CMN 3000 Communication Research Spring 2018 Syllabus			
Section:	001		002
CRN:	33945		33946
Location:	1731 Coleman Hall		1731 Coleman Hall
Class Days:	MW (classroom) F (online)		MW (Classroom) F (online)
Time:	9-9:50am		10-10:50am
Teacher:	Andrew Robinson, PhD		***Semester hours:*** 3
Office Hours:	1814 Coleman Hall	MW 8-9am & 1:30-3pm	
Phone:	217-721-9975 cell	Email: warobinson@eiu.edu	
Communication Studies Website	http://www.eiu.edu/~commstudies/index.php		

Course Textbooks:

Merrigan, G., & Huston, C. (2009). *Communication Research Methods* (2nd Ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bourhis, J., Adams, C., & Titsworth, S. (2009). *Style Manual for Communication Studies* (3rd Ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Course Description: How do you find answers to questions you have? How do you ask the "right" questions? How do you solve problems and puzzles related to information retrieval, processing, and organization? How do you synthesize in writing the information you find? These are all important questions that this course will help you address. Developing a strong understanding of and ability to use research methods is a practical and important skill for students of communication studies to use in other college classes, internships, future careers, and graduate school education.

Course Objectives: Students will:

- Understand the nature of communication research.
- Read and understand scholarly research reports.
- Describe qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Critically evaluate communication research.
- Write a review of scholarly literature.
- Plan and develop a research project.
- Write a research report using APA style.
- Understand and appreciate the ethics of research.

Teaching Format: This is a technology enhanced (TE) course, meaning the learning environment occurs partially in a classroom and partially online using D2L. 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 here 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 (many 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 TE course, your participation grade will be based on classroom and online engagement.
- Use the email within D2L 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 or visit during office hours.

Graded Requirements	Points
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Certification	25
Library Worksheet	25
Annotated Bibliography	50
Topic Proposal	50
Literature Review (using peer reviewed journal articles)	100
Methods Paper	100
Final Research Paper and Oral Presentation	125
D2L Discussion Assignments and Participation (15 x 15 points each)	225
Exams (3 x 50 points each)	150
Final Exam Research Poster Project	50
Total Points (Grading scale: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, and F = below 60%)	900

Graded Assignments

(View results of graded assignments in the D2L grade book area anytime)

IRB Testing (25 points): Students will be required to complete the human subjects training certification as part of the requirements of the course.

Library Worksheet (25 points): Evaluation of a quantitative peer-reviewed journal article.

Topic Proposal (50 points): A 1-2 page (500-750 words) paper outlining your planned communication topic of research study for the course. The purpose of this assignment is to give you time to work through your research proposal ideas before the final project deadlines.

Annotated Bibliography (50 points): Create an annotated bibliography using a minimum of ten research articles focusing on a communication topic of your choice. The annotated bibliography is designed to assist you in gathering research material for the literature review and final course research report.

Literature Review Paper (100 points): Write a 10-12-page review of literature on a topic of your choice and approved by your teacher. This review is designed to prepare students for the method paper/final research project for the class. A minimum of ten communication (empirical/conceptual) research articles is required for the literature review. Students will also be required to identify a theory most suited in framing their research project for the class.

Methods Paper (100 points): Write a 3-5 page paper outlining the research method you believe will be most appropriate for the communication topic/phenomenon you have chosen to

study. You will be required to provide a rationale for why this method is most appropriate, along with a discussion of how this method will be used to answer the stated research question(s). You must also cite a minimum of two scholarly sources that support your claims regarding the chosen method.

Final Paper and Presentation (125 points): Write a 15-18-page research report. The paper should include an introduction to the communication topic being examined (to include a discussion of the author's investment in the topic), a review of literature (using a minimum of ten scholarly articles), stated research question(s), explanation and justification for the method and data collection, analysis of results, and conclusion (to include a discussion of implication, limitations, and future research). A reference page will accompany the final paper and will be in APA format. You will also deliver a 10-minute presentation of your research report during the last two weeks of class.

Exams (3 x 50 = 150 points): Exams will be given to evaluate student understanding and application of selected concepts and terminology introduced in the text and during lecture/discussions. Each exam consists of about 50 multiple choice and/or True/False questions, worth 2 points each, and are limited to 50 minutes. Exams will be taken through D2L during an in-class session.

Final Exam Research Poster Project: For you final exam, you will create a Research Poster. You will upload the file in to the assignment dropbox by the start of your regular exam schedule for the course.

D2L Discussion Assignments and Participation (225 points): Follow instructions provided inside D2L and post a 250-word minimum answer to each discussion assignment located in the D2L discussion area. Students are expected to provide a substantive response to at least two classmates' initial posts for each discussion question topic. 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.

Policies

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 information.

Attendance: More than 2 in-class session absences will result a 5% deduction in a student's overall grade. An additional 2% will be deducted from the student's overall grade for each additional absence.

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

Core Course: CMN2020 is a core course and is required for all Communication Studies majors. Students must receive a "C" or better to pass the course. Writing assignments for the course may also be used for EWP submissions. The final paper/project is the only acceptable (instructor approved) assignment eligible for EWP submission.

Grading Criteria for Papers:

A paper—An exceptional paper/assignment-- Content is original and form/style is executed according to guidelines taught in class. Technical excellence includes proper format, organization, and language usage; proper sentence structure; no spelling errors or improper words; and adherence to APA style. All elements of the assignment are addressed thoroughly–content goes beyond the basics.

B paper—A good paper/assignment-- Content is technically well developed. There are few problems with format and grammar; however, format is not followed "to the letter." Some editing is required to correct errors in grammar or punctuation. Two or more elements of the assignment were weak–not developed beyond basic detail.

C paper—An acceptable paper/assignment-- Grammar and punctuation errors draw reader's attention away from the purpose of the paper. Organization is awkward (e.g., transitions between ideas are unclear or abrupt). There are frequent misspellings or other style errors. There are serious problems with one or more elements of the assignment. At least one element of the assignment is missing.

D paper—An unacceptable paper/assignment. Student does not demonstrate a full grasp of the purpose of the assignment. Organization is weak and ideas are hard to follow and understand. Assignment is filled with errors in grammar and punctuation. More than one element of the assignment is completely missing.

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 encouraged 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.

Note from your teacher: Students who attend class regularly tend to perform better on assignments and receive higher overall grades in the class. Please feel free to visit with me during office hours if you have questions about your grades and/or performance in class. I am thrilled you have chosen to expand your intellect in the study of communication research! I hope you enjoy taking this academic journey through the corridors of knowledge, involving insight into evaluating communication phenomena."

All the best!

Dr. Andrew Robinson

Tentative Schedule and Course Outline

Date	Readings/Course Content	Assignments Due
Week 1: Jan. 8-12	Introduction to Course/"Syllabus" Day	
	Intro to Communication Research Processes	
Online	Ch 1: Scientific Inquiry & "Ways of knowing" Online Video Lecture	**AA1.1**
Week 2: Jan. 15-19	**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – no class**	
	What do Communication Researchers Study?	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA2.1**
Week 3: Jan. 22-26	Ch. 2 Ethics/IRB Testing/Informed Consent	**IRB Certification**
	Ch 3: Epistemology/ Three Paradigms of Knowing - Review for Exam 1	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA3.1**
Week 4: Jan. 29-Feb. 2	Ch 4 Making Claims/Writing Student RQs/Setting student Research Agendas	
	Exam 1 (Chs 1-3) Gregg Technology Center	**Exam 1**
Online	Researching Your Topic - Online Video Lecture	**AA4.1**
Week 5: Feb. 5-9	Now What?...Introducing the Annotated Bibliography	**Library Worksheet**
	Writing Literature Reviews & Research Reports	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA5.1**
Week 6: Feb. 12-16	APA Writing Style	
	Ch 5 What Counts as Communication Data?	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA6.1**
Week 7: Feb. 19-23	Communication Data Cont	**Annotated Bib.,**
	Introduction to Research Methods -	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA7.1**
Week 8: Feb. 26-Mar. 2	Ch 7 Survey Research	
	Exam 2 (chs 4, 5, & 7) Gregg Technology Center	**Exam 2**
Online	Ch 8 Experimental Design - Online Video Lecture	**AA8.1**
Week 9: Mar. 5-9	**Qualtrics Survey Training** Gregg Technology Center	**Topic Proposal**
	Qualtrics Survey Training – Gregg Technology Center Ch 10 Descriptive Statistics	
Online	Qualitative Interviewing - Online Video Lecture	**AA9.1**
Spring Break Mar. 13-17		
Week 10: Mar. 19-23	Ch 13 Ethnography	**Literature Review**
	Student Work Day/Collecting Data	
Online	Ch 9 Content Analysis - Online Video Lecture	**AA10.1**
Week 11: Mar. 26-30	Collecting Data	
	Ch 12: Conversation/Discourse Analysis	
Online	Collecting Data - Online Video Lecture	**AA11.1**

Week 12: Apr. 2-6	**Analyze Data** Gregg Technology Center	
	Analyze Data – Gregg Technology Center Methods Wrap-Up/Writing Methods paper	**Methods Paper**
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA12.1**
Week 13: Apr. 9-13	**Reporting Data**	
	Exam 3 (Chs 8, 10, & 13) Gregg Technology Center	**Exam 3**
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA13.1**
Week 14: Apr. 16-20	Student Presentations 1-6	**Final Research Reports**
	Student 7-12	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA14.1**
Week 15: Apr. 23-27	Student Presentations 13-19	
	Student Presentations 20-25	
Online	Online Video Lecture	**AA15.1**
Week 16: Apr 30-May 4	**CMN3000-001 Present Final Exam Poster 2:45-4:45pm, Monday, April 30, 2018** **CMN3000-001 Present Final Exam Poster 10:15-12:15am, Tuesday, May 1, 2018**	