

LBST 2301 Critical Thinking and Communication (HLTH) - 16623

Section 627

Fall 2018

M/W/F 10:10 am - 11:00 am

CHHS 122

This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for LBST 2301. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course.

Instructor: Neema Mrisho, MPH

Office: College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) Rm # 408

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00 am - 1:15 pm or by appointment

Email: nmrisho@uncc.edu

FINAL EXAM:Wednesday..... DEC 12.....8:00AM - 10:30AM

Exam Conflicts: It is the policy of the University that students having three exams on the same day should be allowed to reschedule the middle exam. A make-up exam is arranged by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students. If a student has two exams scheduled for the same day and time, a make-up exam is arranged by mutual agreement between the student and one of the course instructors. **You must notify the instructor of this course by September 1st if you will have a conflict for your exam period. After this you will not be excused from the final exam group presentation period.**

If you have an exam conflict, click on the [Final Examination Conflict Form](#).

Click here to view the [University Policy 202, Final Examinations](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

LBST 2301 Critical Thinking and Communication course is part of an integrated First-Year Writing and Liberal Studies curriculum that develops critical thinking and communication skills. Students undertake an inquiry process and build towards the preparation of a polished product at the end of the semester. This course will focus on current health and society issues in developing communicative and critical thinking competencies.

Please note: This three-credit course requires three hours of classroom or direct faculty instruction and six hours of out of class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks. Outofclass work may include but is not limited to: required reading, written assignments, library research and group work.

Prerequisite(s):

Credit Hours: (3)

Restriction(s): Sophomore, Junior, or Senior standing.

Prerequisite(s): UWRT 1103 or UWRT 1104 with a grade of C or above

General Education Requirement(s) Satisfied: Critical Thinking and Communication

Repeatability: May not be repeated for credit

Most Recently Offered (Day): Spring 2018

Most Recently Offered (Evening): Spring 2018

COMMUNICATION CONSULTANTS

In this course you have the the amazing opportunity to work with a communication consultant. A communication consultant is a peer tutor who is here to help you become a better writer and speaker by providing feedback on writing and speaking assignments. They can help you understand assignments and rubrics; brainstorm, develop and research ideas for projects; organize a paper or speech; identify strengths and weaknesses in your writing; understand disciplinary conventions; practice a speech; and much more! They will meet with you one-on-one or in small groups outside of class, and they may work with you directly in class. The goal of working with a communication consultant is to enhance your growth as a writer and speaker. They do not grade, correct, or proofread your work, and they cannot predict what grade you will receive on an assignment or what grade you will receive in your class. Just think of them as someone who has been in your shoes and has experience communicating in this discipline. Students who work with their communication consultant report receiving helpful feedback that they can use, increased confidence, and improved writing and presentation skills. Your assigned communication consultant for this course is Amber Stanley - astanl21@uncc.edu.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTBOOK & MATERIALS:

COURSE MATERIALS: Required Texts, Tools and Technologies	Why You Need These?
<p>Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Health and Society 13th Edition by Eileen L. Fisher</p> <p>Please click HERE to purchase the textbook from Amazon. You may purchase your textbook from any company you would like. This is just here for your convenience.</p>	<p>The readings contained in this book are related to the core outcomes of LBST 2301 and the UNCC First-Year Writing and Liberal Studies curriculum that develops critical thinking and communication skills</p> <p>The reading in the book will also be used to prepare you for class discussions and quizzes.</p>
<p>A computer or tablet with daily Internet access.</p>	<p>Much of the work you do in this class will be composed electronically. On an average, you will spend at least three to nine hours every week online in order to complete projects and assignments on Canvas. Not</p>

	having access to a computer and regular Internet access will prevent you from being an active, engaged, responsible, and successful student in this class. In fact, impact your chances of passing LBST 2301. Note that you have full access to UNCC computer labs, library computers and laptops to complete assignments
Composition notebook. This notebook can be any color you would like. Notebook check will be on August 27th in class. Not having your notebook for the notebook check will result in an unexcused class absence.	In LBST 2301, you are learning to compose in different situations with different tools and technologies. While you may not necessarily think of a pencil or pen as composing technology or a notebook as a writing platform, these were, at one point of time, radical innovations that changed how people wrote, revised, and addressed larger audiences. Besides serving as a space for recording your daily thinking in this class, your composition notebook will help you reflect on how a particular technology and platform shapes how (much) you write and revise, who you write for, and what you can do with a piece of writing afterwards, thus further nuancing your critical thinking skills.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR LBST 2301

With your successful completion of this course, you will demonstrate:

1. Critical Thinking: Students will be able to: (1) define or develop a problem/question/approach appropriate in a given field of inquiry; (2) evaluate and analyze evidence that is relevant to that problem; and (3) Then assemble evidence to generate valid and defensible conclusions.

- a) Write a contemporary health question relevant to a target audience.
- b) Identify and evaluate scholarly evidence to support a health question to generate valid and defensible conclusions.
- c) Compile scholarly evidence to organize and write an annotated bibliography.

2. Communication: Students will be able to (1) present content in a way that conveys/creates meaning for a given purpose and audience; (2) and is consistent with the conventions appropriate for a given communicative context.

- d) Collaborate in groups and independently to develop an argument supported by scholarly evidence.
- e) Design an infographic to communicate health information to the target audience.
- f) Present the inquiry project to your peers applying critical thinking and communication skills strengthened during this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes: Quizzes will be in multiple choice and true/false. Quizzes will cover material from the textbook chapters, lectures and required readings. Quizzes will require the use of the Respondus Lockdowns Browser.

****** If your instructor has specified use of the Respondus LockDown Browser for a quiz, you need to use it to take the quiz. Respondus LockDown Browser locks the browser you are using to take a quiz so you will not be able to print, copy/paste, access another website unless it is part of a quiz question, or access other applications on your computer while taking the quiz. When you access the quiz for the first time, you will see a link to download Respondus LockDown Browser. The LockDown Browser is already installed in many of the labs on campus. If you are using a personal computer or a university computer that doesn't have the LockDown Browser installed, you must install it before being able to take the quiz. The installation process takes approximately 5 minutes. Click link below to download Respondus Lockdowns Browser on a Mac device

<https://spaces.uncc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6007446>

Click below link to download Respondus Lockdowns Browser on Windows Devices

<https://spaces.uncc.edu/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=6007349>

Important Quiz Policies:

1. If you get locked out of a quiz or have any technical issues you must email the instructor within thirty minutes (from the start of opening the quiz) or else your grade will not be changed and the exam will not be reopened.
2. Late submissions are not accepted and will result in the grade of zero without extenuating circumstances.
3. You are unable to review missed content until the quiz has closed for all students.

Weekly Discussion Board Posts: Please click [HERE](#) to access the Discussion Board Post assignment description and grading criteria.

Communication Consultant Exercise: Please click [HERE](#) to access the Communication Consultant Description & Feedback Exercise Form

Peer Teaching Presentations: Please click [HERE](#) to access the Peer Teaching Description & Rubric

Inquiry Project: Please click [HERE](#) to access the Inquiry Project Description & Rubrics

GRADING

Your final grade for this course will be based on 5 weekly quizzes, 5 - weekly discussion posts, 1 Peer teaching presentation, 1 communication consultant exercise and 1 inquiry project

Weekly Quizzes (10 points each)	50 Points
Weekly Discussion Posts	50 (10 Pts each)
Peer Teaching Presentation	25 points
Communication Consultant Exercise	25 points
Inquiry Project	150 points
Total Points	300

Grade Scale:

90-100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D
< 60%	F

Grades: All grades will be posted on Canvas. If you do not understand why you received a specific grade, you will have **one week** to ask for clarification. I am unable to discuss your grades through the email or phone, however If you would like to go over the assignment or have questions concerning the grade, please come by during my scheduled office hours or schedule an appointment. **Final grades will not be rounded.**

Late Work: Late work will not be accepted. If you do not turn in your assignment on time, five points will be deducted for each day it is late. Prior to the due date of any major assignment, I am happy to review drafts with you in my office (not via email). All work is submitted via our Canvas site.

Due Dates: Work is due at the beginning of class. Due dates for each assignment are listed on the assignment sheet as well as Canvas. **No email submissions are accepted.**

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up Assignments & Quizzes - None

Late Work- Not allowed unless it is a medical emergency with a valid documentation i.e a doctor's note

Academic Integrity. All students have the responsibility to know and to observe the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. In that code, **cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, abuse**

of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty are prohibited. It is your responsibility to understand this policy and the definitions of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism. You must provide appropriate citations and references for material that is not in your own words or that expresses ideas that are not your own. Take the “Good Scholar Tutorial” to improve your understanding of “plagiarism.”

<http://publichealth.uncc.edu/student-resources/good-scholar-tutorial>.

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Plagiarism is when you use or borrow another person’s words or ideas without giving them credit – in other words, stealing that person’s work. Regardless of where you saw or heard these words or ideas – lecture, book, Internet, website, BLOG, chat room, letter, diary, newspaper, journal article, on TV or radio – you must reference that material and the person who spoke or wrote these ideas. As an author, you must cite a person’s work whenever you use their idea, opinion, or theory, quote their exact words, or use facts, statistics or diagrams, unless that information is common knowledge, meaning something that most people could reasonably be expected to know (e.g. the name of the President of the United States is something that most people would know and you would not have to cite where you found this information). Students are expected to submit their own work, either as individuals or contributors to a group assignment. Definitions and examples of plagiarism and other violations are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>. All students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Sexual Harassment Policy (<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-502>) and the policy on Responsible Use of University Computing and Electronic Communication Resources (<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-307>).

Electronic Device Policy:

CELL PHONES: Before coming to class, put your cell phones on silent or turn them off. **The first time I observe you using cell phone in class I will ask you to put it away. The second time you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day without the option to make up any of the assignments/quizzes completed during class that day.** Folks, unless you are a part of an organ transplant team that needs to be notified immediately that a heart has become available, you can be out of contact for the fifty minutes that we meet! **Any electronic device that is visible during an exam will result in an Honor Code violation, Two point will be deducted from final course grades for every cell phone usage and disruptions.**

LAPTOPS: **Studies have shown that students using laptops in class to take notes retain less information from lectures and participate less in classroom discussions. While I am sure most of you are the exception to this rule, laptops will ONLY be permitted for students working as a note taker for a classmate with a note from the Office of Disability. Except for specific days (group work, presentations, etc.) laptops will not be necessary.**

Attendance/Participation: This classroom is a collaborative working environment; therefore, your participation is imperative. This means you will be expected to come to class regularly having completed your work and actively participate in class discussions and group work. You are expected to arrive to class on time; excessive tardiness is also disruptive to class. Any absences from class will negatively affect your final grade.

For each missed class period, five points will be deducted from the final total points. Each student is allowed to miss two class periods without penalty to their grade. These two classes cannot be during part four of the course.

Classroom doors will be shut and locked five minutes after class starts. If you enter class after the door has shut, you will be counted as absent.

Inquiry Project Attendance: Missing more than one day of class between November 5th and December 5th will result in a five point deduction from the your overall assignment percentage grade. For example if your group earns an 80% on the assignment and you have missed two days of class between November 5th and December 5th, your individual grade will be a 75%. You get one missed class period without penalty to your inquiry project grade. If you miss more than six days of class you will earn a zero on the entire inquiry project. Missing the final exam presentation period will result in a zero out of forty presentation grade for the absent group member. No makeup presentations will be provided. If you have extenuating circumstance please email your instructor as soon as possible to see if you qualify for accommodations.

If circumstances outside of your control interfere with your attendance (surgery, prolonged illness, death in the family, etc) you must provide documentation and get officially excused by the Dean of Students' Office.

Please refer to the Dean of Students' Office for their policies regarding deadlines for reporting of absences to their office. Failure to report in a timely manner may result in an inability to make up assignments or quizzes.

Communication. I will do my best to answer emails within 24 hours. You should check your UNC Charlotte daily as that is the way that I will communicate with you when we are not in class. I only respond to emails from uncc.edu addresses. I never discuss scores or grades in email. I will not respond to emails sent through Canvas.

Disability Services/Special Needs. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation in this course, contact the Disability Services office, located in Fretwell building, room 230. Phone 704/687.4355 (voice/TDD). Information about available services may be found at <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-501>. Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining accommodations.

Diversity. UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

Religious Accommodation. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious observances on which they will be absent by submitting a [Request for Religious Accommodation Form](#) to their instructor prior to the census date for enrollment for a given semester <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-409>. The census date for each semester (typically the 10th day of instruction) can be found in the Academic Calendar (<https://registrar.uncc.edu/>).

Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Stalking. UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault,

domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that many UNC Charlotte employees, including all faculty members, are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must report the information to the Title IX Coordinator. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident: (1) University Counseling Center (counselingcenter.uncc.edu, 7-0311); (2) Student Health Center (studenthealth.uncc.edu, 7-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion (wellness.uncc.edu, 7-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at titleix.uncc.edu under the “Students” tab.

Student Conduct. The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility “exercises the duty of the Chancellor to regulate matters of student conduct in the University community”. The primary purposes for the imposition of discipline in the University setting are to protect the campus community and to maintain an environment conducive to learning. Consistent with those purposes, efforts also will be made to foster the personal and social development of those students who are held accountable for violations of University regulations. [All students are required to read and abide by this Code.](#)

Student Responsibility. The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Responsibility (the Code) sets forth certain rights and responsibilities in matters of student discipline. The Code defines these responsibilities and guarantees you certain rights that ensure your protection from unjust imposition of disciplinary penalties. You should familiarize yourself with the provisions and procedures of the Code” (Introductory statement from the UNC Charlotte brochure about the Code of Student Responsibility). The entire document may be found at this Internet address: <http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406>.

Syllabus Revisions. The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus based on best practices that fit changing circumstances. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email (to your UNC Charlotte email address).

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: VERBAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Week **One** (August 20th - 24th): Course Introduction & Small Group Assignments

Week **Two** (August 27th - 31st): Mastering the Presentation

Week **Three** (September 4th - 7th): Group Presentation Prep. (NO CLASS SEPT. 3rd)

PART TWO: VERBAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS GROUP EXERCISE

Week **Four** (September 10th - 14th): Groups 1 & 2

Due: Quiz One: Do Diet Sodas Aid in Weight Loss?

Week **Five** (September 17th - 21st): Groups 3 & 4

Due: Quiz Two: Do the Benefits of the Cervical Cancer Vaccines Outweigh the Risks?

500 Word Discussion Board Post One: Do Diet Sodas Aid in Weight Loss?

Week **Six** (September 24th - 28th): Groups 5 & 6

Due: Quiz Three: Will Legalizing Marijuana Increase Usage?

500 Word Discussion Board Post Two: Do the Benefits of the Cervical Cancer Vaccines Outweigh the Risks?

Week **Seven** (October 1st - 5th): Groups 7 & 8

Due: Quiz Four: Is the Use of "Smart" Pills Dangerous?

500 Word Discussion Board Post Three: Will Legalizing Marijuana Increase Usage?

Week **Eight** (October 10th - 12th): Groups 9 & 10 (NO CLASS OCT. 8th)

Due: Quiz Five: Should Pro-Life Health Providers Be Allowed to Deny Prescriptions?

500 Word Discussion Board Post Four: Is the Use of "Smart" Pills Dangerous?

PART THREE: WRITTEN COMMUNICATION SKILLS & GROUP EXERCISE

Week **Nine** (October 15th - 19th): Source Evaluation & Database Navigation

Due: 500 Word Discussion Board Post Five: Should Pro-Life Health Providers Be Allowed to Deny Prescriptions?

Week **Ten** (October 22nd - 26th): Annotated Bibliography Practice Group Activity

Week **Eleven** (October 29th - November 2nd): Annotated Bibliography Introduction.

PART FOUR: INQUIRY ASSIGNMENT DEVELOPMENT

Week **Twelve** (November 5th - 9th): Infographic Practice Group Activity

Infographic Practice Group Activity

Due Nov 9th : Inquiry Assignment: Contemporary Health Question

Week **Thirteen** (November 12th - 16th): Research & Writing Week

Due: Communication Consultant Exercise Due

Inquiry Assignment: Annotated Bibliography Sources

Week **Fourteen** (November 19th): Design Day (NO CLASSES NOV. 21st - 24th)

Week **Fifteen** (November 26th - 30th): Design Week & Puzzled Audience Activity

Due: Inquiry Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Inquiry Assignment: Infographic Draft

Week **Sixteen** (December 3rd): Final Revisions

Due: Inquiry Assignment: Infographic Peer Feedback

December 12th Due Dates: Inquiry Assignment: Inquiry Project Presentation

Inquiry Assignment: Final Infographic

**The Inquiry Assignment will be presented during the final exam period*

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