

# COMM1100: Communication in Society

School of Communication

Summer 2020

(exclusively online)

**Instructor:** Dr. Katy Coduto

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**Office:** n/a (virtual only!)

**Office hours:** Virtual meetings via Skype or Zoom (please email to set up a time)

**C-REP Coordinator:** Shannon Poulsen

- Contact Shannon for all CREP related questions or use the CREP discussion board
- Email: [poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:poulsen.6@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

**Teaching Assistants:**

Chloe Mortenson, [mortenson.12@osu.edu](mailto:mortenson.12@osu.edu)

Virtual office hours Wednesdays 12pm to 3pm

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Virtual office hours TBD

\*You will be assigned a specific TA by the second week of the course to ensure streamlined communication and grading. ☺

## Course Description

This course 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). Additionally, it fulfills the GE requirement for social science: individuals and groups.

**This is a General Education (GE) Social Science course**

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.

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## Course learning outcomes

1. 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.
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.
  - Readings & lectures fulfill this outcome. Exams, quizzes, writing assignments, and concept maps will assess this outcome.
3. 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.

## Communication Policy

Because of the size of our class and its online nature, we designed our communication policies to ensure timeliness, collaboration, and simplicity. Please aim to adhere to the policy closely. Deviating from the policy may result in undue delays or us missing your messages altogether.

### First source

Your first and most important resource is the [course discussion boards](#), because it is likely that your question has already been asked and answered. For general course questions, use the General Course Questions discussion board. For assignment specific questions, use the specific discussion board for each assignment.

### Second source

If you wish to remain anonymous or have more sensitive questions, send your specific TA an email. Your TA will have an intimate knowledge of your work and should be your resource for all questions and concerns regarding content, class scheduling, accommodations, or any other class related issues not addressed in the discussion boards.

### Third source

If after referencing the discussion board and contacting your TA you feel that you still have questions or concerns, you should email Katy.

Please note: For both TAs and me, you can expect a response to your email with 24 hours Monday through Friday. Weekends may take a little longer. Please give us time to check our emails, check your question, and respond to you thoughtfully. If you do not have a response within 24 hours, you may then send a follow-up. Also note, if you send an email at 3am, we are unlikely to respond by 4am. ☺

## Required Materials

1. Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. (2018 or 2019; I've seen it as both). *A first look at communication theory*, 10th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill.
2. Additional course materials and readings via the [Files](#) section of Carmen
3. Access to a computer/laptop, a high-speed internet connection, current web browser with video-related plugins, and speakers/headphones. This course is taught exclusively online. As a result, you must be comfortable using your computer. Additionally, you must ensure that your computer functions properly and that you use some form of data redundancy (e.g., cloud backups or physical duplication). Please see the technology policy below for more details.

## Typical weekly structure

For a typical work week, I plan to release new content by Saturday at 12:01AM. Everything for that week is due the following Friday by 5:00PM.

In a typical week, everyone must complete the weekly reading quizzes. Depending on your group number, you may also have to complete a tri-weekly assessment. For tri-weekly assessments, each week, one-third of the class submits an engagement activity, one-third submits study guide essays, and one-third has no extra assignment. The module is person-specific. In other words, it will tell you exactly what you have to submit for any given week. Please reference the syllabus if you are not sure what is due any given week.

## Assessments

1. **Three Exams.** The exams are intended to be rigorous tests of your knowledge. The exam material covers the lecture and study guide content. The exam questions are applied rather than definition-based. There will be 3, non-cumulative, multiple-choice exams. Each exam will be about 30 questions in length. You will have about 65 minutes to complete each exam. You must be knowledgeable of the course material to perform well on the exam within the allotted time. You will only have one attempt to complete each exam. Lateness penalties do not apply to exams. You must complete exams during the specified time window. You may not work in groups on the exams. I do not drop or replace poor exam grades. Please prepare well using the study guide and do not wait until the last minute to start an exam, as technological issues can occur. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).
2. **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, [watch this crash course video](#) and [read the handbook](#). 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.

3. **Reading Quizzes.** Weekly quizzes will be administered to assess your comprehension of the readings. They are not representative of the course's exam questions, as the quiz questions are more fact/definition-based and much easier than exam questions. You may take the quiz as many times as possible until you earn a score that you are satisfied with. The automated quiz system draws questions from a pool, meaning that when you retake the quiz it may present new questions. As a result, begin taking the quiz well ahead of the deadline to learn from your mistakes and achieve the highest score possible. Carmen will automatically open new quizzes at 12:01pm EST on Saturdays, and close existing quizzes at 5:00pm EST on Fridays each week. I will drop your lowest quiz score at the end of the semester. Missing a quiz earns you a zero for that week's quiz. You may not work in groups on the quizzes. Lateness penalties do not apply to quizzes. You must complete the quiz within the specified time window.
4. **Tri-weekly Engagement Activities.** The engagement activities are meant to help you apply abstract concepts to concrete (i.e., real world) applications. Engagement activities ask you to post to a discussion forum specific to your core group. You will have the same group members throughout the semester. Seeing how others respond to the posts should help you discover new ways to think about the same idea. The activities will include varied tasks but most will ask you to post a short response to a prompt to the appropriate discussion forum. For most weeks, I will embed an engagement activity prompt in my lecture videos (some prompts will span multiple slides). These prompts will be obvious-- containing the words "Engagement Activity" on the slide. You will not be able to view the posts of others until you post your own submission. You will not be able to edit your submission after posting but you may comment on the posts of others if you'd like. Merely commenting on others' posts does not count as an engagement activity submission. Specific instructions and grading criteria will appear on the assignment page when released to the class. Lateness penalties do apply to engagement activities. You may submit after the deadline up to the specified cutoff but your grade will be penalized accordingly. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).
5. **Tri-Weekly Study Guide Essays.** The study guide essays are meant to help you prepare for the exams gradually to discourage cramming. Like the engagement activities, you will complete the study guide essays with your core group using a discussion board. I highly encourage that you participate above and beyond the minimum requirements, as the study guide is the best way to prepare for the exam. The assessment asks that you answer brief prompts in a short-essay format. Each set of prompts correspond to a specific a lecture video and corresponding reading. Specific instructions and grading criteria will appear on the assignment page when released to the class. Lateness penalties do apply to study guide essays. You may submit after the



deadline up to the specified cutoff but your grade will be penalized accordingly. If you have questions, please use the [discussion board](#).

## Grading Plan

Exam I	15%
Exam II	15%
Exam III	15%
Reading Quizzes	20%
Engagement Activities	20%
Study Guide Essays	10%
<a href="#">C-REP</a>	5%

## Grading Policy

I will use the standard OSU grading scale. I will not round grades. If this course is required for you to graduate or to avoid academic probation/expulsion, I expect you to perform at your best to avoid an undesirable outcome. Be proactive. Be professional.

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

## Course technology

For help with your password, university e-mail, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the OSU IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at <https://ocio.osu.edu/help/hours>, and support for urgent issues is available 24x7.

- **Carmen**
  - Carmen, Ohio State's Learning Management System, will be used to host materials and activities throughout this course. To access Carmen, visit [Carmen.osu.edu](https://carmen.osu.edu). Log in to Carmen using your name.# and password. If you have not setup a name.# and password, visit [my.osu.edu](https://my.osu.edu).
  - Help guides on the use of Carmen can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmen>
  - **This online course requires use of Carmen (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with your instructor.**
    - [Carmen accessibility](#)
- **Carmen Zoom:**
  - Office hours can be held through Ohio State's conferencing platform, Carmen Zoom. A separate guide to accessing Carmen Zoom and our office hours is posted on the course Carmen page under Files. However, you may also request that we use Skype or we can meet in real-time email chat, etc. I am happy to meet you wherever you are!
  - Students may use the audio and video functions if a webcam and microphone are available. If not, there is still a chat function within Carmen Zoom for the student to live chat with the professor or TA in the virtual office hours room.
  - Help guides on the use of Carmen Zoom can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenzoom>
- **Secured Media Library:**
  - Media materials for this course will be made available via the Secured Media Library. [go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary](https://go.osu.edu/SecuredMediaLibrary)
  - Frequently Asked Questions and support can be found at <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/secured-media-library>
  - To obtain additional help for use of the Secured Media Library, please email: [emedial@osu.edu](mailto:emedial@osu.edu)

### Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Carmen

### Necessary equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7+) with high-speed internet connection
- Webcam and microphone recommended for office hours, chat function available for

students without webcam or microphone.

### **Necessary software**

- Word processor with the ability to save files under .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf. Most popular word processing software programs including Microsoft Word and Mac Pages have these abilities.
- OSU students have access to Microsoft Office products free of charge. To install, please visit [https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb\\_view.do?sysparm\\_article=kb04733](https://osuitsm.service-now.com/selfservice/kb_view.do?sysparm_article=kb04733)

## **Course Policies**

### **Deadlines**

Assume that all deadlines are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

### **Late work**

You may submit engagement activities, study guide essays, and concept maps after the deadline. Exams and quizzes, however, are exempt from the lateness policy. In other words, you must complete exams and quizzes during the specified submission window. Penalties for work that may be submitted late increase cumulatively. Submitting work 1 second after the deadline yields a -2.5% point penalty for the submission. For each additional hour after the deadline, you lose an additional -2.5% off of the submission.

### **Unenrollment**

OSU does not recognize unenrollment as a valid excuse for missing work. If you become unenrolled from the course for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me and establish alternative means to submit work prior to the specified deadline. If you suspect that this policy will affect you, I recommend saving the syllabus to your local computer or printing it out for reference.

### **Professionalism**

You must ensure that the work you submit is correct. Submitting files that are corrupt, the wrong version, the wrong format, missing components, the wrong file type, etc. is unprofessional. It is your responsibility to check on the integrity of your work immediately following submission. We will not inform you if your work fails these standards. If we cannot view your work, you will not receive credit for your submission. Standard lateness penalties apply to unprofessional work.

## Technology issues

Technical failure does not constitute an excuse for submitting work late. This rule is more important with online courses. You are, per course requirements, obligated to have regular access to a working computer/laptop and high-speed internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure your devices are in working order, which includes hardware and software. Technical problems which are documented by the University's Office of the Chief Information Officer will be permitted as these are outside of your control. You can view the status of OSU's systems [on this page](#) and McGraw-Hill's [on this page](#). If you experience a problem with an OSU system (email, Carmen) which OCIO have not reported, it will be your responsibility to raise a ticket with them. Only after they confirm your situation was out of your control will an accommodation be made. Note that a situation like this is extremely rare. If you find yourself experiencing a technical issue that impacts your ability to take part in essential class activities, your first response should be to make alternate arrangements (e.g. a computer lab). You should email your TA only when this is not possible, at which point accommodations may be made, depending on the circumstances.

## Grade appeals

You may send your TA an email to initiate a grade appeal within 1 week after the grade has been posted. Appeals must have strong evidence-based arguments that reference specific components of the assignment's grading criteria. Appeals can result in an unchanged grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

## Course leave

If you become seriously ill or something happens to you that prevents you from participating in the course for an extended amount of time (e.g., mental illness, taking care of an immediate family member, child birth, etc.), you may apply for course leave. You must let the instructor know of your situation as soon as practical when you become aware of the need for leave (either the day you learn of the need or the next workday). If you qualify for leave, we will allow you to make up missed work up to 7 days prior to your leave request. Be proactive and let us know asap if you think you need leave. We will not grant leave retroactively. For example, if you qualify for leave in week 2 but request leave in week 5, you cannot earn credit for work due in weeks 2 & 3.

Course leave is similar to OSU's Family and Medical Leave (FML) and has many of the same rules ([see here for more information](#)).

## Other Course Policies

### Academic integrity policy

## Policies for this online course

- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow APA style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in--but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with me.

## Academic Misconduct

Cheating and plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3325-23-04) defines academic misconduct as "any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process" (p. 2). Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination.

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/>.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. If you have any questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact me or visit <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

## Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

### Requesting accommodations

**The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register**

with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu) ; 614-292-3307; [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu) ; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W.12th Avenue.

## Student Academic Services

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services' website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

## Writing Center

All students, especially those who have difficulty writing, are encouraged to visit the *OSU Writing Center*. Their web address is <https://cstw.osu.edu/writing-center> and their phone number is 688-5865. The Writing Center offers two kinds of tutorials: 1) Scheduled, 50-minute tutorials in 4120A Smith Lab and 2) Drop-in, 20-minute tutorials at our satellite centers (First floor Thompson Library and 114 Smith-Steeb Residence Hall).

## 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.

## 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.

## Title IX

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](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

## **Mental Health**

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](http://ccs.osu.edu) or calling 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.

If you are thinking of harming yourself or need a safe, non-judgmental place to talk, or if you are worried about someone else and need advice about what to do, 24-hour emergency help is also available through the Suicide Prevention Hotline (Columbus: 614-221-5445)

## **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 via email, and/or on Carmen if and when any changes occur.



# Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics & Readings	Deadlines
1	Wed 5/13	<u>Course introduction Syllabus</u> <u>Communication theory Ch. 1, 2</u>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 5/25</u> 1. Syllabus quiz 2. Weekly reading quiz
	*when new material is released		
2	Wed 5/20	<u>Communication theory</u> <i>Ch. 3</i> <u>Mapping the field &amp; Research methods</u> <i>"Methods Reading" PDFs (Ch. 4, 14)</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 5/22</u> 1. Weekly quiz 2. Group intro activity 3. Groups 1-5: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 6-10: Engagement Activity 5. Groups 11-15: Nothing due!
3	Sat 5/23	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u> <i>Ch. 5, 7</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 5/29</u> 1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Nothing due. Consider completing a C-REP study. 3. Groups 6-10: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 11-15: Engagement Activity
	Sat 5/30	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 6/5</u> 1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Engagement Activity

4		<i>Ch. 8, 10</i>	3. Groups 6-10: Nothing due. Work on your concept map or a C-REP study. 4. Groups 11-15: Study Guide Short Essays
5	Sat 6/6	<u>Interpersonal Communication</u> <i>Ch. 13</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 6/12</u>  1. Weekly quiz
		<u>Relational Communication</u> <i>Ch. 12</i>	
6	Sat 6/13	<i>No readings</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 6/19</u>  • <b>Exam I</b>
7	Sat 6/20	<u>Relational Communication</u> <i>Ch. 14</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 6/26</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Study Guide Short Essays 3. Groups 6-10: Engagement Activity 4. Groups 11-15: Nothing due.
		<u>Processing &amp; communication</u> <i>Ch. 15, 16</i>	
8	Sat 6/27	<u>Processing &amp; communication</u> <i>"The Media Equation"</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 7/3</u>  1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Nothing due. 3. Groups 6-10: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 11-15: Engagement Activity
		<u>Communication Ethics</u> <a href="#"><i>Deontology</i></a> (1, 2, 2.4, 3), <a href="#"><i>Utilitarianism</i></a> <a href="#"><i>video</i></a> , <a href="#"><i>Kantianism</i></a> <a href="#"><i>video</i></a>	

9	Sat 7/4	<u>Mass communication</u> <i>Ch. 25, 26, 27</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 7/10</u> 1. Weekly quiz
10	Sat 7/11	<i>No Readings</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 7/17</u> • <b>Exam II</b>
11	Sat 7/18	<u>(Mass Media) Effects "Social Learning"</u> <u>Mass Media Effects</u> <i>Ch. 28, 29</i>	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 7/24</u> 1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Study Guide Short Essays 3. Groups 6-10: Engagement Activity 4. Groups 11-15: Nothing due.
12	Sat 7/25	<u>Mass Media Effects</u> <i>Ch. 30, "Sparks (2016) Sexual Content."</i> <b>WARNING:</b> the sexual content lecture video contains content that some may be disturbing.	<u>Submit before 5:00pm on 7/29</u> 1. Weekly quiz 2. Groups 1-5: Nothing due. 3. Groups 6-10: Study Guide Short Essays 4. Groups 11-15: Engagement Activity
	*dates for this week may be extended due to the change of semester start		
Final	TBA	WEEK OF JULY 29 -- TBA	EXAM III