

**COMM 3003/FMST 3003 Family Communication and Leadership**  
9:30-10:45AM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Garvey Center 113  
3 credit hours  
Spring 2019

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Brian Simmons Professor of Communication	Garvey Center 125 <a href="mailto:brian.simmons@oc.edu">brian.simmons@oc.edu</a> (405) 425-5525
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWF 11:30AM-1:30PM MWF 2:30-3:30PM Other times by appointment	TR 3:30-5:00PM Other times by appointment

#### **OC Mission Statement**

*Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.*

#### **Departmental Mission Statement & other departmental information**

The mission of the Department of Communication is to train students to:

1. serve through words to honor the One who called himself the Word;
2. serve through scholarship as the young Jesus did in the Temple surrounded by His elders;
3. serve through stories to be like the Master Teacher who scarcely taught without a parable;
4. serve through images to remind the world of a God who made man in His own image;
5. serve through speech to access its power like the One who scrambled speech at the Tower of Babel and brought it back together again at Pentecost;
6. serve through drama to be like God who ransomed the world through the Passion of the cross;
7. serve through leadership modeling after the One who led by words, deeds and examples during His earthly ministry

#### **The Instructor's Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy**

- *On the student-teacher relationship:* "Students learn best when they are friends with the instructor." This does not mean that you and I will hang out on the weekends in your

dorm, but it does mean that I will attempt to cultivate a friendly, banter-filled yet professional relationship with you.

- *On the nature of higher education:* “Higher education is a privilege, not a right.” It’s not for everyone. Higher education should be about learning and applying a few principles to life situations rather than memorizing minute details.
- *On the nature of Christian higher education:* “The Christian perspective should inform the entire educational process.” Moreover, college classes, campus life, and teacher student interactions ought to be more mature than those found in high school. It’s college, not church camp!
- *On types of assignments:* “Papers that get students to apply ideas to the real world are the most worthwhile kinds of assignments. And presentations are valuable too.” I think that tests and quizzes are poor means of gauging learning. After college, few people will take tests or quizzes but most of us will write and speak to groups; therefore we ought to practice doing so.
- *On evaluating student work:* “There is no shame in a C.” Assignment and course grades ought to reflect the fact that most students do average work, a few above or below average, and fewer still excellent or failing. Students are responsible for demonstrating in their work what makes it worthy of a grade reflecting that it is above average or excellent work.
- *On teaching:* “I’m not going to open your head and pour in knowledge. I want you to think and apply ideas to the real world.” Ultimately, it’s up to you whether you get anything out of the class.
- *On honor:* “Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10).” I will honor you by being prepared, organized, respecting of your time and crafting a worthwhile class that you want to attend. I will always treat you professionally and I will always treat you like an adult. I expect you to honor me by investing in the class and being a professional, serious student in all regards.

### **Course Description**

This course examines theories and research pertaining to communication in the family context. Special emphasis is placed on communication and the development of leadership within the family.

### **Course Outcomes:**

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the theories and research pertaining to family communication, especially as it pertains to leadership within the family. This learning outcome is measured by having each student write three papers describing how that research is applicable to selected family communication scenarios, and by having each student select one book to read and summarize in a written paper and oral presentation.

This course meets the following of Oklahoma Christian University’s Outcomes:

- The course fosters students' Active Faith by discussing ways that family relationships and communication within them can be understood and practiced through a Christian lens.
- This course augments students' Foundational Knowledge by acquainting students with the theory and research associated with family communication.
- This course develops students' Critical and Creative Thinking and Effective Communication skills by requiring students to analyze family communication through various artifacts.

### **Course Requirements & Grading Standards:**

1. Application Paper #1
  - a. 25% of the total course grade
  - b. Students will write a 7-page, double-spaced, 12 point font paper that applies the specific concepts, theories and research discussed in class to the students own familial experiences or an appropriate film, TV series, book or play of the student's choice.
2. Application Paper #2
  - a. 25% of the total course grade
  - b. Students will write a 7-page, double-spaced, 12 point font, typed paper that applies the specific concepts, theories and research discussed in class to the students own familial experiences or an appropriate film, TV series, book or play of the student's choice.
3. Application Paper #3
  - a. 25% of the total course grade
  - b. Students will write a 7-page, double-spaced, 12 point font, typed paper that applies the specific concepts, theories and research discussed in class to the students own familial experiences or an appropriate film, TV series, book or play of the student's choice.
4. Investment
  - a. 25% of the total course grade
  - b. "Investment" refers to the student's engagement, effort and seriousness with which the class is taken. Though admittedly subjective, there are many ways that a student can "invest" in the class: Class attendance, completing brief in-class and out-of-class assignments, emailing the instructor materials which might be integrated into the class, and discussing the class material with the instructor outside of class.

Determining the Final Course Grade: The final course grade will be determined as follows:

360-400 points = A (90-100%)  
 320-359 points = B (80-89%)  
 280-319 points = C (70-79%)  
 240-279 points = D (60-69%)  
 0-239 points = F (0-59%)

Availability and Timeliness of Grades: Students will be e-mailed an assessment of each oral presentation, annotated outline, and Application Paper within one week of the date the assignment is submitted. In-class participation will be evaluated and communicated via e-mail after the sixth and 14<sup>th</sup> week of the semester. All grades will be posted to Blackboard upon their determination.

Six Weeks Grades: Six Weeks grades serve as a “snapshot” of the student’s progress to date and will be computed based on the student’s average on all work submitted at the time six weeks grades are due.

**Materials Needed**

None.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

Below is a tentative daily schedule of class content. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the daily course schedule. Changes will be announced in class and via an announcement on Blackboard.

Date	In-Class Activities
Jan. 8	Welcome to the Course The Uniqueness of Family Communication
Jan. 10	The Uniqueness of Family Communication
Jan. 15	The Uniqueness of Family Communication
Jan. 17	The Uniqueness of Family Communication
Jan. 22	Lenses Through Which to See Family Communication
Jan. 24	Lenses Through Which to See Family Communication
Jan. 29	Lenses Through Which to See Family Communication
Jan. 31	Lenses Through Which to See Family Communication
Feb. 5	Communication and Marital Success
Feb. 7	Communication and Marital Success
Feb. 12	Communication and Marital Success <b>Application Paper #1 Due</b>
Feb. 14	Communication and Marital Success SIX WEEKS GRADES COMPUTED
Feb. 19	Family Communication in Times of Stress
Feb. 21	Family Communication in Times of Stress

Feb. 26	Parent-Child Communication
Feb. 28	Parent-Child Communication
Mar. 5	Sibling Communication
Mar. 7	NO CLASS
Mar. 12	Sibling Communication
Mar. 14	Sibling Communication <b>Application Paper #2 Due</b>
Mar. 19	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 21	SPRING BREAK
Mar. 26	Family Conflict
Mar. 28	Family Conflict
Apr. 2	Family Conflict
Apr. 4	Communication in Distressed Marriages
Apr. 9	Communication in Distressed Marriages
Apr. 11	Communication in Distressed Marriages
Apr. 16	Communication in Blended Families <b>Application Paper 3 Due</b>
Apr. 18	Communication in Blended Families
Finals	NO CLASS

### Standard Oklahoma Christian University Academic Policies

#### Sources of Help

- Tutoring: Student Success, 405.425.5923, [www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/](http://www.oc.edu/academics/student-success/)
- Research Help:, Library, 405.425.5312, Ask a Librarian ([libanswers.oc.edu/](http://libanswers.oc.edu/)) or [library.oc.edu](http://library.oc.edu)
- Information Technology: Support Central, 405.425.5555, [support.oc.edu/home](http://support.oc.edu/home)
- Blackboard Help: Link in Blackboard (usually on left side)

#### Course Policies:

- E-mail: The instructor makes extensive use of e-mail as an efficient means of communicating with students enrolled in this course. Please make a point to check your university e-mail on a regular basis!
- Attendance: As a demonstration of their seriousness as learners, students are expected to attend class each day and invest in the course by gladly participating in whatever

activities occur each day. The instructor expects students to act as responsible, mature adults and inform the instructor prior to missing class for any reason.

- Missed or Late Paper Assignments: Situations in which work is not submitted on time will be handled on a case-by-case basis. However, as a matter of responsibility, maturity and honor, students are expected to notify the instructor in advance of such situations.
- Inclement Weather: Should inclement weather force the cancellation of any class during which an assignment is due the instructor will notify the students via Blackboard as to the procedure for making up that day's assignment. Typically, the assignment will be made up at the next available opportunity or an alternative assignment offered instead.

## **University Policies**

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Ms. Katy Roybal (425-1876) before or immediately after your first scheduled class meeting. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, with Ms. Roybal, and with the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.

### **Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX)**

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. OC's Sexual Misconduct Policy (see the OC Student Handbook) is compliant with Title IX, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to either the Title IX Coordinator or one of the Title IX Deputy Coordinators listed below:

Title IX Coordinator: Tamie Willis

Deputy Coordinators: Mr. John Ortiz, Ms. Lisa Herndon, Dr. Charles Rix, Dr. Gail Nash

Students have access to confidential services through OC's Counseling Center and the Spiritual Life office.

**OC Counseling Center**

405.425.5250

## **Spiritual Life**

Jeff McMillon, Dean of Spiritual Life                      405.425.5919  
Summer Lashley, Ethos Director                                      405.425.5908

Students have access to confidential services through the Counseling Center and the Mercy Clinic.

OC Counseling Center                                      405.425.5250

Mercy Clinic                                      405.425.6100                      2810 E. Memorial Rd., Suite  
140

## **Oklahoma Christian University Policy on Academic Honesty**

### **Cheating**

Cheating on an examination, assignment, roll sheet or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who cheat on examinations, assignments or other course related work or activities will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

### **Plagiarism**

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another's work (a friend, a parent, a website) as one's own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who engage in plagiarism in assignments submitted will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

### **Penalties for Academic Dishonesty**

1. On the first offense, the student will receive zero (0) credit for the examination or assignment. For forms of cheating or dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments, the Professor shall have the discretion to impose an appropriate penalty. Professors must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the VPAA, and the Dean of Students.
2. On the second offense in the same course, the student will receive an F in the course. Professors must send documentation of the second offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the VPAA, and the Dean of Students.

3. At either the first offense or second offense, the student may appeal using the process described in both the *OC Student Handbook* and the *OC Academic Policy Manual* covering Grade Appeals.
4. If the student commits offenses in two or more courses, the Academic Appeals Committee, described in the *OC Student Handbook* and in the *OC Academic Policy Manual*, may assign penalties for academic dishonesty in addition to the penalties assigned by the professors in the courses. The Academic Appeals Committee may impose penalties up to and including suspension from the University in instances where a student has engaged in cheating or plagiarism in two or more courses. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the VPAA and the Dean of Students in writing of any penalties imposed by it and will report annually on its activities to the University's Academic Affairs Committee.
5. Professors should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Professors must report and apply the rules regarding cheating/plagiarism to the appropriate channels. The student should be referred to the Oklahoma Christian University Covenant for principles which should guide conduct in these matters.