ride alone: Virtual communities as communities. In M. A. Smith & P. Kollack (Eds.), *Communities in cyberspace* (pp. 167-194).


**Recommended**


**Tuesday, Jan. 23 - SIDE**


**Recommended**


**Thursday, Jan. 25 - Social Information Processing Theory**


**Recommended**


**Tuesday, Jan.30 - The Hyperpersonal Model**


**Recommended**


**Thursday, Feb. 1 - Warranting Theory**


**Recommended**


**Tuesday, Feb. 6 - Channels & Affordances**


Recommended


**Thursday, Feb. 8 - The Masspersonal Model**


Recommended

The full issue of *Human Communication Research, 43*(4).

**Tuesday, Feb. 13 – Midterm**
Thursday, Feb. 15 - Psychological Effects


Recommended


Tuesday, Feb. 20 - Self & Identity


**Recommended**


**Thursday, Feb. 22- Impression Management**


**Recommended**


Tuesday, Feb. 27 - Relationships I


Recommended


Thursday, Mar. 1 - Relationships II


Recommended


**Tuesday, Mar. 6 – Relationships III**


Recommended


**Thursday, Mar. 8 - Media Selection**


**Recommended**


**Tuesday, Mar. 13 – No Class; Spring Break.**

**Thursday, Mar. 15 – No Class; Spring Break.**

**Tuesday, Mar. 20 - Online Influence**


**Recommended**


**Thursday, Mar. 22 - Health Contexts I**


**Recommended**


Tuesday, Mar. 27 - Health contexts II


Recommended


Thursday, Mar. 29 - Health Contexts III


Recommended


Tuesday, Apr. 3 - Political Contexts


Recommended


**Thursday, Apr. 5 - Language & Nonverbal Cues**


**Recommended**


**Tuesday, Apr. 10 - Digital Deception**


**Recommended**


**Thursday, Apr. 12 - Presentation**

**Tuesday, Apr. 17 - Presentation**

**Thursday, Apr. 19 - Presentation**