COMM 1370: Introduction to Communication

Professor Kellie Smith
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EMAIL IS PREFERRED CONTACT METHOD

Available by phone, Skype, and appointment

Fall 2016 Meeting Times:
Mondays 8am-850 a.m. EN 106

Office Hours:
Professor Smith will host Coffee Hours on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. throughout the semester. Stop by for coffee, ask a question, or visit with your classmates to discuss the content. Professor Smith is also available via telephone or Skype by appointment.

TAMUCC Department of Communication and Media Mission Statement
“Our mission is to develop students who are effective and ethical communicators with the creative, critical, and collaborative skills necessary to succeed in a diverse global environment.”

Course Title and Description
Introduction to Communication is a three credit course focused on familiarizing students to the research, principles, and theories of the Communication discipline. This particular course is intended to provide insight into a breadth of topics about the Communication discipline that will be examined with greater depth in the Communication curriculum.

Course Objectives
The course is designed to further develop students’ abilities as communicators and communication scholars. This course is in partial fulfillment of the following Communication and Media Department outcomes. Specifically, students should be able to perform the following by the conclusion of the Fall 2016 semester:

• Define communication and explain its practicality in everyday life.
• Articulate the value of a degree or education in Communication.
• Demonstrate the ability to apply scholarly research into everyday practice.

Recommended Materials

Reading material for selected topics from a variety of sources may be distributed in class and/or Blackboard.

Attendance
Attendance and participation are strongly encouraged for this course, as they are the strongest predictors of success on papers, exams, and for actual learning to take place. Attendance will be recorded in class.

Grading Procedure
Grades will be based on the following scale:
100-90% - A  89-80% - B  79-70% - C  69-60% - D  Below 60% - E
Grading

Grades are comprised of various classroom engagement activities (bonus points provided), Six Friday Application papers, three quizzes, and two exams. There will be no opportunity to makeup in-class activities. Assignments turned in late will receive a 10-percent deduction for every day it is late.

Classroom Engagement Activities

On various days students will complete classroom engagement activities that will be used for direct application and discussion of course topics, lecture material, and textbook content. Bonus points will be offered for students that are in attendance. You must be present in class to receive bonus points.

Friday Application Papers

On six Fridays throughout the semester, students will complete a writing assignment that will be submitted on Blackboard. These writing assignments are meant to further develop student writing and serve the dual purpose of integrating class content with practical experience, encourage reflection, integration of theory and practice, and problem-solving about events that take place in life. The papers will be 2 pages in length and adhere to the sixth edition of the APA style guide. Each Friday Application Paper will be worth 75 points for a total of 450 points. Further directions and rubric will be distributed and discussed in class at the appropriate time.

Content Quizzes

To assess student learning periodically throughout the semester, three quizzes will be distributed during class time and students will have 10 minutes to take the quiz at the beginning of the class period. Quizzes will not be announced and students are strongly encouraged to read the material before coming to class. Quizzes will count as 50 points each for a total of 150 points.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. Each exam is worth 200 points, for a total of 400 points in the course. Exam content will be based on textbook material and other readings, lecture notes, in-class activities, and any supplemental information provided throughout the course. The exams will likely feature a combination of multiple choice, matching, and/or true-false.

Student Conduct for Class

1. **Know the syllabus:** Be informed on what is to be read, discussed, and submitted for each class meeting.
2. **Respect:** Be courteous of the professor and fellow students and refrain from talking amongst yourselves during lecture and discussion. This also means that proper professional communication is also required.
3. **Preparation:** Attend class ready to contribute and interact with material presented in class.
4. **Punctuality:** Please make best effort to arrive to the classroom before class begins.
5. **Electronic Devices:** Items such as cell phones should be put away during class.
6. **Listening:** It is absolutely essential and expected for students to pay attention to class discussions and lectures because the information is vital toward successfully completing the course.
7. **Effort:** This class will be fun and enlightening, yet challenging. Please put forth your best effort each day in the course.

University Guidelines

*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism.*
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in an “F” for the class and possible removal from the University.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**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. **Friday, November 11** is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**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.

**STATEMENT OF CIVILITY:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**GRADE APPEALS:** Students who feel they have 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. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website ([http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html)). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.
**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY:** In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student. F
**Tentative Course Schedule** *(Subject to Change)*

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 8/29</td>
<td>Syllabus; Overview of Course Foundations of Human Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9/12</td>
<td>Communication and the Self</td>
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<td>Mon 9/19</td>
<td>Communication and the Self</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 9/26</td>
<td>Verbal Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/3</td>
<td>Verbal Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/10</td>
<td>Nonverbal Communication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10/17</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>Mon 10/24</td>
<td>Listening and Responding</td>
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<td>Mon 10/31</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
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<td>Mon 11/07</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>Mon 11/14</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
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<td>Mon 11/21</td>
<td>Relationships</td>
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<td>Mon 11/28</td>
<td>Group Communication</td>
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<td>Mon 12/5</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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*Final Exam will be held per the Official TAMUCC Final Exam Schedule, TBD*