

Syllabus

COMM 6806: Contemporary Theories of Communication Autumn 2018

Professor: Dr. Teresa Lynch
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Office: 3045D Derby Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:30am – 1:00pm and by appointment

CLASS MEETING

Mondays 5:30pm – 8:15pm in Derby Hall 3116

REQUIRED & RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

I will provide all required materials and readings via Carmen throughout the semester.

Recommended materials:

VandenBos, G. R. (Ed). (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

This course is an introduction to contemporary communication theories and the process of theory building using social scientific perspectives. Following completion of this course, students should have developed skills and knowledge enabling them to:

- Distinguish between social scientific and other ways of knowing.
- Explain many of the theories used in the social scientific study of communication.
- Develop an understanding of the research conducted by faculty members in the School of Communication at OSU.
- Explain the theories that are important to their interests as a scholar.
- Analyze the theories discussed in class or found in the readings.
- Identify linkages between the theories found in distinct areas of the discipline and utilize these theories to improve their own research.

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Questions and Participation: The success of seminar-style courses largely revolves around the quality of discussion that takes place. In this course, discussion will primarily concern topics related to the required reading. If you carefully and thoughtfully read the material, you will naturally be prepared to discuss it in class. In order to facilitate discussion, you are also responsible for posting one detailed

question about each of the readings prior to every class. You must post questions to the discussion forum in Carmen by 12pm on Mondays.

Good questions are those that make connections between readings, attempt to integrate or reconcile the readings, and/or provide a jumping off point for spirited debate and/or discussion. Since the idea is to generate multiple points for discussion, you cannot post a question someone has already asked. Therefore, you need to pay attention to the questions your classmates have already posted. You can, however, build from your classmates' questions to create a cohesive line of inquiry. A few sentences should accompany questions to describe/clarify the issue you are trying to raise briefly. You may also provide examples to clarify any abstract or nuanced ideas related to your question. Questions can serve a variety of purposes such as seeking to clarify an issue you find confusing, critically challenging some aspect of a reading, or provoking discussion of a particular issue you find compelling. Overall, try to ask questions that will stimulate a scientific discussion and avoid asking questions that you could easily answer yourself with some additional research. I reserve the right to conduct pop quizzes to assess participation.

Short Paper: The aim of this paper is to express a communication-based research question you would like to examine in greater depth for the final paper. You need to provide a clear articulation of the research question, an argument as to why you think this research question is important (both in terms of social significance and theory building, but mostly theory building), and some sense of where you might start looking in terms of past research (i.e., identify specific articles in peer-reviewed journals) in order to address this research question. I will provide additional details and instructions on Carmen.

Exam: The exam will consist of a series of short-essay questions that touch upon foundational aspects of theory covered in class. Students will select a subset of questions to answer.

Final paper presentation: Students will provide a detailed overview of their final research paper. The structure of the presentation will mimic what typically occurs at communication conferences. I will provide additional details and instructions on Carmen.

Final paper: This paper requires the student to write a complete front-end of an article - six pages maximum in length, APA 6th style (not inclusive of title page and references). It should include an introduction and rationale, a literature review, and at least one hypothesis. The paper is limited to no more than four constructs/variables. The goal of the article should be to challenge, extend, or modify an existing communication theory. I will provide additional details and instructions on Carmen.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

- Papers must use APA 6th citation style.
- All works referred to (directly or otherwise) require citation.
- Parsimony is a goal. "Vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all of her or his sentences short, or that s/he avoid all detail and treat subjects only in outline, but that every word tell." –Strunk & White, 1957

- Avoid quotes, especially lengthy ones.
- Spelling, grammar, and sentence structure are important and figure into grading.

GRADING

<u>Item</u>	<u>Point value</u>
Discussion questions and participation	25pts
Exam	20pts
Final paper proposal	15pts
Final paper presentation	10pts
Final paper	30pts
Total for 100% Score in Course	100

Below are the point ranges for each corresponding course letter grade determined by OSU standards. I will not round grades – do not ask.

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%	E 0-59.99%
B+ 87.00-89.99%	C+ 77.00-79.99%	D+ 67.00-69.99%	

COURSE POLICIES

- ***Email and Carmen policy:*** You are responsible for checking your OSU email account and the Carmen course page regularly. I will post grades and course materials on Carmen throughout the semester. Students are welcome to email me (lynch.659@osu.edu) to set up an appointment to discuss issues related to the course if they are unable to attend my office hours (no appointment necessary). In any email communication, students must put “COMM6806” in the subject line.
- ***Attendance:*** I expect you to attend every class. If you must miss class due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, you must notify me in advance. Unexcused absences will carry a penalty to your participation grade. If you miss class for any reason, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from someone else in the class. My notes will not be available; however, I will gladly answer specific questions about missed content during office hours.
- ***Late submissions and missed exam:*** I will not accept late submissions without advance notification. Under extenuating circumstances, I may offer extensions on submissions without penalty. All exam dates are firm, so students should plan to be in class on time those days. In the event that students miss an exam, they should see me in person during office hours or by appointment to discuss an alternative accommodation. In some circumstances, I may allow students to earn the points for the missed exam.

- ***Use of technology in the classroom:*** Students may not take photographs, record video, or record audio during class. Students should only use laptops and tablets for note taking and class related activities. Failure to comply with these policies will result in point deductions on participation.
- ***Tentative nature of syllabus:*** This syllabus represents an agreement between the students and the instructor, Dr. Teresa Lynch. Students enrolled in this class agree to the terms of the syllabus and understand that the policies, schedule, and deadlines outlined within it are subject to the instructor's modification (with notice via Carmen to students).

OSU POLICIES OBSERVED IN THIS COURSE

- ***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; slds.osu.edu. *Students with a documented disability can meet with me privately during the first three weeks of class to coordinate reasonable accommodations.*
- ***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.
- ***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 life issues:** As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you are or someone you know is suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766) and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
8/27	Ways of knowing, social science, and communication	Schlick; Pencil; Popper; Hamble, Roloff, Pfau (pp. 111-126); Roloff (2015)	
9/3	No class – Labor Day		
9/10	Foundations of theory I	Berger et al. (2010); Chaffee & Berger (1987); Slater & Gleason (2012)	
9/17	Foundations of theory II	Miller & Nicholson Ch. 1 – 2; Chaffee (1991); Kerlinger	
9/24	Interpersonal Communication, Deception, and Norms	Knobloch (2015); Stafford (2015); Levine (2014); Rimal & Lapinski (2015); Shulman et al. (2017); Nicholls & Rice (2017)	
10/1	Computer Mediated Communication	Walther et al. (2015); Walther commentary (2014); DeAndrea (2014); Bayer et al. (2016)	
10/8	Political Communication	Eveland & Garrett (2017); Garrett, Weeks, & Neo (2016); Eveland & Schmitt (2015)	Exam
10/15	Health Communication	Hovick et al. (2014); So et al. (2016); Lee-won et al. (2015); Lang (2006)	
10/22	Science Communication	Knobloch-Westerwick et al. (2015); Nisbet et al. (2015); McKnight & Coronel (2017)	Final Paper Proposal by 11:59pm
10/29	Mass Communication	Valkenberg et al. (2015); Slater (2015); Appiah et al. (2013); Brown (2015); Moyer-Gusé (2015); Tamborini (2012)	
11/5	Human Computer Interaction	Kramer et al. (2015); Malle et al. (2016); Malle & Scheutz (2016); Fox et al. (2015); Lang et al. (2015); Nowak (2015); Grizzard et al. (2015)	
11/12	No class – Veteran’s Day		
11/19	New Paradigms of Communication	Bond et al. (2012); Lang (2014); Sherry (2015); Waisbord & Mellado (2014); Weber et al (2008)	
11/26	Final Paper Presentations		
12/3	Final Paper Presentations		Final Paper by 11:59pm