**Course Number:** Comm-4390_002  
**Course Title:** Topics In Communication  
**Credit Hours:** 3  
**Semester:** August Session 2014  
**Time/Location:** MTWR 8:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. BH 235

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**Instructor:** Edward R. Tyndall (Media Professional guest Producer Jason Flynn)  
**Office:** 327 Bay Hall  
**Office Hours:** Mon, Tues and Wed 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m.  
**Email:** edward.tyndall@tamucc.edu  
**Phone:** 361-825-2296

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**TEXT:** None

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:** None

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**
This course will be very demanding. It requires participation in an active film shoot (a volatile and stressful environment). Be prepared. Time outside of class during the shoot days will be required to be successful in this course. You must have the ability to get to and from set each day (set locations may vary over the shoot).

**DESCRIPTION:**
This Topics In Communication course gives students diverse learning opportunities while working with active industry professionals on faculty led film projects. Students train with production experts in intensive shooting environments while serving in key crew positions such as Assistant Camera Operator, Costume Designer, Production Sound Mixer, Script Supervisor, Assistant Director, Production Assistant and more.

**PRE/Corequisites:**
None, but Production I is recommended.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
- Demonstrate effective collaborative skills in film production environments.
- Illustrate competency in basic film crew positions.

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TURNED IN ON THE ASSIGNED DATE:**
No late assignments will be accepted. Assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero. Incomplete assignments will be graded as is. No exceptions other than for family tragedy or medical emergencies (w/documentation). No incompletes will be given for this course.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**
Strict attendance is required. There are no “excused” absences other than medical emergencies for which a physician’s care is required and that can be documented in writing or validated by the University Health Center. Such documentation or validation
must be at the student’s initiative. All documentation must be submitted within 2 days of your return to class.

Given the condensed nature of August Session courses, **ONE UNEXCUSED ABSENCE WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE IN THE COURSE.** Tardiness or early departure from the class will be considered an absence unless the instructor has been informed and has approved, in writing, of mitigating circumstances.

**DROPPING A CLASS:**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:**
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 VII 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, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**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 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.

GRADING:
5% Exercise 1
5% Exercise 2
5% Exercise 3
10% Written Crew Position Report
50% Film Shoot Performance
25% Additional Shoot Duties, pre-production and production (performed outside of class time)

GRADING SCALE:
100 – 90 = A
89.99 – 80 = B
79.99 – 70 = C
69.99 – 60 = D
59.99 – 0 = F

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

August 11th  --- Review of syllabus, Assignment of Crew Positions, Handouts
Assignment --- Begin work on Written Crew Position Report, Read Film Script

August 12th --- Exercise 1/ Rehearsals
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties

August 13th --- Exercise 2/ Rehearsals
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties

August 14th --- Exercise 3/ Rehearsals
Assignment --- Pre-production Duties
Due --- Written Crew Position Report
August 18th --- Shoot Day 1  
**Assignment** --- Production Duties

August 19th --- Shoot Day 2  
**Assignment** --- Production Duties

August 20th --- Shoot Day 3  
**Assignment** --- Production Duties

August 21st --- Pickup Day (or Gear Load-In)  
**Assignment** --- Production Duties

August 22nd --- **Gear Inventory**  
**Due** --- Self Evaluations