



Comm 1100: Communication in Society

Instructor: Dr. Laura Partain

Email Address: partain.7@osu.edu, she/her/hers

Meeting Time: Asynchronous

Office Location: 3045D Derby Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4:45pm EST via [Zoom](#) (password: 579473)

Graduate Assistant

Graduate Assistant: Morgan Ross, he/him/his

Email Address: ross.1655@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-3pm EST via [Zoom](#) (password: 6060842)

Teaching Assistants

Teaching Assistant: Amanda Bovenzi, she/her/hers
[ZOOM](#) (password: 313089)

Office Hours and Time: Mondays, 12-1PM EST via
e-mail: bovenzi.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Teaching Assistant: Leah Bratton, she/her/hers
[ZOOM](#) (password: 565736)

Office Hours and Time: Friday, 3-4PM EST via
e-mail: bratton.80@buckeyemail.osu.edu

Teaching Assistant: Alexa Rupe, she/her/hers
via [ZOOM](#) (password: 687713)

Office Hours and Time: Wednesdays, 3-4PM EST
e-mail: rupe.21@buckeyemail.osu.edu

C-REP Coordinator listed under “Assignments.”



Figure 1: Image from Hulu's Website

Course Description

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with communication strategies that people and groups use to communicate with each other and to manage the world around them. This course will provide an introduction to social scientific methods and an overview of communication theories. We will explore a range of communication theories, including 1) critical theories, 2) interpersonal and family theories, 3) intergroup theories, 4) organizational theories, 5) persuasion theories, and 6) mass communication/media effects theories. You will learn how to identify actions that align with communication theories using mediated contexts and will develop your ability to apply theories in real-world situations. This course is online-only and fulfills GEL Social Science: Individuals and Groups and GEN Foundation: Social and Behavioral Sciences requirements.

Communication Policy

Because of the size of our online class, we designed the course to be simple, accessible, and collaborative. Our communication policy aligns with these design goals. Deviating from the policy may result in undue delays or us missing your messages altogether.

Communication tactics to avoid:

- We may send messages through Canvas to the class. Please check your Canvas every morning for updates. **BUT**, do not respond to Canvas mail/messenger & Canvas' submission comments and do not try to contact us through Canvas. Canvas communication to your instructor can be unreliable and cannot be tracked.
- Avoid weekend emails and messages sent after 5pm EST on weekdays. If you send an email just before or after 5PM EST on weekdays, please do not expect a response until the following day. Please do not expect a response for an email you sent over the weekend until Monday.
- Avoid 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. You may not use them as evidence of communication attempts.
- Do not send unprofessional emails. Professional emails are easy to read and allow quicker response. Please include your course info in the subject line (Comm 1100), a salutation, adequate yet concise body text, closing, and your full name.
- Avoid sending emails that require immediate attention. We aim to answer emails with 36-48 hours of receipt on business days. Be proactive and plan ahead. If you do not hear back after 48 hours, you may send a follow-up email. Please be patient with your instructors; there are many students and far fewer of us.

Contact Order:

- **FIRST** check into the course discussion boards. These discussion boards allow the whole class to see questions and answers for a range of topics pertaining to the course. Please do not contact an instructor until you have checked these boards for your questions. Once someone has asked a general question of an instructor, that question will be added to the discussion board with the answer. There will be discussion boards for the following areas of class: General, Assignments, C-REP, Study Guide, Quizzes, Exams.
- **NEXT**, email your assigned TA. Your TA should be your go-to source for all general questions and concerns, including assignment instructions, accommodations, and other pertinent class

information. Your TA's email is located at the top of the syllabus, and you can locate your assigned TA on Canvas in the "People" section of the page under the "Groups" tab.

- **AFTER THAT**, email this course's GA, Morgan Ross. You should only contact Morgan after you have received an unsatisfactory email from your TA (provide documentation), have an emergency situation that you believe goes past the duties of a TA, or have failed to contact your TA for a period of 4 business days (provide documentation).
- **LASTLY**, if all the above points of contact have failed to answer your questions or you deem a situation necessary to contact me, you may email me, Laura Partain, at partain.7@osu.edu.

Course Learning Outcomes

This course meets both the New General Education (GEN Foundation): Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Legacy General Education (GEL): Individuals and Groups requirements for the University. Below, I have listed the outcomes for these two requirements as well as specific outcomes for this course.

GEN:

Goals

- Successful students will critically analyze and apply theoretical and empirical approaches within the social and behavioral sciences, including modern principles, theories, methods, and modes of inquiry.
- Successful students will recognize the implications of social and behavioral scientific findings and their potential impacts.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Successful students are able to:

- Explain basic facts, principles, theories, and methods of social and behavioral science.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.
- Explain and evaluate differences, similarities, and disparities among institutions, organizations, cultures, societies, and/or individuals using social and behavioral science.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.
- Analyze how political, economic, individual, or social factors and values impact social structures, policies, and/or decisions.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.
- Evaluate social and ethical implications of social scientific and behavioral research.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.
- Critically evaluate and responsibly use information from the social and behavioral sciences.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.

GEL:

Goals:

- 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.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they apply to the study of individuals and groups.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments 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.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.
- Students comprehend and assess individual and group values and their importance in social problem solving and policy making.
 - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, and writing assignments will assess this outcome.

Weekly Structure

Weekly modules will be released every Saturday. The modules will include the welcome and overview video, the lecture videos, the reading chapters, and the weekly quiz. Everything for the week is due by the following Friday at 11:59pm EST. Only assignments will be accepted late; no other late work will be accepted. Please see the weekly assignment section under “Assignments and Grading Policies” for a detailed description of the late assignment policy.

Course Materials

This course requires students to have access to the free streaming service Tubi.

The course textbook is:

Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. (2023). A First Look at Communication Theory (11th Edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

The fee for this textbook is included as part of tuition and is listed as a CarmenBooks fee on your Statement of Account. Unless you choose to opt-out of the program, you do NOT need to purchase the textbook at the bookstore. See [this video](#) to learn how to access the textbook. For more information on the program or how to opt out, please visit the [CarmenBooks website](#). Access to Connect, which includes the textbook as an eBook, is available through the “**McGraw Hill Connect**” link within Carmen (listed on the left-hand side of the page). You will be required to read the textbook chapters through Connect using their SmartBook feature.

The textbook comes free with tech support:

- Phone: 800-331-5094
- Chat or Email: <https://mhedu.force.com/CXG/s/ContactUs> • Available hours (EST):

- o Sunday: 12 PM – 12 AM
- o Monday – Thursday: 24 hours to Friday: 12AM–9PM
- o Saturday: 10 AM – 8 PM

Assignments and Grading Policies

Weekly Assignments

- All assignments must be typed, not hand-written, out.
- Assignments will consist of the practical recognition and application of the communication theories that we learn about in class. Many of these assignments will require students to view assigned mediated content. All content will either be provided through links or through the free, advertisement-supported streaming service Tubi. Students must register for this service to participate in the class. Please note that this service was selected for this course because it is free, open content and that the assigned shows were drawn from a limited selection of television shows. The shows were selected based on the content and its alignment to this course's communication theories as well as their general appropriateness. The episodes assigned may contain minimal representations of violence, partial nudity, and curse words. Please note that additional episodes in the series beyond those assigned may contain violence or nudity that the instructor deemed inappropriate for our course.

BOTH assignments for the week must be completed by Friday at 11:59pm EST. Late assignments will be accepted up to 48 hours past the due date time, with 4 points deducted from 1 minute past the due date up to 24 hours past the due date and 8 points deducted from 24 hours and 1 minute past the due date to 48 hours past the due date. Assignments will be submitted in students' small group's discussion section. Students will not be able to see each other's posts until you have submitted your own post. Please engage with each other's posts but know that engagement on someone else's post does not count toward your own weekly assignment grade. Weekly assignments will be discussed in one of the weekly videos (welcome video or weekly lectures) and the basic rubric for each assignment will be posted in the grading section.

SmartBook Readings

- Students will complete chapter readings using the McGraw Hill tool called "SmartBook." This tool will have you read the chapter as you normally would an eBook but incorporates comprehension questions throughout the reading to ensure that students follow along with the materials. For materials assigned outside our textbook, there will not be a SmartBook reading for that week.

Weekly Quizzes

- Students will complete one quiz per week. The quiz questions will primarily be derived from the readings but may include questions from the weekly lectures. Students will have three chances to take each quiz, but the students will receive 10 questions each time from a rotating list of questions. This means that you might receive the same question on different tries. Students will be able to drop two quizzes at the end of the semester. Because students are allowed to drop two quizzes, there will be no other allowances for missed quizzes barring an emergency (must be approved by Dr. Partain). No other lateness policy applies to quizzes. Please note that the quiz questions will not resemble the questions on exams. Exam questions will often require second order thinking (the ability to

extrapolate and apply information) whereas many of the quizzes require first order thinking (understanding a concept or memorizing a definition).

Study Guides 1 and 2

- Preparing study guides are graded but meant for your benefit. Although exams require second order thinking (see Weekly Quizzes section for explanation), it is important to know definitions and understand concepts to build up to second order thinking. Each small group will fill out their own study guides for the Midterm and the Final Exam. Groups are responsible for editing the information and no instructor will step in to correct information. Grading for study guides will largely be subjective because there are many ways to contribute to a document. For example, one student may provide more definitions, but another student may edit others' work. You will have 3 grade options for study guide points: 0 points (no work, work is sloppy, incoherent, unhelpful), 15 points (issues with every entry, minimal amount of work completed), or 25 points (minimal mistakes, completes a reasonable amount of the work as roughly divided between team members). Please note that you should NOT go ahead and complete a disproportionate amount of work on your own without consulting your group members. It will be up to the group members to figure out how to divide the work as you go along throughout the semester or in the week leading up to each exam. I highly recommend that groups complete the study guide throughout the semester to avoid undue stress before an exam.

Midterm

- There will be one midterm exam that covers all the material up until the midterm, including any material taught during that exam week. The midterm will be released on Monday by 11:59pm EST and will be open until Fridays at 11:59pm EST. Students will have 65 minutes to complete the exam upon opening the exam link. Exams will consist of 20-40 questions depending on the nature of the questions.

Final

- There will be one final exam that is cumulative, but that will consist of roughly 25% of questions from before the midterm and roughly 75% of questions from after the midterm. The final exam will be released on Monday by 11:59pm EST and will be open until Fridays at 12am EST. Students will have 65 minutes to complete the exam upon opening the exam link. Exams will consist of 20-40 questions depending on the nature of the questions.

C-REP

- **Five Hours of C-REP.** All students in COMM 1100 must participate in the Communication Research Experience Program ("C-REP"). 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, please use the resources on Canvas. For general questions, please use the discussion board. 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. Your C-REP grade is calculated by dividing the number of hours you complete by 5. Participation can take the form of:
 - Completing 5 hours of C-REP research studies, OR
 - Completing 5 C-REP alternative written assignments, OR
 - Completing a combined total of FIVE hours of research studies and alternative writing assignments.

Our C-REP coordinator is **Jessica Ryu**. Please first consult the C-REP Discussion Board on Canvas for C-REP questions and then email Jessica for any follow-up or new questions. Jessica's email is: **ryu.205@buckeyemail.osu.edu**

Grading Criteria

	Due Date	# per semester	# dropped	Points out of 1000
Weekly Assignments	Weekly on Friday by 11:59pm EST	20	0	400
Weekly Reading on SmartBook Quizzes	Weekly on Friday by 11:59pm EST	21	1	100
Weekly Quizzes	Weekly on Friday by 11:59pm EST	12	2	100
Study Guide 1	Thursday, 10-05-23, by 11:59pm EST	1	0	25
Study Guide 2	Monday, 12-15-23, by 11:59pm EST	1	0	25
Midterm	Friday, 10-06-23, by 11:59pm EST	1	0	100
Final Exam	Friday, 12-16-23, by 11:59pm EST	1	0	200
C-REP	All CREP studies due by 12-09-23, by 11:59pm EST	5	0	50

Grading Criteria-1000 Total Points

- A 940-1000
- A- 900-939
- B+ 870-899
- B 840-869
- B- 800-839
- C+ 770-799
- C 740-769
- C- 700-739
- D+ 640-699
- D 600-639
- E/EN Below 600

From the University's Grading Website:

“Note: There are no D-, E+ or A+ grades.”

General Policies and Accommodations

Content Warnings

There are several chapters in our textbook and several instances in either the specific television episode we will be watching (or in the rest of the series should you continue to watch it) that I will premise with content warnings. Please be aware that these warnings are meant for you to have agency deciding when and where you choose to be active participants in viewing content that may be violent and traumatic, including situations such as physical violence, racial violence, mentions of childhood abuse, gender-based violence, and sexual assault, among other situations. Please reach out to Dr. Partain if you have concerns about any content this semester.

Academic Conduct

- I take academic conduct very, very seriously. Cheating in any form will not be tolerated. This includes the use of others' work without proper citation, partially or wholly copying someone else's work out of class or in-class on exams, and the use of notes or unauthorized materials in any form during exams. **The use of ChatGPT, or any other AI, for any purpose in this class is not allowed.**
- I will abide by the University's code of conduct policies. Please familiarize yourself with them at the following websites:
 - Code of Student conduct: <https://trustees.osu.edu/bylaws-and-rules/code> ○ The Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM):
 - <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct>
 - Academic Misconduct Information for Students: <https://oaa.osu.edu/academic-integrity-and-misconduct/student-misconduct#Ten-Suggestions>

Academic Accommodations

Please let me know within the first week of the course if you will require any accommodations for the course. I will be happy to meet with students to discuss all accommodations. Your ability to complete this course may be circumvented by institutional policies and normative social practices. I will do my best to ensure that the classroom space is equitable and accessible. Please contact Student Life Disability Services if you need to formally arrange your accommodations: SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

Mental Health, Trauma, and Wellness Services

According to Mayo Clinic, up to 44% of college students reported symptoms of depression and anxiety. During the initial stages of COVID-19, as many as 1 in 3 college students experienced depression, anxiety, or both. There are many factors that can contribute to student health and wellness issues on campus, including feelings of uncertainty, feeling overwhelmed, sexual assault, physical assault, depression, anxiety, and isolation, among other reasons. Ohio State University offers a number of services to assist students in these areas (listed below). If you have any questions about these resources or how your experiences are affecting you and your ability to complete my course, please do not hesitate to come talk to me.

Resources:

- Counseling and Consultation Services: <https://ccs.osu.edu/services/on-demand-services>

- Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention: <https://titleix.osu.edu/navigation/get-help/help-resources.html>
- Report a Title IX Violation: <https://titleix.osu.edu/>
 - Ohio State University takes seriously issues of discrimination that may contribute to your mental health and wellness concerns. Below is Ohio State University's non-discrimination notice:
- The university is committed to equal opportunity and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, pregnancy, or veteran status in its programs, activities, employment and admission.

Writing and Writing Center Help

Everyone can benefit from writing help (including me!). Ohio State University offers resources for students to improve their writing and arguments.

- <https://cstw.osu.edu/make-writing-center-appointment>

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Introduction to Communication Theory

Week 1-Starts on 08-22-2023 **Please note that Week 1 has atypical due dates**

Lectures:

Welcome Lecture and Lecture on Ch.1 and Ch. 2

Assignments:

Familiarize yourself with the course. Watch all videos in the welcome module, especially those about Connect.

Read Ch.1 and Ch.2 using Connect's Smart Book (due SUNDAY 11:59pm EST)

Quiz:

Take Week 1's quiz on Ch.1 and Ch. 2 (due SUNDAY 11:59pm EST)

Extras:

Watch CREP introduction video and think about completing studies early in the semester.

Week 2-Starts on 08-26-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture and Lecture on Ch. 3 and Ch. 4

Assignments:

Familiarize yourself with the course. Watch all the videos in the welcome module, especially those about Connect. Read the Syllabus.

Read Ch. 3 and Ch. 4 using Connect's Smart Book

Introduce yourself to your Discussion Group on Canvas.

Quiz:

Take Week 2's quiz on Ch.3, Ch. 4, and the Syllabus

Extras:

Watch CREP introduction video and think about completing studies early in the semester.

Unit 2: Relational Communication-Interpersonal and Organizational

Week 3-Starts on 09-02-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 5, and Lecture on Ch. 8

Assignments:

Read Ch. 5 and Ch. 8 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 5 and Ch. 8 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 3's quiz on Ch.5 and Ch. 8

Extras:

None

Week 4-Starts on 09-09-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 12, and Lecture on Ch. 7

Assignments:

Read Ch. 12 and Ch. 7 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 12 and Ch. 7 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 4's quiz on Ch.12 and Ch. 7

Extras:

None

Week 5-Starts on 09-16-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 13, and Lecture on Ch. 22

Assignments:

Read Ch. 13 and Ch. 22 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 13 and Ch. 22 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 5's quiz on Ch.13 and Ch. 22

Extras:

None

Unit 3: Persuasion

Week 6-Starts on 09-23-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 14, and Lecture on Ch. 15

Assignments:

Read Ch. 14 and Ch. 15 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 14 and Ch. 15 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 5's quiz on Ch.14 and Ch. 15

Extras:

Begin midterm preparation

Week 7-Starts on 09-30-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 16

Assignments:

Read Ch. 16 using Connect's Smart Book

Quiz:

No quiz

Extras:

Work on Study Guide 1.

COMPLETE MIDTERM.

Unit 4: Communication and Culture-Intercultural and Mass Communication**Week 8-Starts on 10-07-2023****Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture

Assignments:

None

Quiz:

None

Extras:

Use time to complete at least one CREP study. I recommend completing two or more.

Week 9-Starts on 10-14-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 34, and Lecture on Ch. 28

Assignments:

Read Ch. 34 and Ch. 28 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 34 and Ch. 28 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 9's quiz on Ch. 34 and Ch. 28

Extras:

None.

Week 10-Starts on 10-21-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 27, and Lecture on Ch. 29

Assignments:

Read Ch. 27 and Ch. 29 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 27 and Ch. 29 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 9's quiz on Ch. 27 and Ch. 29

Extras:

None.

Week 11-Starts on 10-28-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Morality (Reading in Modules and files)

Assignments:

Read Morality chapter (The Intuitive Dog and its Rational Tail, Haidt, J., 2012)

Complete Moral Foundations Theory assignment in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 11's quiz on Moral Foundation Theory

Extras:

Use time to complete at least one CREP study.

Week 12-Starts on 11-04-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 25, and Lecture on Stereotype Content Model (SCM) and Behaviors from Intergroup Affect and Stereotype (BIAS) Mapping

Assignments:

Read Ch. 25 using Connect's Smart Book and also read about the SCM and BIAS Mapping in the readings listed in Files and in Modules

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 25 and SCM and BIAS Mapping in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 12's quiz on Ch. 25, SCM, and BIAS Mapping

Extras:

None.

Week 13-Starts on 11-11-2023**Lectures:**

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 36, and Lecture on Social Learning Theories

Assignments:

Read Ch. 36 using Connect's Smart Book and read about Social Learning Theories via the link listed in Modules and [here](#)

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 36 and Social Learning Theories in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 13's quiz on Ch. 36 and Social Learning Theories

Extras:

None.

Week 14-Starts on 11-18-2023**Lectures:**

None

Assignments:

None

Quiz:

None

Extras:

Work on your Study Guide for the Final Exam and complete at least one CREP study.

Week 15-Starts on 11-25-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture, Lecture on Ch. 35 and Ch. 37

Assignments:

Read Ch. 35 and Ch. 37 using Connect's Smart Book

Complete 2 assignments for Ch. 35 and Ch. 37 in your Discussion sections

Quiz:

Take Week 15's quiz on Ch. 35 and Ch. 37

Extras:

None.

Week 16-Starts on 12-02-2023

Lectures:

Weekly Welcome Lecture

Assignments:

None

Quiz:

None

Extras:

Finish up Study Guide for the Final Exam.

Complete the remaining number of CREP studies necessary to meet the required 5 studies for this course.

The **Final Exam** will be released on Monday by 11:59pm EST and will be open until Fridays at 12am EST.