

# INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION

COMM175

FALL 2015

Instructor : Ed Forst

Tuesday and Thursday 11:30- 12:45

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION, Room 014

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Office Hours : By appointment

## Course description

This course will introduce you to Communication Studies. In this new and digital media age, it will almost impossible for you not to be impacted by communication in some manner. So, this course will answer questions like – how does communication happen, what process does it take, how to people use communication and what usually is the impact on people. In the course of learning, you will be encouraged to develop strong critical thinking skills and to learn the common concepts to succeed in communication.

## Course Objectives :

The goals to achieve in the course include:

1. To be able to understand the history of communication studies and its changes over time
2. To understand how changes in research traditions and new media platforms have affected communication practices and human understanding
3. To strengthen critical thinking skills
4. To develop basic competence using terms and concepts associated with communication disciplines

#### Required Course Materials :

The Communication Age. Autumn Edwards, Chad Edwards, Shawn T. Wahl, Scott A. Myers Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Other supplemental Readings as Assigned by Instructor

#### Course Policies

##### Preparation for Class and Attendance

Attendance is crucial for success in this class. If you miss a class, you are expected to email me before the class and gets notes from a classmate. The class works as a team and everyone must come to participate. Please turn off all cell phones. No texting or emailing allowed. Please be prompt to every class day especially on speech days.

##### Lateness and Incompletes:

All assignments must be turned in on time. No assignments are accepted by email. Each student will be given an advanced schedule for individual speaking assignments.

##### Classroom Respect:

All students must be shown respect and courtesy. This is a communication class and everyone needs to set a great example by respecting each other. We will be listening, learning and sharing from each other. There will be several evaluations and sessions for comments, suggestions, including constructive critiques. Students are expected to exhibit a supportive attitude for all speakers and an appreciation for diversity in opinions, beliefs, and values.

#### Cheating and Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated

The minimum consequence for academic dishonesty will be an “F” on the assignment. This includes quizzes, speech outlines and final submissions of speeches. However, the School of Communication and Loyola University Chicago reserve the right to enforce the most extreme consequences, including but not limited to expulsion from the major or the university. The internet is an oasis for plenty of communication information which can be accessed for free or a fee. Beware of the consequences of lifting information, partial or whole, from the web. It is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course.

#### Graded Assignments:

Weekly mini-quizzes on assigned readings	- 100 points
In class participation	- 100 points
Mid-term Exam	- 100 points
Communication blog/journal	- 100 points
Communication and Culture paper	- 100 points
Group Presentation	- 300 points
Communication Theory Paper	- 100 points
Final Exam	- 100 points
Total Points	- 1000 points

Final Grades :

940-1000= A

900-939 = A-

870-899 = B+

840-869 = B

800-839 = B-

770-799 = C+

740-769 = C

700-739 = C-

670-699 = D+

640-669 = D

639 or below = non-passing grade F

Participation: The expectation is that you come to class and participate at least in three different ways - as a listener, an active member of the class, and a willing learner. This is extremely important if you have a borderline grade.

Evaluation Standards for All Coursework: Your work will be evaluated based on the following:

Substance

Thoroughness

Precision

Critical insight

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a learning challenge that you are aware of or a chronic health condition that may affect your ability to perform in this class, please visit the Office for Students with Disability in the Hub on Lake Shore Campus. You are entitled to a confidential evaluation and if warranted, you will be given a letter that will specify any accommodation you need. These matters are confidential.

Students who travel on behalf of Loyola University Chicago - If you are an athlete or member of another Loyola student organization that requires travel and possible absences, please let me know in advance that you will be gone on particular dates. The completed work needs to be finished ahead of the due date.

## Class Schedule:

Week #1 - Introduction, Syllabi Review and Communication Exercise (August 25-27th)

Week #2 - - Chapter #1, in-class exercise, discussion of journals, current events (September 1-3)

Week #3 - Chapter #2, self-perception, in-class exercise, discussion of current events, (September 8-11<sup>th</sup>)

Week #4 - Chapter #3 - discussion of verbal communication, stereotypes, in and outside classroom assignment, discussion of political debates (September 15-17<sup>th</sup>)

Week #5 - Chapter #4 - discussion of non-verbal communication, in class assignment. Discussion of Communication Theory Paper (September 22-24th)

Week #6 - Chapter #5 – discussion of listening, discussion of communication and culture paper , exercises (September 29th- Oct 1st) Mid-term exam

- No class - Fall Break (October 6<sup>th</sup>)

Week #7 - Chapter #6 - , in class assignments, communication , culture, and diversity, discussion of small group project , discussion of current events (October 8)

Week #8 - Chapter #7 - interpersonal communication, work on small group projects, in class assignment from chapter , discussion of blog and journal work. (October 13-15th) Discussion of Cultural Paper (Due this week)

Week #9 - Chapter #8 - , small group communication, work on small group projects, in class assignment, out of class assignment, discussion of blog and journal work (October 20th -22<sup>nd</sup>)

Week #10 - Chapter #9 - work on small group projects, in class assignment, discussion of political races, discussion of blog work (October 27th-29)

Week #11 - Chapter #10 - Communication and New Media, work on small group projects, in class assignment, discussion of political races, discussion of journal work (November 3-5)

Week #12 - Communication Issues - public speaking, work on small group projects, in class exercise, discussion of blogs (November 10-12)

Week #13 - Communication Issues – Informative speaking and persuasive speaking, work on small group projects, in class assignments, discussion of blogs (November 17-19)

No classes - November 26th

Week #14 - Small Group Presentations, Review for the Final (December 1st – 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Week #15 - Final Exam (December 7<sup>th</sup>)

