

Communication 201 – Syllabus

Introduction to Communication

Fall 2024

Meeting: Distance Education

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

Communication 201 provides an overview of the study of communication. Its main aim is to give students a comprehensive introduction to the various sub-fields in the communication discipline. The topics included in this course range from verbal and nonverbal messages to the use of text messaging to convey meaning. Many communication concepts are introduced as a means of helping the student understand the dynamics of human communication.

GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

This course satisfies part of the general education requirement (i.e., Cardinal Core) for *social and behavioral sciences* (3 credit hours). All students majoring or minoring in Communication must complete it successfully with at least a C.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Communicate an understanding of how knowledge about communication is established and how and why it changes over time; (*posts, quizzes, final exam*)
- Evaluate evidence and apply it to solving problems through communication research methods; (*posts, essay*)
- Communicate an understanding of a body of knowledge from a communication disciplinary perspective; (*quizzes, final exam, posts, essay*)
- Recognize the contribution of the field of communication to the social sciences; (*quizzes, final exam, posts*)
- Identify a variety of communication styles that are sensitive to the needs and interest of diverse groups of people; (*quizzes, posts*)
- Develop strategies for thinking about and engaging in communication based upon innovative theories and perspectives; (*posts, essay*)

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Human Communication in Society, by Alberts, Nakayama and Martin, 6th ed. Available from U of L Bookstore and online at several places.

*The instructor will require other readings from the Internet.

GRADING

Grades are calculated based on the following:

Quizzes	10 (best)	100 points
	<i>read the chapters in order one each week</i>	
Weekly Forums	10 (best)	50 points
	<i>Two posts; one responds to me and one responds to a student</i>	
Essay	1	50 points
	<i>Choice of three to choose from; due at different times</i>	
Final Exam	1	100 points
	<i>Over everything in the course</i>	
TOTAL		300 points

Grading

A = 270 B = 240 C=210 D=180

POLICIES

No cheating on quizzes, tests; that means you do not use notes or books

Plagiarism on an assignment will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment

No make-up work; no make-up quizzes or posts

All grades will be posted on Blackboard

Important announcements will be posted on Blackboard

All class lectures will be posted on Blackboard

Posts must be completed on time to receive ANY credit

Do not submit an AI response as your own work.

PROCEDURES

1. Each week you must read *at least one chapter* of the text (Alberts & Martin: *Human Communication in Society*, 6th edition). The text is available in either hardcopy or as an e-book. Chapters of the textbook will NOT be posted on Blackboard, so you must have the text to succeed in the course.

2. Each week you will have *at least one quiz* on the reading material. The quizzes will cover the material covered that week.
3. Each week you will be required to post on a discussion board. You will be asked to respond to a short article of some sort that is related to the class. You need to write a **three-paragraph** post on a discussion board, so other students can see what you write. Also, you can respond to other students, which might enhance your grade if what you write is worthwhile. Please refrain from using “I agree...” and “I like how you...,” as these do not necessarily add to the discussion. I’m not suggesting that you cannot agree with another student, but you should use your response to add to, clarify, or enhance their point rather than simply praise or agree with them. **You absolutely MUST incorporate terms and concepts from the chapter reading materials into your submissions so your understanding of the course material can be assessed - failing to do this will result in a loss of points. Your progress cannot be tracked if you do not use what you have learned in a practical way. No Artificial Intelligence answers will be accepted, but you may use AI to help you get started on a topic.**

The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, compensate for missed class, or other reasons.