

Revised General Education Course Proposal

1. Catalog description in the style of the University Catalog showing:

- a. EIU 4110G
- b. Frontiers of Communication
- c. 3-0-3
- d. On demand
- e. Frontiers of Com
- f. A study of several controversial forms of communication. Topics will include animal communication, paranormal communication in humans, and the nature and manipulation of rumor, gossip, and “grapevine” systems. Majors in Speech Communication are excluded.
- g. Prerequisite: Completion of at least 75 hours.
- h. Course is writing-intensive.

2. Student Learning Objectives

After taking this course, the student should be better able to do the following:

- a. Analyze the major communication theories. (Critical Thinking)
- b. Analyze the major issues in animal communication. (Critical Thinking)
- c. Analyze the major issues in rumor, gossip, and the grapevine. (Critical Thinking)
- d. Analyze the major issues in paranormal communication. (Critical Thinking)
- e. Conduct a research project in one of the above areas, excluding communication theory. (Critical Thinking)
- f. Write a research report on the project. (Written and Oral Literacy)
- g. Present an oral report on the project. (Written and Oral Literacy)
- h. Appreciate the diversity of communication. (Global Citizenship)

3. Course Outline - This syllabus is based on one 150 minute class meeting per week.

Week One

- Introduction to the course
- Communication & Communication Theories

Week Two

- Essay #1 on Communication & Communication Theories - This is an in-class essay. The students will be asked to respond to a controversial statement, and support their position.
- Introduction to Animal Communication
 - Animals communicating in their own systems - whales, dolphins, and wolves
 - Animals communicating with humans using American Sign Language

Week Three

- Teaching Chimpanzees the use of Sign Language
- Video - The First Signs of Washoe

Week Four

- Primate Communication
- Videos - Conversations with Koko, Chimps Can't Talk or Can They?
- Introduction to Whale & Dolphin Communication

Week Five

- Whale & Dolphin Communication
- Video - Watching the Whales

Week Six

- Essay #2 on Animal Communication - This is an in-class essay. The students will be asked to respond to a controversial statement, and support their position.
- Introduction to Rumor, Gossip & the Grapevine

Week Seven

- Stages of Rumor
- Analyzing a Rumor - The students will view an episode of Happy Days and apply the stages of rumor to the situation.

Week Eight

- Theories of Gossip
- Application of Theories of Gossip - The students will view a segment of All That Heaven Allows and apply one of the theories of gossip to the situation.

Week Nine

- The Grapevine
- Applications of the Grapevine - The students will view a segment of All That Heaven Allows and diagram the grapevine network.

Week Ten

- Essay #3 over Rumor, Gossip, and the Grapevine - This is an in-class essay. The students will be asked to respond to a controversial statement, and support their position.
- Introduction to Paranormal Communication - Definitions of telepathy, precognition, retrocognition, clairvoyance, mediumship, and psychokinesics.

Week Eleven

- Theories of "Supernatural" Communication
 - Theories based on physical science
 - Theories based on biological science
- Video - Arthur C. Clarke's - From Mind to Mind

Week Twelve

- Assessment Activities
- Video - Arthur C. Clark's Warnings From the Future

Week Thirteen

- ESP & Telepathy
- Precognition & Retrocognition
- Video - Secrets of the Psychics - Debunking the psychics

Week Fourteen

Essay # 4 on Paranormal Communication - This is an in-class essay. The students will be asked to respond to a controversial statement, and support their position.

Week Fifteen

Oral Reports

4. Evaluation of Student Learning

a. Evaluation Methods

- (1). There will be four essays.
- (2). Each student will conduct a research project in one of the units of study other than communication theory. The written report over the project will be due the last day of class.
- (3). There will be an oral report on the project due the last week of class.
- (4). The texts for the course are available from the Textbook Rental System, and other assigned reading are available in the Reserve Room of the Booth Library.

GRADING SYSTEM

GRADING SCALE

Essay #1	100 points	700 - 630 = A
Essay #2	100 "	629 - 560 = B
Essay #3	100 "	559 - 490 = C
Essay #4	100 "	489 - 420 = D
Final Paper	200 "	419 - 000 = F
Oral Report	100 "	
Total	700 "	

b. Writing Intensive Requirements

- (1) 85% of the final grade is derived from writing assignments.
- (2) The first two of the four essays will be critiqued by the instructor and returned to the students for revision. The grade on the essay will be based on the revised essay.

5. Rationale

- a. Senior Seminar. The course examines three controversial areas in the field of communication. These areas are cross-disciplinary covering areas of study such as biology, business, and psychology. The course requires the student to think critically about each of the areas and then to produce an essay on the topic. The essay will ask the students to take a position on some issue in the area and to defend their position. The students will be able to integrate the knowledge they bring from their majors into the essays and the research paper.
- b. The prerequisite is the completion of at least 75 hours. The Senior Seminar provides the opportunity for discussion and writing designed to integrate knowledge drawn from other General Education courses and major courses.
- c. This course replaces EIU 4010G which carries two hours of credit. Additional materials have been added to justify the increase in credit.
- d. The course is not available to Speech Communication majors.

6. Implementation

- a. The course will be initially assigned to Dr. Doug Bock in the Department of Speech Communication.
- b. The primary text for the course will be:
Schick, T. & Vaughn, L. (1999). How to think about weird things: Critical thinking for a new age. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company. Other materials are on reserve at the Booth Library.
- c. No additional costs will be incurred by the students.
- d. The course could first be offered Spring 2002.

7. Community College Transfer

A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

8. Date approved by the Arts & Humanities Curriculum Committee: April 4, 2001

9. Date approved by the Senior Seminar Advisory Committee: May 2, 2001

10. Date approved by the CAA July 19, 2001

Departmental contact person: Doug Bock
581-8400
cfdgb@eiu.edu