

CMN 2010
Introduction to Communication Theories

Spring 2024

Class Meeting: MWF 10-10:50am in Buzzard 2441

3 credit hours

Professor: Dr. Elizabeth Gill
Email: egill@eiu.edu
Office: 2423 Buzzard Hall
Office Hours: in person: MW 10:55 – 11:25am, virtual: TR 8-9:30am
 additional hours M-F by appointment

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

Required Course Text: Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A. & Sparks, G. (2018). *A first look at communication theory* (11th ed. Custom bound). Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Student Web Site: For additional resources go to www.afirstlook.com. Select 11th edition in the top corner.

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 the course with:

- a. Knowledge of the nature of theory and how it guides scholarly inquiry
- b. An ability to critically evaluate theories from both scientific and humanistic perspectives
- c. Critical analytical skills/ problem solving/ creative thinking in the selection of which theories best explain what phenomena

Additionally, upon completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- d. Describe a broad range of communication theories that reflect the foundation of the discipline.
- e. Apply theoretical communication models to explain their own and others' communication behavior.

Updated Course Evaluation:

3 exams @ 100 points each	300 pts
Final exam.....	200 pts
Participation	100 pts
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	600 pts

Final Course Grades (based on points, not percentages!):

A = 540 - 600 C = 420 - 479 F = 0-359
B = 480 - 539 D = 360-419

Course Requirements

Reading

We will cover nearly all of the chapters in the textbook. You should read through the chapter before the class period indicated on the course calendar. The chapters are relatively short (about 10 pages) but there will be new vocabulary words and content that you might have to research or re-read to grasp.

Remember that you are expected to work on this class at least six hours a week – much of this should be spent reading and preparing for class discussion.

Exams

Exams consist of multiple choice and T/F questions and will be computer scored. Students should bring #2 pencils to complete the exams. Make-up exams will be given only in extreme situations that can be documented and at the instructor's discretion.

Participation

The participation grade includes active and informed participation in class assignments, activities, and brief objective quizzes. Participation points **cannot be made-up** regardless of the reason you missed class. However, there is some measure of grace: It is possible for you to earn 120 points from these in-class assignments. However, your participation grade for the course is only out of 100. So if you do all the assignments, it is possible to receive a better than perfect score on your participation grade. This builds in the *possibility for perfect attenders to earn extra credit*, and it also builds in lenience for a couple of missed classes.

Course Policies

Student Responsibilities

Students ultimately are responsible for their learning and success in class. Reading assignments prior to class, taking notes, consulting on-line practice quizzes, asking questions, and consulting with the professor will help you learn and succeed. Students are responsible for the assigned reading material, regardless of whether it is discussed directly in class. ***Students must be proactive to be successful in this class!***

Attendance

Plan to attend class. We have found that attendance is associated with final course grades. You cannot earn points for your participation grade if you are not in class. Missed participation opportunities cannot be made up. Students are responsible for obtaining notes from other students when they must miss class.

Arrive & Depart on Time

Arrive on time because late arrivals are extremely disruptive. Additionally, quizzes may be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up if you arrive after the quiz is completed. Departing before the end of class or leaving class temporarily are also disruptive to the class. Disruptive behavior violates the code of conduct and may result in point deductions and possible permanent removal from the class.

Student Email Addresses

The School of Communication and Journalism 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.

Technology Use

Use of personal communication technologies during class time distracts you, your classmates, and me. Do not use or access personal technology unrelated to class during class time. Cell phones may not be used for calls, texting, or email access during class time and should not be placed on desks or accessed during class. Laptops may be used for note taking during class. Other uses of laptops unrelated to class are strongly discouraged. Your instructor is a designated monitor for our Alert EIU notification system.

****Please note that lecture materials (including PowerPoint slides and the verbal lectures given in class) are considered intellectual property. They cannot be photographed or recorded without prior permission of your instructor.**

University Cancellations

In the event that classes are cancelled by the university due to severe weather or other emergencies, students should assume any reading or exams scheduled the day of the cancelled class will be held on the next class meeting.

Incompletes

Incompletes will be granted only under very stringent conditions (e.g., serious illness or accident). Students who experience an extended absence should investigate withdrawal from the university.

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 Accessibility & Accommodations (OAA). All accommodations must be approved through OAA. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1272, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Academic Support Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Academic Support 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 Academic Support Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 2230.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<https://www.eiu.edu/deanofstudents/conductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

All work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else – including AI sources – must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used. **Any text generating software (such as ChatGPT, Bard, iA Writer, Grammarly, DALL-E, etc.) is not permitted, and it will be treated as plagiarism.** Failure to comply with this policy will be considered an academic integrity violation and will be subject to EIU's academic dishonesty process.

Tentative Course Schedule

1/8	Course Introduction and Chapter 1
1/10	Chapter 1
1/12	Chapter 2
1/15	No Class MLK Jr. Day
1/17	Chapter 2 & 3
1/19	Chapter 3
1/22	Chapter 4
1/24	Chapter 4 & 5
1/26	Chapter 5
1/29	Chapter 6
1/31	Chapter 6
2/2	Catch-up and exam review
2/5	Exam #1 (Ch. 1 - 6)
2/7	Chapter 8
2/9	Chapter 8 & 9
2/12	Chapter 9
2/14	Chapter 10
2/16	No Class – Lincoln’s Birthday
2/19	Chapter 10 & 11
2/21	Chapter 11 & 15
2/23	Chapter 15
2/26	Catch-up and exam review
2/28	Exam #2 (Ch. 8-11, 15)
3/1	Chapter 16
3/4	Chapter 16 & 20

3/6	Chapter 20
3/8	Chapter 22
3/11	Chapter 22 & 24
3/13	Chapter 24
3/15	No Class
3/18-3/22	No Class – Spring Break
3/25	Chapter 18
3/27	Chapter 18
3/29	Catch-up and exam review
4/1	Exam #3 (ch. 16, 18, 20, 22, 24)
4/3	Chapter 31
4/5	Chapter 31& 33
4/8	Chapter 33
4/10	Chapter 37
4/12	Chapter 37 & 25
4/15	Chapter 25
4/17	Chapter 29
4/19	Chapter 29 & 30
4/22	Chapter 30
4/24	No class
4/26	Catch-up and exam review
Tuesday, April 30 th , 10:15am-12:15pm	Final Exam (ch. 25, 29, 30, 31, 33, 37, plus cumulative material)