

COMM 1100

Communication in Society (10738)

Summer 2026

Instructor Information

Alita Boyse-Peacor

Ph.D. Communication, The Ohio State University, in progress

B.A. Psychology and Environmental Studies, Oberlin College, 2022

Required Readings

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

Brief schedule

Week	Topic
Intro	Intro
1	Communication Research and Theory
2	interpersonal Understanding
3	Relationship Development
4	Relationship Maintenance
5	Persuasion
6	Group/Organizational Communication
7	Cultural Context
8	Media Effects/Mass Communication

Course Details

Contact Details

I prefer contact through Carmen messaging. If needed, my email is boyse-peacor.1@osu.edu.

I will respond to messages within 24 hours during regular hours of 9am-6pm weekdays, unless otherwise noted.

Please do not contact me if the question has already been answered on the syllabus or discussion boards. Once someone has asked me a general question, I will add that question 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.

ONLY contact me if the question has not been answered on the syllabus or discussion board. Check these first, it is faster for you!

Office Hours

Wednesdays: 9am-10am, 2pm-3pm

Fridays: 11am-12pm (noon), 4pm-5pm

Or **by appointment** (message me)

Office hours will be held on [Zoom](#) (password: summer2026; must be logged in with OSU account to access)

Class Meeting Details

All course material will be delivered online and asynchronous.

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.

This course keeps the same pace as a full semester, in-person course, which means that we move through materials quickly. You must keep up with the course each week, as you would in an in-person course. Because this course is a required foundation course for the Communication major, it is designed to introduce you to intellectually challenging theories and topics in the field.

Course Learning Outcomes

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 Schedule

Weekly modules will be released every Monday. The modules will include the welcome video, lecture

videos, reading chapters, discussions, weekly quiz, and weekly review. The reading chapters and discussions are due Friday at 11:59pm EST. This is to make sure you have done the reading and discussion before taking the weekly quiz and doing the weekly review, which are due Sunday at 11:59pm EST. All due dates are listed Carmen.

SmartBook reading assignments and discussions will not be accepted late. Instead, a portion of these assignments will be dropped. Weekly quizzes and reviews will hold a 10% grade deduction for each day they are late.

Please note that questions about modules are unlikely to be answered over the weekend. I recommend looking at the week's module early in the week.

Assignments

Discussion posts

- Students will be required to submit a practical application of each week's theories. Students must apply each theory we learned that week to an aspect of their lives. In situations where the student may feel like relating the theory to their life is uncomfortable, such as when we examine theories of racial or gender-based discrimination, the student may provide a hypothetical example or an example from popular culture.
- There will be three discussions each week, one for each theory. Each post should be 4-7 sentences in length.
- These submissions must be clear, but they will not be graded for spelling or grammatical errors. Students will receive points based on completion and accuracy.
- No generative AI, including Grammarly, may be used in any aspect of writing these posts. Every week, I will run the prompts through several generative AI platforms. Please be aware that outputs are sometimes exact, or very similar to each other.
- All weekly reviews must be completed by Friday at 11:59pm EST unless otherwise stated. Because students can drop 4 discussion post grades, late assignments will not be accepted.

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. Each chapter will include a SmartBook assignment which takes about 20 minutes to complete.
- The SmartBook readings include AI tools for comprehension, which I will go over in the welcome video.
- All SmartBook assignments must be completed by Friday at 11:59pm EST unless otherwise stated. Because students can drop 4 SmartBook assignment grades, late assignments will not be accepted.

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.
- These quizzes will include 10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions. These questions are designed to test how well students remember important material.
- 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. The try that receives the highest grade will be your final grade for the quiz.
- Weekly quizzes will be administered through McGraw Hill Connect using built in proctoring features. Use of AI is not permitted on these assignments.
- Weekly quizzes will be due Sundays 11:59pm EST unless otherwise stated. If the assignment is not completed by then, there will be an automatic 10% deduction in grade for every 24 hours it is late.

Weekly Review

- Students will complete one weekly review per week. The review questions will primarily be derived from the readings but may include questions from the weekly lectures.
- The review will consist of 6 short answer questions (about 4-8 sentences) that reinforce learning and promote critical thinking and application. Questions will often involve the students own perspective, not memorization of the material.
- Short answers must be clear, but they will not be graded for spelling or grammatical errors. Students will receive points based on completion and accuracy.
- Weekly reviews will be administered through McGraw Hill Connect using built in proctoring features. Use of AI is not permitted on these assignments.
- Weekly reviews will be due Sundays 11:59pm EST unless otherwise stated. If the assignment is not completed by then, there will be an automatic 10% deduction in grade for every 24 hours it is late.

Final

- There will be one final exam that is cumulative. Students will receive more information about the exam in addition to a study guide closer to the date.
- The final exam will be open from August 3rd at 12:00am EST to August 5th at 11:59pm EST. Students will have 80 minutes to complete the exam upon opening the exam link.

C-REP

- All students in COMM 1100 are required to 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 course grade (1% per hour of credit). You can earn partial credit (e.g., 4% for 4 credits). Participation can take the form of research studies and/or alternative assignments. Important information about C-REP:
 - Both COMM 1100 and COMM 1101 require C-REP participation, and some students take both courses simultaneously. If you are enrolled only in COMM 1100, you only need 5 hours. If you are enrolled in both courses, you need 10 hours. The same C-REP

participation CANNOT be counted for both courses. For each study, you will indicate what class the credit goes toward.

- At least half of your credits should be completed during the first half of the semester. It is wise to complete your C-REP requirement as early as possible in the semester when demands on your time and signups for studies are the lightest. Because the number of studies may be limited, it is also wise to ask for alternative assignments early.
- If you sign up for a study but do not show up, you will have to complete an alternative assignment to make up the hours you missed. You will be locked out of the C-REP SONA system until you complete the alternative assignment.
- Due dates are decided by the C-REP board and are not flexible.
- The C-REP Student Guide can be found on Canvas. If you have any questions, please review those materials. Please see important C-REP guidelines above the course schedule, included below. These guidelines are also available on Canvas.
- If you have a question or issue, the quickest way to get an answer is to try the C-REP Answer Bot, which has answers for the most common student issues: <https://go.osu.edu/CREPbot>. If you have a question not covered in the supporting materials or by the Answer Bot, you may email the C-REP coordinator, Ms. Jiaqi Qin, at CREP@osu.edu
- The deadline for participating in research or requesting and alternate assignment is Thursday, July 23 at 9 pm. The deadline for completing the alternate assignment is Thursday, July 30 at 9 pm.

Extra Credit:

Communication Kindness: Let's put our newly acquired communication skills to good use. University life can be hard on everyone and can leave students and faculty alike feeling overwhelmed and isolated. This semester, I'm offering 5 extra credit points for anyone who performs what could be considered an act of kindness or act of service for another. This might mean that you take an extra minute to help someone lift a heavy box, that you buy someone a coffee, that you give someone encouragement who needs it, or even that you provide someone with extra support on social media. The requirement is that the interaction must be meaningful to you and that it must appear meaningful to the other person. This act can be performed at any time during the semester. You're encouraged to undertake many acts of kindness towards others, but you can only receive up to 5 extra credit points for doing so in this class. To receive credit, message Alita with a 1-3 sentence description of the act. Alita will post all acts anonymously to our Carmen Canvas page under a Discussion post. You are encouraged to read through these accounts for encouragement and examples on how to be kind towards others. While Alita realizes that it will be easy to fabricate these interactions, she hopes that you all take this extra credit opportunity seriously.

Alita may create other opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

Assignment Grades

Assignment	Number per semester	Number dropped	Points per assignment	Points out of 1000
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Discussion Posts	24	4	5	100
SmartBook Readings	24	4	10	200
Weekly Quizzes	8	0	20	160
Weekly Reviews	8	0	30	240
Final Exam	1	0	250	250
C-REP	1	0	50	50

Grading Scale

Letter Grade Percentage Range

A	100% to 93%
A-	93% to 90%
B+	90% to 87%
B	87% to 83%
B-	83% to 80%
C+	80% to 77%
C	77% to 73%
C-	73% to 70%
D+	70% to 67%
D	67% to 60%
E	60% to 0%

AI Policy

GenAI can fabricate information (for example, creating citations to sources that do not exist) or omit key information. You are ultimately responsible for the accuracy and integrity of your submitted work. Unless explicitly permitted below, representing AI-generated content as your own work is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct. Please check with your instructor if you have questions.

These levels may apply to the entire course or specific assignments, as indicated by the instructor:

- **Permitted:** You may use GenAI as a virtual tutor to explain concepts, quiz you on course topics, or summarize content you have personally authored (e.g., your own class notes). Additionally, the online textbook contains many AI study tools which I will discuss, and you are permitted and encouraged to utilize.
- **Prohibited:** The materials in this course may be subject to copyright protection. Do not input or allow AI to access external or instructor-created course materials (e.g., assigned readings, slides) without explicit instructor permission. Do not use GenAI to outline, draft, translate, or write any part of an assignment.

University Policies

Office of Undergraduate Education - Standard Syllabus Statements

- [Academic Misconduct](#)
- [Religious Accommodations](#)
- [Accommodations for Disability and Illness](#)
- [Intellectual Diversity](#)
- [Grievances and Solving Problems](#)
- [Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct](#)
- [Copyrights](#)
- [Content Warnings](#)
- [Mental Health Support](#)
- [Resources for Military-Connected Students](#)

Detailed Schedule

Introduction

Videos

Welcome Video 1

Lecture 1

Assignments

Due 8/10 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 1 SmartBook

Discussion Post 1

Week 1: Communication Research and Theory

Videos

Welcome Video 2

Lectures 2, 3, 4

Assignments

Due 6/12 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 2 SmartBook

Chapter 3 SmartBook

Chapter 4 SmartBook

Discussion Post 2

Discussion Post 3

Discussion Post 4

Due 6/14 at 11:59pm EST

Week 1 Quiz

Week 1 Review

Week 2: Interpersonal Understanding

Videos

Welcome Video 3

Lectures 5, 6, 7

Assignments

Due 6/19 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 5 SmartBook

Chapter 6 SmartBook

Chapter 9 SmartBook

Discussion Post 5

Discussion Post 6

Discussion Post 7

Due 6/21 at 11:59pm EST

Week 2 Quiz

Week 2 Review

Week 3: Relationship Development

Videos

Welcome Video 3

Lectures 8, 9, 10

Assignments

Due 6/26 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 7 SmartBook

Chapter 8 SmartBook

Chapter 10 SmartBook

Discussion Post 8

Discussion Post 9

Discussion Post 10

Due 6/28 at 11:59pm EST

Week 3 Quiz

Week 3 Review

Week 4: Relationship Maintenance

Videos

Welcome Video 4

Lectures 11, 12, 13

Assignments

Due 7/3 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 11 SmartBook

Chapter 12 SmartBook

Chapter 13 SmartBook

Discussion Post 11

Discussion Post 12

Discussion Post 13

Due 7/5 at 11:59pm EST

Week 4 Quiz

Week 4 Review

Week 5: Persuasion

Videos

Welcome Video 5

Lectures 14, 15, 16

Assignments

Due 7/10 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 14 SmartBook

Chapter 15 SmartBook

Chapter 16 SmartBook

Discussion Post 14

Discussion Post 15

Discussion Post 16

Due 7/12 at 11:59pm EST

Week 5 Quiz

Week 5 Review

Week 6: Group Communication

Videos

Welcome Video 6

Lectures 17, 18

Assignments

Due 7/17 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 20 SmartBook

Chapter 22 SmartBook

Discussion Post 17

Discussion Post 18

Due 7/19 at 11:59pm EST

Week 6 Quiz

Week 6 Review

Week 7: Cultural Context

Videos

Welcome Video 7

Lectures 19, 20, 21

Assignments

Due 7/23 at 9 pm

Deadline for study participation and requesting alternative assignments from the CREP coordinator

Due 7/24 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 25 SmartBook

Chapter 26 SmartBook

Chapter 27 SmartBook

Discussion Post 19

Discussion Post 20

Discussion Post 21

Due 7/26 at 11:59pm EST

Week 7 Quiz

Week 7 Review

Week 8: Media Effects

Videos

Welcome Video 8

Lectures 22, 23, 24

Assignments

Due 7/30 at 9 pm

Deadline for submitting the CREP alternative assignment to the CREP coordinator

Due 7/31 at 11:59pm EST

Chapter 35 SmartBook

Chapter 36 SmartBook

Chapter 37 SmartBook

Discussion Post 22

Discussion Post 23

Discussion Post 24

Due 8/2 at 11:59pm EST

Week 8 Quiz

Week 8 Review

Week 8: Final Exam

Final Exam posted August 3rd at 12:00am EST and Due August 5th at 11:59pm EST