CMN 5015: Communication Ethics
Spring 2019 (8 weeks; January 7 – Feb. 28, 2019) – 3 Credit Hours

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Buzzard Hall 2544

Office Hours: Mon & Wed   11 a.m. - noon
Tues   11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
or by appointment; off-campus students may request a phone appointment by email or text.

Contact: You can get in touch with me by D2L-email (I will respond within 24 hours during the week) or by sending me a message via What's App (add me using my phone number 217-904-2216) M-F until 6 p.m.

Course Description: This course introduces students to the central theories and discourses of communication ethics. It surveys communication ethics problems and challenges in various public and private communication contexts including interpersonal, mass, and organizational communication as well as public relations. In addition, the course fosters students' ability to recognize, analyze and address communication ethics problems, and to foster ethical communication in their personal and professional lives.

After completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. understand relevant communication theories and discourses.
2. be able to apply relevant theories and concepts to ethical communication problems and challenges.
3. identify and analyze ethical communication challenges and problems in a variety of contexts.
4. develop strategies to address ethical communication challenges and problems in a variety of contexts.
5. **foster and apply ethical communication practices.**

Course Materials:

- E-book via Booth Library (i-share version):
  Annett, R, Harden Fritz, J, Bell, L. (2017). *Communication Ethics Literacy: Dialogue and difference.* Los Angeles: Sage Publications. Link: https://i-share.carli.illinois.edu/vf-eiu/Record/EIUdb.1564951
- Via Textbook Rental:
  Neher, W., & Sandin, P. (2017). *Communicating ethically: Character, duties, consequences, and relationships*. Routledge.
- Additional readings will be posted on D2L

Online Format: This class takes place 100% online. It requires you to complete one module per week (which you can find under the content tab). You will need to carefully review all instructions for each module on D2L at the beginning of each week, so that you can independently complete all tasks by the deadlines. The deadlines for each task will be posted on D2L, and it is your responsibility to keep track of them. If you are ever unsure, please don't hesitate to contact me.

It is important that you schedule enough time during the week to complete all tasks as you will not be able to complete a module in just one sitting. You will want to make sure to complete the reading assignments before starting your written work for the week, and you will further have several tasks due at different times of the week. I highly recommend logging in to D2L and checking your D2L email and newsfeed regularly to receive all updates regarding our class. Waiting until the last minute will leave no time to ask questions or troubleshoot in case you run into problems. In addition, the class requires your continuous and active participation in written discussions on the D2L discussion board and activities throughout each week.

The weekly modules will be available each Saturday and close each Sunday at midnight (except during the first and last week of our term).

Tech Requirements: For this class you will need:

- Stable internet access
- An internet browser that
    - runs D2L and its features
    - blackboard collaborate
- online conferencing gear (microphone and headphones)
- Software that allows you to read PDF and .doc files

Tech Support: For problems with D2L and other software used in this class, contact EIU's Technology Support (https://www.eiu.edu/panthertech/) at (217)581-HELP

Course Work:

Assignments	Percent
Weekly Discussion Posts, Activities, and Assignments	25
Discussion Participation & Responses	15
Reflection Essays	25
Final Project & Presentation	35
Total	**100**

90-100%   = A
80-89.99%   = B
70-79.99%   =C
60-69.99%   = D
50% and lower   =

Weekly Discussion Posts, Activities, and Assignments (25%). Each week, you will complete one or more weekly assignments, which include discussion posts and other tasks. Some assignments will be assessed for completion (pass/fail) while others will be graded (this will be indicated on the weekly assignment sheet). Detailed instructions will be posted each week. Make sure to ask questions and seek my help with these assignments early.

Participation & Discussion Responses (15%). Your active participation in discussions and class activities is a vital part of this class. Responding to meaningfully to discussion posts and contributing to all shared/group activities, is key for this part of your grade.

Reflection Essays (25%). Based on our readings you will write three reflection essays (week 2, week 4, and week 6) in response to a prompt. These assignments will be posted on D2L with detailed instructions.

Final Project and Presentation (35%). At the end of the term, you will submit a written communication ethics case study that provides an in-depth analysis of ethical problems, challenges and solutions. In addition, you will submit a presentation of your case. Detailed instructions will be posted on D2L.

Readings. In order to do well on all assignments, it is crucial that you complete all assigned readings. You are always welcome to contact me with any questions that came up for you in the readings and that you did not have a chance to address in our weekly discussions or assignments.

Course Policies

Late Work: Late work, which is every assignment submitted after the deadline, will be dropped by one letter grade (10%) per day it is late and only accepted until two days after the intital due date. Any work handed in after that will receive 0 points.

Academic Integrity & Student Standards: 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 reported to the Office of Student Standards
Any instance of plagiarism will result (at minimum) in zero points for the assignment and be reported to the Office of Student Standards. Do not take this lightly; plagiarism may also result in failing the class or being expelled from the university.

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, test 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.

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. Faculty will request that inappropriate content be removed 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 ethnically, or religiously offensive, vulgar; sexually explicit; or otherwise potentially offensive.

Disability: Support is available for students with a documented disability. Please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) for academic accommodations.

Tentative Schedule & Topics
(detailed assignments, materials, and instructions will be posted
in the corresponding module folders on D2L)

Dates	Topics	To Dos
Module 1: Jan. 7-13	Introduction to the Class What are Communication Ethics?	• Assigned Readings • Discussion Posts and Responses
Module 2: Jan. 14 –20	Approaches to Communication Ethics I	• Assigned Readings • Reflection Paper #1 Due • Discussion Post and Responses
Module 3: Jan. 21 – 27	Approaches to Communication Ethics II *Start/Assign Final Project*	• Assigned Readings • Discussion Posts and Responses
Module 4: Jan. 28 – Feb.3	Selected Communication Ethics Problems, Challenges, and Practices I	• Assigned Readings • Reflection Paper #2 Due • Complete Group Discussion Assignment
Module 5: Feb. 4 - 10	Selected Communication Ethics Problems, Challenges, and Practices II	• Assigned Readings • Discussion Post and Responses
Module 6: Feb. 11 - 17	Selected Communication Ethics Problems, Challenges, and Practices III	• Assigned Readings • Reflection Paper #3 Due • Complete Group Discussion Assignment
Module 7: Feb. 18-24	Selected Communication Ethics Problems, Challenges, and Practices IV	• Assigned Readings • Discussion Post and Discussion
Finals Module: Feb. 25 – Feb.28	Final Project Week/Wrap-Up	• Final Project and Presentation Due on Thursday, Feb. 28