CMN 2010 Communication Theory FallYear 2016 Syllabus	
Instructor: W. Andrew Robinson, Ph.D.	**Phone:** (217) 721-9975
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Department of Communication Studies Information (http://www.eiu.edu/~commstudies/index.php**)**	**Course Semester Hours:** 3

Text: Griffin, E. (2012). *A first look at communication theory* (8th Ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill.

Course Purpose: To encourage intellectual growth. To cultivate the value of knowledge, its possibilities and limitations with respect to human communication.

Rationale: This course is proposed as a required/core course for the communication major. It is vital that students begin the Communication Studies program with an understanding of theories and scholarly inquiry in speech communication.

Course Description: A survey of communication theories in rhetorical, public, interpersonal, organizational, and mediated contexts.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of a broad range of theories in the field of communication. Students should leave this course with:

- Knowledge of the nature of theory and how it guides scholarly inquiry
- An ability to critically evaluate theories from both scientific and humanistic perspectives
- Critical analytical skills/problem solving/creative thinking in the selection of which theories best explain a phenomena.
- Ability to apply improved communication practices in their personal life, at their school, and on their job.

Teaching Format: This is a technology delivered (TD) course (meaning the learning environment is completely online in Desire2Learn). It applies discussion, collaboration, and critical thinking and reflection. All assignments will be submitted to the instructor in D2L. An integrative, collaborative, and experiential teaching and learning approach will be utilized throughout this course. The instructor is a facilitator; one who is there to assist and provide input into the educational process. Assignments for the class will create learning opportunities from which you are to extract lessons from the experiences as well as the content. This is a much more complex method of learning since you are learning both process and content (most courses only teach content). Therefore, you are expected to actively engage in the course discussion and collaboration.

General Expectations

- Please keep current in class. Learners who fall behind are less likely to get feedback from others in online discussions. If something happens that is going to cause you to fall behind, contact your instructor immediately.
- Since this is an online course, your attendance will be graded by your level of class participation.
- Use the email within the courseroom to communicate with the instructor. If you need to contact your instructor immediately, you are free to call or text him at (217)549-5433.

Graded Requirements	Points
Discussion Question Initial Responses (22 x 10 points each)	220
Discussion Responses to Classmates (22 x 5 points each)	110
Reflective questions for Midterm	25
Exhaustive Discussion Assignments (D8.1, D11.1, & D13.1 X 45 points each)	135
Six Tests (50 points each)	300
Total Points (Grading scale: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, and F = below 60%)	790

Learning Modules: Navigate through D2L first to become familiar with all the course components. Students can access weekly assignment instructions in the D2L learning modules section just prior to the beginning of each week. **ALWAYS BEGIN EACH WEEK IN THE LEARNING MODULES.** Each module begins with a brief overview of the information to be covered. The action assignments provide students with instructions of assignments to be completed for the week. The instructor has also provided students with video, slideshows, and other resources to help enhance their understanding of the theories.

Graded Assignments

Students can view the results of graded assignments in the D2L grade book area anytime.

Discussion Forum:

- ***Regular Discussion Questions (10 points each), Exhaustive DQs (30 points each):*** The instructor will start each discussion by posting two or three questions at the beginning of each week (Sunday or Monday). You will typically have two questions to answer each. The discussion will continue until the following Sunday night, at which time the discussion board will close for that week. Students are to post their initial responses to discussion questions no later than midnight on Thursday, unless stated otherwise in the weekly action assignments. Regular DQs require a minimum of 250 words to answer, while exhaustive DQs require a 500-word minimum. Please focus on the questions posted and use material from your reading assignments and connect them to personal experience and/or knowledge to fully answer the question posed. Feel free to bring in related thoughts and material, other readings, or questions related to the ongoing discussion.
- ***Regular Discussion Responses to Classmates (5 points each), Exhaustive responses (15 points each):*** Students are expected to provide a substantive response to at least two classmates' initial posts for each discussion question topic by midnight on Friday of each week. Your postings should reflect an understanding of the course material. Your postings should advance the group's insight of ideas and meanings about the material; that is, your contributions should go beyond a "ditto" or "I agree." Although there is no word-count minimum for your responses to classmates, you are expected to provoke further discussion and critical thinking for your peers. One effective way to further the discussion is to ask the classmate an open-ended question at the end of your post. You are required to read all students' initial discussion question responses and all assigned reading materials. By the way, the instructor can track everything students read and all their activity inside D2L. ☺

Exhaustive Discussion Assignments (45 points each): These are similar to the previously mentioned discussion assignments, bet require more time, involvement, and work (500-word

minimum). The initial post to the discussion assignment is worth 30 points and two analyses of classmates' assignments are worth 15 points. You are to provide a peer review to any two classmates' answers to these DQs.

Tests: The chapter tests typically address material covered over each two-week period. Tests consist of 25 multiple choice or True/False questions, worth 2 points each, and are limited to 60 minutes. Students will receive a notice in D2L each time a test becomes available and will usually have until midnight on Sunday to complete it. Although you may use open book, you would probably find that this would consume your time. In order to do well study and know the content very well before taking the exam.

Late work policy: Late work will not be accepted without advance approval granted by the instructor.

Policies

FYI: The textbook for the course is *A first look at communication theory*, 8th edition, by Em Griffin. Click here to access the website: A first look at communication theory . . All assignments will be submitted online--e.g., an average of three discussion questions each week and two separate multiple choice exams. The advantage to the online format is being able to set your on schedule. I suggest that you type your answers to discussion questions in a word processing program—e.g., Microsoft Word—before posting your responses in the discussion area. There is no difference in requirements or amount of work whether you take it during the fall or summer semester and the work intensity or rigor is very comparable to the face-to-face requirements. Since this is a core course to the discipline, it is a rather intensive course, as you will find this to be true of any core course that you may decide to take. If you are a communication major, this course is a requirement for you. However, if you are a Continuing Education student or are working toward a different major, you may consider applying the semester hours from this course toward a communication minor in addition to applying semester hours to your overall program.

Discussion Etiquette: Eastern Illinois University (EIU) is committed to open, frank, and insightful dialogue in all of its courses. Diversity has many manifestations, including diversity of thought, opinion, and values. We encourage all learners to be respectful of that diversity and to refrain from inappropriate commentary. Should such inappropriate comments occur, the instructor will intervene as he monitors the dialogue in the courses. Faculty will request that inappropriate content be removed from the Course-room and will recommend university disciplinary action. Learners as well as faculty should be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. The following are good guidelines to follow:

- Never post, transmit, promote, or distribute content that is known to be illegal.
- Never post harassing, threatening, or embarrassing comments.
  If you disagree with someone, respond to the subject, not the person. Conflicts of ideas are encouraged, while conflicts of feelings are discouraged.
- Never post content that is harmful, abusive; racially or culturally insensitive, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit, or otherwise potentially offensive.

Confidentiality of Information Shared by Learners: EIU does not guarantee the confidentiality of information shared by learners in the course environment. Students should not share any confidential information from employers unless explicitly released for public use.

Student Standards*:* All faculty members in the Department of Communication Studies are expected to uphold the standards of good scholarship and we expect our students to do the

same. Students earning a degree in Communication Studies will develop superior reasoning/critical thinking, argumentation, writing and presentational skills while also building comprehensive knowledge of their content area. Students in Communication Studies classes will be expected to read all assigned materials, write extensively, complete their own work, and engage in respectful interactions in the classroom. We, as a faculty, agree to hold our students to these standards. A complete copy of our students' standards can be found at: http://www.eiu.edu/commstudies/documents/Student%20Expectations%20and%20Standards.pdf

Academic integrity*:* Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be re- ported to the Office of Student Standards.

Student Email Addresses: The Department of Communication Studies requires each student to use his/her university email address for any class, department, college, or university email correspondence. The university email address is used for many purposes, including accessing D2L and PAWS, receiving billing statements from the library, and receiving departmental correspondence and announcements through the undergraduate listserv. For information on how to obtain your email address or to obtain a password, please visit the following web address: http://www.eiu.edu/~itshelp/email/index/php.

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encour- aged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Religious Observances: It is university policy to respect the faith and religious obligations of students, faculty, and staff. Students with classes that conflict with their religious observances should notify the instructor well in advance so that mutually agreeable alternatives can be worked out.

Students with disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

After the course begins, if you need to communicate with the instructor directly or privately, please use the D2L course email or telephone. He will respond to the D2L email within 24 hours. In the event you need an immediate response, call or text his cell (217)549. He is usually in his office often, much more than the 4 required hours for faculty each week. You may visit him during office hours without an appointment.

Note from your instructor: "I am thrilled you have chosen to expand your intellect in the study of communication theory! I hope you enjoy taking this academic journey through the corridors of knowledge, involving insight into various communication phenomena." All the best! Dr. W. Andrew Robinson ☺

Modules	Date	Discussion Topic	Reading & Test Assignment	Discussion Assignments
1	8/22-28	Launching your study and Talk about Theory	"Introduction" & chapters 1-2,	D1.1
2	8/29-9/4	Standards for evaluation of Theory and Communication Traditions	Chs. 3-4 & take **Test #1 (over chs. 1-4)** before midnight on Sun.	D2.1, D2.2, & D2.3
3	9/5-11	Interpersonal Messages (verbal & nonverbal): symbolic interactionism, coordinated management of meaning (CMM), & expectancy violation theory (EVT)	Chapters 5-7	D3.1, D3.2, & D3.3
4	9/12-18	Cognitive Processing & Constructivism	Ch. 8 & take **Test #2 (over chapters 5-8)** before midnight on Sunday	D4.1, D4.2, & D4.3
5a	9/19-25	Relationship Development: social penetration theory, uncertainty reduction theory, social information processing theory	chapters 9-11	D5.1, D5.2, D5.3,
5b	9/26-10/2	Relationship Maintenance: relational dialectics, communication privacy management theory, Interactional view	Chapters 12-14 & take **Test #3 (over chapters 9-14)** before midnight on Sunday	D5.4, D5.5, & D5.6
6	10/3-9	Theories of influence: Social judgment theory, elaboration likelihood model, cognitive dissonance theory	Chapters 15-17	D6.1, D6.2, & D6.3
7	10/10-16	Group Decision Making: functional perspective & symbolic convergence	Chapters 18-19	D7.1, & D7.2
8	10/17-23	Organizational Communication: cultural approach, & critical theory	Chapters 20-21 & take **Test #4 (over chapters 15-21)**before midnight on Sun.	D8.1
9	**10/24-30**	**Reflection Week**		**D9.1**
10	10/31-11/6	Aristotle's rhetoric, dramatism, & narrative paradigm	Chapters 22-24	D10.1, D10.2, & D10.3
11	11/7-13	Mass Communication Part I—Media & Culture: media ecology, semiotics, & cultural studies	Chapters 25-27 & take **Test #5 (over chapters 22-27)**before midnight on Sun.	D11.1
12	11/14-20	Mass Communication Part II—Media Effects: Uses and Gratifications, cultivation theory, & agenda-setting	Chapters 28-30	D12.1, D12.2, & D12.3
	11/21-27	**Thanksgiving Break**		
13	11/28-12/4	Intercultural Communication: communication accommodation theory, face-negotiation theory, & speech codes theory	Chs 31-33 &Take **Test #6(over chs 28-33)** before midnight on Fri. 12/5	D13.1
14	12/5-11	Gender & Communication: genderlectstyles, standpoint theory, & muted group theory	Chapters 34-36	D14.1, D14.2, & D14.3