Course Description:
This course examines a breadth of topics fundamental to the study of communication and works to improve students’ communication skills in three primary contexts: interpersonal relationships, group/teamwork, and presentational speaking.

Student Learning Objectives:
1. Apply principles of effective oral, written, and visual communication to interpersonal, small group, and audience-centered communication contexts.
2. Work with a group to gain experience in collaboration and meeting shared goals.
3. Engage in organized research processes for the purpose of evaluating and synthesizing information to support ideas.
4. Deliver presentations using oral, written, and visual evidence that supports specific purposes and includes messages tailored to specific audiences.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Categories:
1. Critical Thinking: Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
2. Communication Skills: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
3. Teamwork: Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team; work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal.
4. Personal Responsibility: Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

Required Text:

Note: There will be exam questions directly from the text that are not be covered during class time.

Additional Required Materials:
- Computer with Internet access and word processing software.
- One Bluebook

Blackboard:
Learning to use Blackboard will be vital to your success in this course. All assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. I DO NOT accept ANY handwritten, emailed, or hard copies of your assignments. Within your Blackboard shell you will find everything you need to be successful in this course.
**Blackboard Problems:**

If you have ANY Blackboard problems, please call the Blackboard helpdesk, first (before contacting me). When you call the helpdesk, be sure to get AND KEEP your case # related to the specific problem. IF you contact me for assistance, please be ready to provide the case #. IF you do not have a case #, you must contact the helpdesk for that information. The phone number is under the syllabus link inside of BB.

**Attendance Policy:**

Attendance in this course is critical to your success. Through in-class activities and demonstrations, you will learn to apply course material to your assignments and enhance your communication skills. If you are not in class, you will miss these opportunities. For purpose of grading: there is no distinction between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, deaths in the family, doctor’s excuse with documentation, and approved university functions.) Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. If you arrive more than **15 minutes** after the start of class, you are marked absent for that class period. Each absence in excess of **TWO** will lower your average by 10 points per absence. Excessive absences will result in a failing grade for the course. **Three late attendance marks translate to one absence.** Exceptions under extreme circumstances are at the discretion of the professor. If you wait until the end of the semester to notify the instructor of a problem that arose earlier in the semester, no accommodations will be retroactively made to help you work through that situation. If you are absent, you are responsible for checking the course calendar and Blackboard PRIOR to requesting missed information/notes from the instructor. If you do miss class, it is YOUR responsibility to request notes/assignment from a classmate. **DO NOT** email your instructor asking if “you all did anything in class today,” or to send you notes from lecture.

**Policy for Late Assignments:**

Speeches, online assignments, exams, and in-class assignments are due on the scheduled day, and **WILL NOT** be accepted/presented for late grade. There are **NO** makeup opportunities for missed presentations/assignments. If you arrive late to class (missing your presentation time), or are absent you will receive a zero for the assignment. Technology issues such as: Blackboard, poor internet connection, printer malfunction, test time exceeded, computer malfunctions, or computer restarts will not be considered a legitimate reason for missing or turning in an assignment late.

Written assignments (preparation material/papers) will be accepted at the discretion of the instructor with a minimum late penalty of one letter grade per day that it is late.

If a personal issue arises that you feel may keep you from making the deadline for any assignments, please be proactive and communicate with me **BEFORE** the deadline has passed.

The instructor will not hold grade negotiation conversations with students. Often students state that they ‘need’ a particular grade in a class in order to maintain scholarships/financial aid/membership and ask for extra points to raise their grades. This is unfair to the other students in the course who have earned their grades without being offered extra points and it also detracts from the integrity of the grading scale in the course. No assignments are accepted via email unless directed by the instructor.

**Policy for Exams:**

Students will have four exams conducted during class time. There will be absolutely NO technology used during the exam, and once the first student has submitted their exam and exited the room no additional students will be able to begin the exam. This means to ensure you can take the exam you MUST be on time. If you know you are not able to attend class the day of the exam, you are responsible for making arrangements with me PRIOR to the exam day. There will be no make-up exams issued for students who are late to class, send an email the day of the exam stating they are not able to make the exam, or miss class (unless previous arrangements have been made). Make-up exams are conducted outside of regularly scheduled class time.
**Contacting Instructor:** Students must use their official islander email account when contacting the instructor and allow at least 24-hour response time Monday-Friday. Emails received Saturday or Sunday will be responded to beginning Monday during office hours. I check and respond to emails during my listed office hours. If you have questions about an assignment, you MUST contact me at least 48 hours before the due date to ensure your email receives a response.

**Cell Phone/Electronic device usage:** I do not mind the use of media in class, if it relates to the topic of discussion. However, I will not tolerate if media is being used as a distraction, as that not only affects the student utilizing the media, but the surrounding students as well. No Media is permitted while students are presenting. If you absolutely have to use media, I have no issue with you briefly stepping out and taking care of business outside of the classroom. Just avoid being a distraction while stepping out and re-entering the classroom. Failure to comply will result in deduction of points off your assignment.

**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.

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. Regardless of whether you agree with a grade or are frustrated by the difficulty of an exam or any other issue, you must behave professionally at all times, per University policy.

**Statement of Civility & Netiquette:**
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.

Please go to the following link to ensure that you are not breaking any of the netiquette rules as this will hurt your grade. In an extreme form, it could cause a student to be removed from the course (this includes any type of flaming remarks).

http://edtech2.boisestate.edu/frankm/573/netiquette.html

*Whether face to face or online, with instructor or other classmates, students who are unable to abide by the general rules of academic etiquette and normal civility will be removed from the class.*

**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 a zero on that particular exam or in-class activity (with the possibility of failing the course) up to and including a report filed with the Dean of Students.

**Plagiarism:**
Any student found to be plagiarizing in any form will receive a zero on that assignment with the possibility of failing the course.
It is the student’s responsibility to read the information about plagiarism in the text to be sure that he/she is clear on exactly what constitutes plagiarism. Ignorance is no excuse! Any student found to be cheating or plagiarizing may receive a zero on that particular exam or in-class activity with the possibility of failing the course.

**Note:** If a student does not turn in a reference page with a presentation, he/she will receive a zero on the assignment. Lack of references = plagiarism.

**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 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**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.c0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf).

**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 your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.* 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.
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.

Right of Revision:
This syllabus and the information contained within it are subject to change without notice. The instructor always reserves the right the modify the course at any time.

Course Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assignment Values</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Model</td>
<td>50pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expectancy Violation Interaction</td>
<td>75pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Theory Paper</td>
<td>100pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Informative Presentation</td>
<td>200pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Persuasive Assignment</td>
<td>175pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Career Services Mock Interview</td>
<td>100pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ascribed Identity</td>
<td>25pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who Am I Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ah Game</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persuasion Activity</td>
<td>25pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Responses</td>
<td>200pts</td>
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</table>

- Introduction Unit
- Interpersonal Unit
- Small Group Unit
- Presentational Unit

Total: 1000

Brief Assignment Descriptions
Detailed assignment instructions and preparation material requirements are located in Blackboard.

Communication Model:
Students will construct a communication model based on a communicative interaction in their lives. Each student will write a one-page narrative of the interaction and include an illustration of the model applying it to the interaction.

**Expectancy Violation Interaction:**
Students will identify, construct and apply the Expectancy Violations Theory to a situation. Each student will write one-page narrative depicting the expectation violation.

**Interpersonal Theory Paper:**
Students will be assigned a specific communication theory to analyze write a 3-5 page description and application of their theory to submit.

**Group Informative Presentation:**
Students will be put into groups and develop a 20-minute presentation related to a topic from large lecture. Assignment pieces may include various due date across the Learning Community.

**Individual Persuasive Presentation:**
Students will develop and present a 4-6-minute persuasive presentation to the class. This presentation may contain material from large lecture.

**Ascribed Identity:**
Students will create a brief reflection that illustrates an understanding of ascribed identity.

**Who Am I? Presentation**
Students will develop and present a 1-2min presentation describing who they believe they are to the class.

**Persuasion Activity:** Students will be assigned a persuasive activity that demonstrates an understanding of the persuasion process.

**Career Services Mock Interview:** Students will be responsible for the completing the mock interview process through career services

**Ahh Game:** Students will present an impromptu speech avoiding the use of filler word.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| **Tuesday, January 21** | Course overview  
BB/ REVEL Instructions  
Principles of Communication: Ch.1  
Communication Process/Models/Competence: Ch.1 |
| **Tuesday, February 25** | Understanding Interpersonal Communication: Ch.7  
EVT Due  
Review Theory Paper |
| **Thursday, January 23** | Communication Process/Models/Competence: Ch.1  
Communication & Technology: Ch.1  
Review Communication Model |
| **Thursday, February 27** | Relationships: Ch.8 |
| **Tuesday, January 28** | Exploring Self-Awareness & Communication: Ch.2 |
| **Tuesday, March 3** | Relationships: Ch.8  
Review & Assign Group Informative Presentation |
| **Thursday, January 30** | Exploring Self-Awareness & Communication: Ch.2  
Communication Model Due  
Review Ascribed Identity  
Review & Assign Who Am I? |
| **Thursday, March 5** | Small Group Writing Response: Ch.7&8 |
| **Tuesday, February 4** | Understanding Verbal messages: Ch.3 |
| **Tuesday, March 10-12** | Spring Break- No Class |
| **Thursday, February 6** | Understanding Verbal messages: Ch.3  
Understanding Nonverbal messages: Ch.4  
Ascribed Identity Due |
| **Tuesday, March 17** | Group/Team: Ch 9 & 10  
Theory Paper Due |
| **Tuesday, February 11** | Who Am I? Presentations |
| **Thursday, March 19** | Group/Team: Ch 9 & 10 |
| **Thursday, February 13** | Understanding Nonverbal messages: Ch.4  
Review EVT |
| **Tuesday, March 24** | Introduction to Public Speaking: Ch.11  
Ahh Game |
| **Tuesday, February 18** | Introduction Writing Response: Ch. 1,2,3, &4 |
| **Thursday, March 26** | Topic Selection & Audience Analysis: Ch.11  
Organizing & Outlining your Speech: Ch.12  
Group / Team Writing Response: Ch. 9&10 |
| **Thursday, February 20** | Understanding Interpersonal Communication: Ch.7 |
| **Tuesday, March 31** | Delivering your Speech: Ch 13  
Speaking to Inform: Ch.14 |
| **Thursday, April 2** | Delivering your Speech: Ch 13  
Speaking to Inform: Ch.14 |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity and Notes</th>
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<td>Tuesday, April 7</td>
<td>Group Work-if time permits</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 9</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 14</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Thursday, April 16</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
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<td>Tuesday, April 21</td>
<td>Speaking to Persuade: Ch.15 Topic Selection round table discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 23</td>
<td>Speaking to Persuade: Ch.15 Topic Selection round table discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 28</td>
<td>Presentational Writing Response: Ch. 11,12,13,14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 30</td>
<td>Persuasive Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 5</td>
<td>Persuasive Presentation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Last Day of Class</td>
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*This calendar is subject to change*