

Eastern Illinois University  
New/Revised Course Proposal Format

**Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)**

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course

2. Course prefix and number: CMN 5020

3. Short title: Communication Theory

4. Long title: Communication Theory

5. Hours per week: 3 Class 0 Lab 3 Credit

6. Terms: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☒ On demand

7. Initial term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer Year: 2016

**8. Catalog course description:**

This course examines the major philosophical foundations and theoretical paradigms found in the study of communication. The course provides students with an examination of communication's epistemological foundations, the historical development of the field, and the role current theoretical paradigms play in the construction of theory and the conduct of research. Students will learn how communication theories are developed, analyzed, evaluated, and applied.

**9. Course attributes:**

General education component: N/A

☐ Cultural diversity ☐ Honors ☐ Writing centered ☐ Writing intensive ☐ Writing active

**10. Instructional delivery**

**Type of Course:**

☒ Lecture ☐ Lab ☐ Lecture/lab combined ☐ Independent study/research

☐ Internship ☐ Performance ☐ Practicum/clinical ☐ Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mode(s) of Delivery:**

☒ Face to Face ☐ Online ☐ Study Abroad

☐ Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction \_\_\_\_\_

11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. N/A

12. Equivalent course(s): None

a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Prerequisite(s): None

a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)? ☐

c. Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

☐ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (specify)

14. Co-requisite(s): ☐ None \_\_\_\_\_

15. Enrollment restrictions

a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may take the course: ☐ Graduate Students\_

b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may not take the course: ☐ Undergraduates\_

16. Repeat status: ☒ May not be repeated ☐ May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: ☐ 3\_

18. Grading methods: ☒ Standard ☐ CR/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions:

☐ Grade for course will not count in a student's grade point average.

☐ Grade for course will not count in hours toward graduation.

☐ Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit hours for course will be removed from student's hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Additional costs to students:

Supplemental Materials or Software ☐ None \_\_\_\_\_

Course Fee ☒ No ☐ Yes, Explain if yes \_\_\_\_\_

21. Community college transfer:

☐ A community college course may be judged equivalent.

☒ A community college may not be judged equivalent.

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will not be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.

## **Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)**

1. ☒ Course is required for the major(s) of ☐ MA in Communication Studies \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Course is required for the minor(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Course is required for the certificate program(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Course is used as an elective
2. **Rationale for proposal:** The current course has not been revised in well over a decade (the department has not offered the course since spring 2011) and the content needs to be updated to reflect current paradigms of the field. In addition the Department of Communication Studies is adding this course as a requirement for all graduate students beginning in Fall 2016. It is intended to provide the necessary theoretical background for understanding the field and conducting appropriate research. Therefore it is important that the course's content be up-to-date.
3. **Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
Similarity to other courses: N/A  
Prerequisites: N/A  
Co-requisites: N/A  
Enrollment restrictions: The course is designed to provide a background in communication theory suitable for students who are preparing to engage in communication research at the graduate level. Therefore, students who are not preparing to engage in such work should not seek to take this course. The department offers an introductory course in communication theory at the undergraduate level and students not currently pursuing a graduate degree would be better off taking that course.  
Writing active, intensive, centered: N/A
4. **General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
General education component: N/A  
Curriculum: N/A  
Instruction: N/A  
Assessment: N/A
5. **Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
Online or hybrid delivery justification: N/A  
Instruction: N/A  
Integrity: N/A  
Interaction: N/A

## **Model Syllabus (Part II)**

### **1. Course Number and Title:** CMN 5020: Communication Theory

### **2. Catalog Description:** This course examines the major philosophical foundations and theoretical paradigms found in the study of communication. The course provides students with an examination of communication's epistemological foundations, the historical development of the field, and the role current theoretical paradigms play in the construction of theory and the conduct of research. Students will learn how communication theories are developed, analyzed, evaluated, and applied.

### **3. Learning Objectives:**

\*Note: Graduate learning goals are noted in parentheses.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of major communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).
- demonstrate understanding of the communication discipline's development (depth of content knowledge).
- analyze the processes of theoretical inquiry (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).
- compare and contrast major communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).
- evaluate strengths and limitations of communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).

### **4. Course materials:**

Littlejohn, S. W. & Foss, K. A. (2011). *Theories of Human Communication*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

Additional readings will be assigned and posted online through the LMS.

### **5. Weekly outline of content**

Week 1: What is communication? What is communication theory?

Week 2: The historical development of the field

Week 3: The historical development of the field

Week 4: Epistemological foundations of communication

Week 5: Epistemological foundations of communication

Week 6: Interpretive approaches to communication theory

Week 7: Objectivist approaches to communication theory

Week 8: Critical/Cultural approaches to communication theory

Week 9: The semiotics tradition

Week 10: The phenomenological tradition

Week 11: The cybernetic tradition

Week 12: The sociopsychological tradition

Week 13: The sociocultural tradition

Week 14: The critical tradition

Week 15: The rhetorical tradition

Week 16: Final Exam

**6. Assignments:**

Synthesis papers (5 total)	25%
Participation	20%
CMN Traditions Final Paper	30%
Midterm exam	10%
Final Exam	15%

**7. Grading scale:**

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A = 90-100%  
B = 80-89.9%  
C = 70-79.9%  
D = 60-69.9%  
F = Below 60%

**8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.**

<b>Course Objective</b>	<b>Synthesis Papers 25%</b>	<b>Final Paper 30%</b>	<b>Midterm &amp; Final 25% (total)</b>	<b>Participation 20%</b>
Demonstrate understanding of major communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Demonstrate understanding of the communication discipline's development (depth of content knowledge).	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Analyze the processes of theoretical inquiry (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Compare and contrast major communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).	<b>X</b>			<b>X</b>
Evaluate strengths and limitations of communication theories (depth of content knowledge, critical thinking and problem solving skills, and advanced scholarship).	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

**Date approved by the department or school: January 25, 2016**

**Date approved by the college curriculum committee: February 10, 2016**

**Date approved by CAA: CGS:**