INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP
COMM 5301
TAMUCC Fall 2016

CONTACT INFORMATION
Instructor: Stephanie Rollie Rodriguez
Office: Bay Hall 335
Phone: 361-825-5753
E-mail: stephanie.rodriguez@tamucc.edu
Office hours: M 1-3 PM; T 12-2 PM & 5:30-6:30 PM; R 11AM-12PM; and by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION
Course number: 5301.001 CRN: 91119
Meeting times: R 7-9:30 PM
Course location: BH 206
Credits: 3

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Description. This is a practical introduction to scholarship in the Communication discipline with emphasis in: reading and understanding academic source material, finding source material in scholarly literatures, writing academic research papers, editing and revising your own work, and presenting scholarship. Completing this course will prepare you to think, write, and present ideas as an advanced scholar in the Communication discipline.

Student Learning Outcomes. At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- Discuss the history of the discipline of communication studies.
- Show close reading skills that involve critical thinking and analysis.
- Demonstrate the ability to research a significant topic in the field of communication.
- Show a working knowledge of APA rules for research and writing.
- Illustrate abilities to analyze and synthesize research findings that lead to testable hypotheses.
- Apply effective skills in making oral presentations about independent research.
- Develop and defend an appropriate code of ethics in communication.

Course Materials.

Required:
- Additional readings are available on Blackboard.

Recommended:
# COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

**Attendance.** Attendance is required for participation in this course. At the graduate level, students are expected to attend every class. Only work missed due to extreme illness, a family emergency, a religious holiday, or an excused university activity can be made up. Provide documentation of excused absences prior to planned absences and within a week of unplanned absences to make arrangements for missed work. Work missed due to unexcused absences may not be able to be made up. Additionally, students are responsible for obtaining the information covered in class.

**Late Work.** All assignments are due at the beginning of class time on the assigned day. If I do not have the assignment by the beginning of class that day, the assignment is late. Each calendar day that the assignment is late will generally result in a one-letter-grade reduction.

**Media.** When class is in session, laptops may be used only to take notes and reference class readings and materials. Students may not access unrelated web pages, instant messaging programs, email, facebook or any similar programs during class unless otherwise instructed to do so. Similarly, mobile phones should be turned off. Students who are using laptops or mobile phones inappropriately will no longer be allowed to bring them to class.

**Communication.** This course will rely on blackboard and islander email accounts to communicate electronically with students outside of class. Students need to be sure to check both regularly.

**Graduate Academic Advising.** Students pursuing the Master of Arts in Communication will be paired with a graduate faculty member advisor in their first semester. Students should contact their advisors within the first two weeks of a semester to arrange a meeting during which degree plans, tracks, and opportunities for professional development should be discussed. If there is any question regarding whom a student’s academic advisor is, the student should contact Dr. Stephanie Rodriguez, Interim Graduate Coordinator, for assistance ([stephanie.rodriguez@tamucc.edu](mailto:stephanie.rodriguez@tamucc.edu); 361-825-5753). To finalize your degree plan and register for graduation, you must also meet with the Graduate Student Academic Advisor in the Academic Advising Center for the College of Liberal Arts. This office is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at (361) 825-3466.

**Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work for the appropriate citation of sources, and for the respect of others' academic endeavors. Academic misconduct will be monitored in this course. Plagiarism, turning in papers which are not one’s own, utilizing a previous paper, and collaborating on papers will not be tolerated and will result in the reduction of one’s grade and/or immediate failure in the course.

**Notice to Students with Disabilities:** 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.

**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). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

**Questions and Problems.** If you have concerns about the class, please arrange to discuss them with me during my office hours or by appointment.

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Specific instructions and guidelines for each of the following assignments will be provided in class.

**I. Program Plan.** This essay requires students to reflect on and construct a plan for their graduate program experience and outcomes.

**II. Research Proposal.** Students will select an area of study in the communication discipline, review articles in that area, and construct an argument for research to be conducted. The proposal will be completed in steps:
- Pre-proposal
- Annotated bibliography
- Outline
- Paper draft & workshop
- Final paper
- Paper presentation

**III. Reverse Outline.** Students will work to gain outlining and argument construction skills by examining the argument of a research article.

**IV. Journal Report Presentation.** Students will research a prominent journal in communication and share their findings with the class in a formal presentation.

**V. Senior Scholar Spotlight Presentation.** Students will learn about a senior scholar (associate or full professor) in the discipline and share their findings with the class in a formal presentation.

**VI. APA Exam.** Students will be tested on their knowledge of core APA rules and guidelines.

**VII. Participation.** Critical discussion is an essential component of a graduate seminar. Students are expected to arrive to class having read all of the assigned class material and be prepared to discuss all of the readings for that day. Students may also be asked to turn in assignments and reading responses, which will count towards their participation grade.
Assignment Summary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>My Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Plan</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reverse Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Report Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Scholar Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>APA Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>400</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**COURSE EVALUATION**

**Evaluation.** Grades are based on demonstration of mastery of course material. Work that meets the minimum requirements of an assignment, is done on time, and displays average involvement with the course content is deserving of a ‘C.’ Higher grades are awarded to work that goes above and beyond the minimum standards to produce products that reflect superior intellectual effort, excellence in critical analysis, and overall creativity in the approach to any given assignment.

**Grading Scale.** Use the following percentages as a guide for determining your grade.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>358-400</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>318-357</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>278-317</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>238-277</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>59% &amp; below</td>
<td>below 238</td>
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**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1**
Aug. 25
Course Overview
  - Introductions
  - Graduate Student Culture

**WEEK 2**
Sept. 1
Understanding the Discipline Part I
  - What Counts as “Communication”
  - History & Development of the Field
  - Readings: Eadie 2011

**WEEK 3**
Sept. 8
Understanding the Discipline Part II
  - Depth and Breadth of the Field
  - Organizational Structure and Systems
- MA in Communication at TAMU-CC

Readings: NCA website
TAMU-CC website

WEEK 4

Sept. 15  Theory & Research Part I
- Understanding Scholarship
- Role of Theory & Research
- Ethics in Scholarship
Readings: APA Chapter 1
Due: Program Plan

WEEK 5

Sept. 22  Theory and Research Part II
- Academic Journals
- Reading and Understanding Research Articles
- The Publication Process
- Annotated Bibliographies
Readings: APA Chapters 2 & 8
Due: Paper pre-proposal

WEEK 6

Sept. 29  Library Research—Meet at the Library
- Identifying and finding resources
Readings: Craswell & Poore Chapters 2 & 3

WEEK 7

Oct. 6   Academic Writing Part I
- Outlining
- Literature Reviews
- Constructing an Argument
Readings: Craswell & Poore Chapters 4, 5, & 8
Due: Annotated Bibliography

WEEK 8

Oct. 13  Academic Writing Part II
- APA Boot Camp
Readings: APA Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7
Due: Reverse Outline

WEEK 9

Oct. 20  Academic Presentations
AP Exam
Readings: Craswell & Poore Chapter 11
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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Oct. 27</th>
<th>Journal Report Presentations</th>
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<th>Nov. 3</th>
<th>Writing Workshop</th>
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<th>Nov. 10</th>
<th>Engaging in Critique</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Readings: TBD</td>
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<td>Due: Reading Response</td>
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<thead>
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<th>Paper Presentations</th>
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*This schedule is tentative. Changes may be made throughout the semester.*