

Instructor Information:

- Name: Kurtis D. Miller, PhD
- Office: Annie Hogan Byrd, Room 101
- Office Phone: 423-636-7300, ext. 5783
- Email: kdmiller@tusculum.edu
- Online: kurtisdmler.com

Office Hours

Office hours are reserved specifically for meetings with students in my classes. Contact me by email to set up an appointment. Please include multiple times that work for you in your email to speed up scheduling. My availability this semester is:

- Mondays, from 9:30 am to 11:20 am, US Eastern Time
- Wednesdays, from 9:30 am to 11:20 am, US Eastern Time
- Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 2:50 pm, US Eastern Time

I am typically available by Zoom during office hours, but to preserve bandwidth on Campus I do not keep Zoom active when I do not have an appointment. You can still "drop in" virtually. The best way is to call my office phone line and I will log in. Use the same Zoom link you use for attending class remotely (see below).

Course Information:

- Semester: Spring, 2022
- Zoom link: <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/95312191625> (**Full Zoom Call Information**)
- Final Exam: No Final Exam

Course Description:

Students will perform scientific research in a chosen area of personal interest in communication. Typically, students conduct a replication study of published communication research. At the end of the course, students will submit their research to an academic conference.

Required Materials:

There is no textbook for this course. Readings are assigned independently in collaboration with the student based on the individual student research project.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the communication discipline and its central questions. The draft sections of the research paper will measure this learning outcome.
2. Employ communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts. The draft sections of the research paper will measure this learning outcome.
3. Engage in communication inquiry. The draft sections of the research paper will measure this learning outcome.

Course Assignments and Grade Determination:

There are four major components of your grade in this class:

- Securing IRB Approval for Research (15%)
 - 5% **Complete IRB training**
 - 10% **Draft an IRB Application for the Study (Approval Required for Full Credit)**
- Collecting and Analyzing Data (35%)
 - 10% **Create measures**
 - 10% **Recruit participants and collect data**
 - 15% **Analyze the data**
- Writing Draft Sections of a Research Paper (35%)
 - 5% **Write drafts of the literature review section**
 - 15% **Write drafts of the methods section**
 - 15% **Write drafts of the results section**
- Participation and Engagement (15%)
 - Weekly Meetings

Securing IRB Approval for Research

Securing Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval contributes 15% of your final grade. You will need to complete a university-approved IRB training program and provide documentation. You will also need to complete an IRB application for your research and receive approval from the IRB. **DO NOT COLLECT OR ANALYZE ANY DATA UNTIL YOU RECEIVE IRB APPROVAL.**

Collecting and Analyzing Data

Collecting and analyzing data contributes 35% of your final grade. You will need to create the measures (questionnaires, interview protocols, etc.) that you will use to collect data. These measures are provided to the IRB as part of your application. After receiving approval from IRB to conduct the research, you will need to recruit enough participants to support your research. The exact number of participants needed varies depending on the objectives and style of research, so consult with your

instructor. Finally, you will need to analyze the data you collect. **DO NOT COLLECT OR ANALYZE ANY DATA UNTIL YOU RECEIVE IRB APPROVAL.**

Writing Draft Sections of a Research Paper

Writing draft sections of your research paper contributes 35% of your final grade. You will need to work on your literature review section, methods section, and results section. It is acceptable (and even recommended) to revise a paper from a previous class as the basis for your literature review section. At the end of this course, you should have satisfactory working drafts of all of the major sections of a standard research paper written, except for the abstract, discussion, and conclusion sections.

Professionalism and Engagement

Professionalism and Engagement contributes 15% of your final grade. Displaying basic professionalism is an expectation in this class and one of the most useful skills to have when you graduate. Meetings are designed to help you understand the class content and to help you develop your research paper. Your professionalism and engagement scores will be evaluated for each planned meeting. Examples of actions that may result in penalties to the professionalism and engagement score include missing planned meetings, not completing planned tasks prior to a meeting, etc.

Extra Credit

No extra credit is available in this class.

Final Exam Policy:

There is no final exam for this class. The final assessment for the course is the final paper.

Grading Scale:

Final grades are allocated according to the official University grading scale for undergraduate courses:

Grading Scale		
A+	100-98	4.0
A	97-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.5
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.5

C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.5
D	66-63	1.0
F	62-0	0.0

Course Schedule:

You will coordinate with your instructor and meet on a weekly basis. There are no specific due dates for individual assignments during the semester for this course, as timelines vary depending on each student's selected project. Students will need to plan ahead because many of the required items cannot be started until others have been completed. All work in the class must be submitted by the end of the last regular week of classes. (Friday, April 29th, 2022).

Course Policies (Attendance, Assignments, Assessments):

Any issue not directly addressed by existing class or college policy shall be determined at the sole discretion of the instructor. All student interactions, whether face-to-face or digital, may be recorded for quality assurance purposes.

Appropriate Behavior Policy

We are a community of learners, and your classmates are entitled to the standard professional courtesies. Each student is required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Show respect for every person in the class. Complete your assigned work on time. Be ready for discussion and activities. Ask questions. Be supportive audience members. Racist, sexist, or other offensive or discriminatory language will not be tolerated. Unprofessional behavior will result in penalties to your Professionalism and Engagement grade.

Email Policy

I check and respond to my email once daily during business hours, however I dedicate my Fridays to research and larger projects. I typically do not see emails sent late on Thursday or during the day Friday until Monday the next week.

Engaging in professional communication with your professors and the university staff is important. I am unlikely to respond to emails that do not contain any questions. Brief emails asking questions which are already answered in course documents (syllabus, calendar, assignment descriptions, etc.) will typically receive brief replies referring to course documents.

The privacy of student educational records is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). I will not respond to any communication about a student which does not come from an official school email address.

Grade Challenge Policy

If you believe that you have been graded unfairly, wait 24 hours after receiving the grade, review the rubric, and schedule a meeting to discuss it with me. Come to this meeting prepared to provide *evidence* supporting the need for a grade change. Grades are considered final one week after they are posted in Canvas. Because student grades are protected under FERPA, I will not discuss your grades publicly outside of a meeting scheduled for that purpose.

Late Work Policy

There are no specific due dates for individual assignments during the semester for this course, as timelines vary depending on each student's selected project. Students will need to plan ahead because many of the required items cannot be started until others have been completed. All work in the class must be submitted by the end of the last regular week of classes. (Friday, April 29th, 2022).

Technology Problems

Using technology is a basic expectation of students at this level of study. You are responsible for the functionality of any and all personal or third-party devices and software you use. Issues with these are not an excuse for late or missing work. If you encounter a problem with technology owned or operated by the university, **report the problem to information services**. After the issue is resolved, include a copy of your messages with information services along with any requests for alternate deadlines to my email address.

Tusculum Syllabus Policies and Supports:

To access Tusculum Syllabus Policies and Support click **here**