

Syllabus

COM-115: Introduction to Human Communication

Course updated as of: July 2019

Course Description

Provides students with an understanding of communication encountered in various social settings, with an emphasis on both theoretical and practical aspects. Students will gain an understanding of communication as it affects the individual in message construction, interpersonal interaction, group and organizational settings, public settings, cultural settings, and mediated communication settings. Also examines the ethics of communication, and students prepare and deliver presentations.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: None

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge: Basic Computer Skills

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the value of studying communication and define the major components of the communication process.
2. Develop and deliver effective oral presentations.
3. Describe the processes and skills necessary for effective communication in its various social settings.
4. Analyze the impact of personal identity, as it is shaped by various social settings, on communication.

Course Textbook

Anonymous (2013). *Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies*, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Edition.

Electronic Textbook Information

You have an electronic textbook for this course and it is linked directly in Brightspace. Note that you can access/read it with multiple formats. The way to access the textbook is to click on the hyperlink within the assignments and it will take you to the electronic textbook which you can download.

This is a secular textbook and contains some material that is not reflective of the Indiana Wesleyan University Christian Worldview. However, we selected the textbook because it does a fine job covering the landscape of communication concepts and is a free electronic publication which saves you an expense. Since it is offered free by an author, the author, who is a respected communication scholar, does not take credit and the textbook author is anonymous.

Course Technology

Ability to record a speech using either the webcam on your computer or a recording device such as a camcorder or smartphone.

IWU Diversity Statement

IWU, in covenant with God's reconciling work and in accordance with the Biblical principles of our historic Wesleyan tradition, commits to build a community that reflects Kingdom diversity.

We will foster an intentional environment for living, teaching, and learning, which exhibits honor, respect, and dignity. Acknowledging visible or invisible differences, our community authentically values each member's earthly and eternal worth. We refute ignorance and isolation and embrace deliberate and courageous engagement that exhibits Christ's commandment to love all humankind. (2016)

Grading Scale

NOTE: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grade	Quality Points Per Credit	Percentage	Score
A	4.0	95%-100%	950-1000
A-	3.7	92%-94.9%	920-949
B+	3.3	89%-91.9%	890-919
B	3.0	85%-88.9%	850-889
B-	2.7	82%-84.9%	820-849
C+	2.3	79%-81.9%	790-819
C	2.0	75%-78.9%	750-789
C-	1.7	72%-74.9%	720-749
D+	1.3	69%-71.9%	690-719
D	1.0	65%-68.9%	650-689
F	0.0	0%-64.9%	0-649

Grading Policies

Your grading policy for your course is dependent on your school and program. Your grading policies can be found in the [IWU Catalog](#).

Letter Grade Equivalencies

NOTE: In graduate level courses, a grade of C- or below will require the course to be repeated.

Grade	Description of Work
A	Clearly stands out as excellent performance. Has unusually sharp insights into material and initiates thoughtful questions. Sees many sides of an issue. Articulates well and writes logically and clearly. Integrates ideas previously learned from this and other disciplines. Anticipates next steps in progression of ideas. Example "A" work should be of such nature that it could be put on reserve for all cohort members to review and emulate. The "A" cohort member is, in fact, an example for others to follow.

B	Demonstrates a solid comprehension of the subject matter and always accomplishes all course requirements. Serves as an active participant and listener. Communicates orally and in writing at an acceptable level for the degree program. Work shows intuition and creativity. Example "B" work indicates good quality of performance and is given in recognition for solid work; a "B" should be considered a good grade and awarded to those who submit assignments of quality less than the exemplary work described above.
C	Quality and quantity of work in and out of class is average. Has marginal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at least minimally.
D	Quality and quantity of work is below average. Has minimal comprehension, communication skills, or initiative. Requirements of the assignments are addressed at below acceptable levels.
F	Quality and quantity of work is unacceptable and does not qualify the student to progress to a more advanced level of work.

Course Workshop Summary

Workshop	Devotion*	Discussion*	Assignment	Quiz/Exam*	Textbook Reading	Total Points per Workshop
Workshop One	1/5	2/65	1/70	1/60	Ch. 1,2 Essentials, Perception	200
Workshop Two	1/5	2/75	1/60	1/60	Ch. 9, 10, 11.1 Outlining, Delivery, Info Speech	200
Workshop Three	1/5	2/75	1/70	1/60	Ch. 4, 6 Nonverbal, Conflict	210
Workshop Four	1/5	2/45	1/100	1/60	Ch. 13, 14 Small Group Ch. 8.3 Intercultural	210
Workshop Five	1/5	2/65	1/50	1/60	Ch. 5, 16 Listening, New Media Ch. 11.2 Persuasion	180
TOTAL	5/25	10/330	5/270	5/300		1000

* Number of Activities/Sum Point Totals

Other option readings are found in *Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies*. Note Chapters 3, 7, 8.3, 11.3, 11.4, and 12 provide additional useful communication background that will enhance and advance learning.

Workshop One Outline

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Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
1.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	5
1.2 Discussion: Introduction to Communication Studies	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	2:30 hours	35
1.3 Discussion: Communication and Ethics	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	30
1.4 Assignment: Self-Perception	Due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	70
1.5 Post-Reading Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	60
Totals		12:30 hours*	200

Workshop Two Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
2.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	5
2.2 Discussion: Speaking Anxiety	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	35
2.3 Assignment: Speech Outlining	Due by the end of the workshop.	3:30 hours	60
2.4 Discussion: Informative Speech	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
2.5 Post-Reading Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	60
Totals		12:30 hours*	200

Workshop Three Outline

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Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
3.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	5
3.2 Discussion: Conflict Communication Strategies	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	35
3.3 Assignment: Conflict Style	Due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	70
3.4 Discussion: Nonverbal and Mediated Communication	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	40
3.5 Post-Reading Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	60
Totals		15 hours*	210

Workshop Four Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
4.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	5
4.2 Discussion: Intercultural Communication	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	25
4.3 Discussion: Group Process	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	20
4.4 Video Assignment: Informative Speech	Due by the end of the workshop.	5 hours	100
4.5 Post-Reading Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	60
Totals		15 hours*	210

Workshop Five Outline

Title	Due Dates	Time	Points
5.1 Discussion: Biblical Wisdom	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	5
5.2 Discussion: Gender Differences	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	3 hours	30
5.3 Discussion: New Media: opportunities and Challenges	Initial post due by the end of the fourth day of the workshop; two responses due by the end of the workshop.	4 hours	35
5.4 Assignment: Persuasion and Speaking	Due by the end of the workshop.	5 hours	50
5.5 Post-Reading Quiz	Due by the end of the workshop.	1:30 hours	60
End of Course Survey	Due by the end of the workshop.	-	10 extra credit
Totals		15 hours*	180

*These times are only estimates. Actual assignment completion times will vary.

Course Development Resources

Anonymous (2013). *Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies*, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Edition.

Alternative Assignment Policy

Students with a documented disability may request accommodations for an alternative assignment(s) for course activities (Examples: video assignments, etc.). It is the student's responsibility to submit the form received from the Disability Services Office indicating his/her specific accommodation to the instructor prior to the start of each course.

Expectations, Policies, and Important Student Information

School/Division	Link
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School/Division	Link
DeVoe School of Business Division of Liberal Arts School of Services and Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
School of Educational Leadership	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Wesley Seminary @ IWU	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Nursing - Undergraduate	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information
Nursing - Graduate	View School/Division Expectations, Policies, and Student Information