Course Syllabus
COMM-3310_001 – Communication Theory
MTWR, 12:00-1:55pm, BH 207

Dr. Michelle M. Maresh-Fuehrer
Office: Bay Hall 329
Hours: MTWR 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment
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Course Description
The foundations, processes, and effects of human communication. A survey of contemporary theory and research including language theory, nonverbal and small group communication, persuasion, and mass communication.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

✔ Understand the history and development of communication theory.
✔ Discuss the main components of a variety of communication theories.
✔ Apply theoretical principles to “real world” situations, interactions, and messages.

Required Text

Course Assignments & Grade Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (7 at 25 points)</td>
<td>175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locate &amp; Share Assignment</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Application Paper</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation (20 days at 5 points)</td>
<td>100</td>
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Total Points: 400

Grade Calculation:

- A: 90% of the total points 360 points – 400 points
- B: 80% of the total points 320 points – 359 points
- C: 70% of the total points 280 points – 319 points
- D: 60% of the total points 240 points – 279 points
- F: 50% of the total points 000 points – 239 points

A Successful Course Experience
A successful experience in this course will depend on your individual commitment and work ethic. I encourage all students to visit with me frequently throughout the semester, rather than waiting until the end of the semester to ask questions or express concerns. As in most courses, students should be proactive about their work and ready to discuss concepts and share examples during class. Furthermore, a professor who is familiar with their students is better able to help their students accomplish their personal goals, so make yourself known! Be known for doing good work, contributing during class discussion, and talking about your concerns/challenges/successes/goals with me outside of class. If you have suggestions that will enrich your learning experience, please let me know.

Dropping a Course
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this course; however, at times, events can occur that make dropping a course appear to be a wise decision. Before deciding to drop this course, please talk with me to be sure that this is the best possible decision for you. If you do decide to drop this course, you must initiate the process by going to the Student Services Center (the “round building”) and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation will not automatically drop you from the course. Friday, April 12 is the last day to drop a course with an automatic grade of “W” this semester.
Course Policies

What do you mean by “participation”?  
- Prompt arrival, attendance, and participation are all vital to your success in this course. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and contribute to the classroom experience by actively listening, asking questions, participating in discussions, and taking part in class activities.  
- Participation will be graded. Each student will earn 5 points for every class session that they attend and actively participate. If students attend but do not participate in class, I reserve the right to assign 0 points for the day. In all fairness, students will be notified that their lack of participation will result in 0 points before the points are assigned.

What if I am absent?  
- In the event of an absence, I must be notified before the missed class period in order for the absence to be excused. If I am not notified before the missed class period, the absence will be considered unexcused unless the student provides documentation for an excused absence (i.e., athletics, family emergencies, illness, university-sponsored travel). I reserve the right to determine whether an absence is excused. Late work will only be accepted for excused absences and must be turned in or made up within 7 days of the missed deadline.  
- Regardless of the status of an absence, when a student is absent they are responsible for obtaining the information that was missed during class. Students my wish to select a classmate(s) at the beginning of the semester that will agree to help with this task.

What are your expectations for my assignments?  
- It should go without saying that quality work is an expectation. As a Communication major, it is expected that you will have effective writing and speaking skills and that you will seek my help if you need assistance in these areas. It is also expected that your work will be free from plagiarism, will demonstrate critical thinking, and will show that you are thinking “beyond the textbook.”  
- All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date shown on the course syllabus, unless otherwise noted. If otherwise noted, assignments are due on the exact date and at the exact time noted on the assignment. If an assignment is late/forgotten/otherwise not turned in on time, the student will not receive credit for the assignment.  
- Assignments should be turned in as a hard copy unless otherwise noted. If an assignment is turned in using a means other than hard copy, the student will not receive credit for the assignment. Students should complete assignments on time to reduce the risk of emergencies, such as running out of ink, paper, or not having access to a printer or computer. Students should also save their files in multiple locations to reduce the risk of losing their work.

I have a question about one of my grades, what should I do?  
- Should a student have a question about their grade on a particular assignment, I follow the 24/7 rule: students must approach me no sooner than 24 hours and no later than 7 days after the assignment has been returned. Once 7 days have passed, the topic will be closed for discussion.

What type of citations should I use in my writing and speaking assignments?  
- All assignments that require scholarly citations should adhere to the 6th edition of the APA style manual. If you do not have access to this manual, please visit: [http://library.nmu.edu/guides/userguides/style_apa.htm#website](http://library.nmu.edu/guides/userguides/style_apa.htm#website)

What are the rules for classroom conduct?  
- I treat my classroom as a small community; thus, we will maintain a harassment-free environment that is welcoming to different viewpoints and ideas. Any profane or inappropriate ethnic, gender, racial, age, appearance, and/or lifestyle-related comments will not be accepted. Any student who violates this policy will be asked to leave the classroom.  
- Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VIII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable
behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, online classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

I need help with my work, what should I do?
- Come talk to me! 😊
- I am happy to help students with their understanding of assignments by reading through drafts and answering questions about class assignments; however, I will not be able to provide adequate assistance within 36 hours of a deadline, so students should be proactive about starting their assignments and seeking feedback early.
- Should any situation arise, where I can be of assistance (i.e., you do not have a printer), please come talk to me. 😊

Notice To Students With Disabilities
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Driftwood 101, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

Academic Advising
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

Grade Appeal Process
As stated in the University Rule 13.02.99.C2. Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Honesty
Students unaware of the university’s statement on academic honesty should review it in the Undergraduate Catalog or Student Handbook. Examples of academic dishonesty and plagiarism are using someone else’s ideas and not giving them credit; presenting a paper that is not originally yours; handing in assignments that are not originally yours; presenting “facts” or lifting ideas from sources without crediting the source; presenting falsified opinions and figures; cheating on an exam; and turning in the same work in multiple classes. If you are uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism or dishonesty, please ask your professor. Students who violate the code of honesty in this class will receive a 0 on that assignment. Any student receiving more than one “0” for academic dishonesty or plagiarism will fail the course and may be expelled from the program. Note: All violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Dean and Office of Student Affairs who maintains documentation of such offenses for at least 5 years.

Assignment Descriptions
**Please do not use these guidelines to begin your work early, as they are incomplete and subject to change. Full descriptions and grading rubrics will be provided to you closer to the respective due dates.**

Locate-and-Share Assignment (25 points)
To facilitate our understanding of each theory, students will each be assigned to a theory. Students should locate an artifact that helps explain this theory (i.e., a YouTube clip of a conversation from a movie that illustrates Social Penetration Theory). On the date that this theory is discussed in class, students will share their artifact with the class.
**Quizzes** (7 at 25 points each; 175 points)
Students will be given quizzes over the topics discussed in class at the end of each topic unit to ensure content mastery and to help us identify areas that we may need to discuss further. These quizzes will consist of no more than 25 questions and will be based on class discussion, lecture, the textbook, locate-and-share assignments, and personal experience.

**Critical Application Paper** (100 points)
While part of understanding communication theory deals with content mastery and understanding (via quizzes), the most important indication that a student truly understands the material is via application to their everyday lives. Thus, students will be required to complete an application paper where they apply two theories to a real-world phenomenon. Students will also need to critique the theories that they have chosen.

**Attendance & Participation** (15 at 5 points each; 75 points)
Participation will be graded. Each student will earn 5 points for every class session that they attend and participate. If students attend but do not participate in class, I reserve the right to assign 0 points for the day. Students should sign the sign-in sheet before they leave the classroom—the professor will not be responsible for “remembering” that a student attended a class that they did not sign in for.
**This schedule is tentative and subject to change. All changes will be to the benefit of the student.**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Monday, July 8</th>
<th>Tuesday, July 9</th>
<th>Wednesday, July 10</th>
<th>Thursday, July 11</th>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Communication Traditions</td>
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<td>Theories of the Self</td>
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<td>Chapter 26, Chapter 27</td>
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