Foundations of Communication

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.

This section of COMM 1311 is a lecture section linked to recitation sections COMM 1311.101-114. Students are required to enroll in both section W01 and 1 of the sections 101-114. The same syllabus applies to all sections. This course is led by a graduate teaching assistant assigned to recitation sections.

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; and
4) Deliver presentations using oral, written, and visual evidence that supports specific purposes and includes messages tailored to specific audiences.

The content will address the following Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board categories:
- Critical Thinking:
  - Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
- Communication Skills:
  - Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.
- Teamwork:
  - Integrate different viewpoints as a member of a team.
  - Work with others to support and accomplish a shared goal.
- Personal Responsibility:
  - Evaluate choices and actions and relate consequences to decision making.

Required Materials:
1) Computer with Internet access and word processing software
*You will not be able to complete this course without purchasing the textbook.
3) Recording device (for presentations)

Major Course Requirements:
Communication Model Analysis – 50 points
For this assignment you will construct your own transactional model of communication illustrating an interaction you had with one other person. You will label each part of the model and write a summary of the interaction as well as a brief (2-3 sentences) description of each component to demonstrate your understanding. Creativity in model design is encouraged!

Expectancy Violations Report and Mini Speech – 75 points
You will be asked to reflect on a personal example that will allow you to observe what happens when you violate others’ expectations. You will write a brief report detailing example, results, and analysis.

Interpersonal Theory Analysis – 100 points
You will be asked to show your ability to explain a theory of interpersonal communication by writing a short analysis in which you define/explain the theory and provide a personal example of the theory in action that centers around a conflict situation. This assignment will require a formal write up of at least 3 full pages, double-spaced, exclusive of an APA reference page. You will be required to make use of 3 sources for this assignment.

Collaborative Informative Presentation (Group Project)—200 points
Students will work in groups to develop a 10-15 minute presentation based on a set of criteria to be explained by the professor. This assignment will require the groups to produce an outline, a research synthesis chart, and a voice-over PowerPoint, as well as draft work leading up to the final due date.

Individual Persuasive Assignment—175 points
You will be asked to develop a 3-5 minute presentation based on a set of criteria to be explained by the professor. This assignment will require you to construct an outline, a research synthesis chart, and a presentation using a visual aid that you will video record and post online.

Exams—200 points
There will be an online test at the end of every unit. These will be considered open-book, open-note, but limitations will be set in Blackboard to minimize time spent searching for answers and/or collaboration.

Participation—200 points
Throughout each unit you will be asked to complete supplemental activities (e.g., discussion board posts, short written assignments, Internet searches for example material, etc.) designed to help you engage with your classmates and gain a deeper understanding of course material.

Final Grading Scale: This scale is based on a point system and not a percentage; therefore, grades will not be rounded up. If a student earns 799 points they receive a “C” in the course not a “B”. All grades are final unless a miscalculation has occurred. Grades will be regularly updated on Blackboard throughout the session.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>699-600</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>599 and below</td>
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Students will be held to a high standard of performance in all sections. To receive an "A" in this course, your work must be significantly better than that which passes for acceptable work. Do not assume that you can do simply what is assigned to receive a high grade in this course. Doing "what is assigned" gets you only a "C." An "A" requires considerably more work. This course is academically rigorous and time-consuming, and it will require a lot of you to do well. You must do all the work that is required of you according to the instructions provided in order to be successful in this class.

The professor 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 on teams or in organizations, etc., 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. An A holds little to no value when it is given to students who did not submit A quality work. It hurts your future job prospects when employers see As on your transcript, expect you to deliver A work using related skills, and you can’t do it because you didn’t actually earn those As (for further information, see Grade Appeals.)

**Group Work Disclaimer:**

Please note that there is a group project component in this course that will require you to work with a small group of classmates to complete a multi-step project and presentation. Everything will be completed virtually/electronically. There will be several deliverables associated with this project. Students who fail to complete work and respond to communication according to the expectations of their group and the COMM 1311 instructor team, may be penalized on the group project. These penalties may include, but are not limited to: loss of participation points, loss of project points, having specific group work assigned and monitored by the instructors, group mediation meetings, removal from the group (which means not being allowed to present and/or submit work associated with the project, resulting in a grade of 0 for the project).

**Online Policies**

Online courses can at times present unique challenges to both students and professors in terms of building rapport, communicating with clarity, and ensuring that course obligations can be met via the use of (sometimes troublesome) technology. As such, it will be your responsibility to ensure the following:

- Have consistent access to a reliable computer and Internet connection. Without access to Blackboard, you will not be able to access the course and/or complete assignments. Lack of access to BB or the Internet is not an excuse for incomplete work. *Please note: Blackboard can be fickle at times, and often the Internet browser you are using can interfere with its functionality. If you are having difficulty accessing BB or getting it to work properly, use a university computer and/or a different browser (e.g., Firefox, Chrome, or Safari – NOT Internet Explorer).*
- Contact your professor ASAP if you do not understand any part of the course content and/or assignment specifications. It is better to ask before you proceed than to work for a long time and find out later that you were doing something incorrectly.
- Keep a close eye on the course calendar and what is due each week. Since we are on a weekly schedule and will not meet in person, it will be to your benefit to make a weekly to-do list of class assignments, activities, etc.
• If you know you will be traveling, working, or otherwise occupied around the due date/time for the week’s work, plan accordingly to submit early. No extensions will be granted for students’ inability to get online and submit work by the deadline.

The professor will make every effort to do the following:

• Answer emails within 36 hours (or sooner) and offer the option to call if student needs additional clarification about course materials.
• Provide detailed instructions for each course assignment and explain how coursework is graded.
• Write BB announcements to update students about what is happening in the class.

Attendance
Given that this is an online class, there is no formal attendance policy in terms of “you must be here, at this time, on these days.” Class attendance will be accounted for by your active participation in all course assignments. You will be expected to complete several activities each unit, thus your attendance will be noted via participation points and turning in assignments. Additionally, there are no make-ups for assignments, as you may complete the work at your own pace, on your own schedule for each unit. You always have until 11:59 p.m. at the end of a unit to complete that unit’s work (unless instructed otherwise – for example, drafts will be due on different days/times).

Class Behavior
The professor expects each individual student to show his or her classmates and professor the utmost respect at all times. The professor intends to treat each student with the highest levels of courtesy and respect and expect that behavior in return. If you have further questions about these expectations, the professor invites you to refer to the Code of Student Conduct. Offensive remarks posted within group discussion environments (i.e., racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise hateful remarks) will result in a report to the Dean of Students.

Communicating with Professor
Communication will be very important in this class, as we will interact solely online. The professor expects students to communicate primarily via university email. If you do not wish to use your university email, please ensure that you are having your messages forwarded to another reliable email account. You are responsible for receiving and reading any and all email messages the professor may send; using a non-university email account is not an excuse for not receiving an email. You should generally expect a response to emails within 36 hours. Phone calls may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis if the need arises.

Regardless of whether you agree with a grade or whether you are frustrated by the difficulty of an exam or any other issue, you must behave professionally at all times, per University policy.
• When emailing, please use proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Do not use forms of spelling that are commonly accepted when texting with your friends.
• When emailing, introduce yourself as a student and provide your name.
• When emailing OR in person, you will demonstrate basic common courtesy and adhere to accepted norms of politeness.

Using Technology
For any technology related issues, please contact the IT help desk at (361) 825-2825. Your professor, although knowledgeable about course-related technology, is unable to assist you with account lockouts, expired passwords, incompatible equipment and/or software, etc. Please contact the IT help desk FIRST with these issues, and notify your professor if you are unable to access course materials after contacting IT.
Late Work
There are NO makeup opportunities for late work.
Failure to complete and submit assignments by 11:59 p.m. at the end of a unit will result in a zero.

Assignments can be found on the course schedule. The professor will also post on Blackboard detailed Assignment Specifications for each major assignment, and shorter notes about participation exercises. It is your responsibility to know what is expected from you each unit. Assignments must be turned in according to the instructions provided by the professor.

*Note: Computer/printer/software malfunction is not a valid excuse for late or missing assignments. The college provides computers that are available for your use and are compatible with most assignments you are given.

Academic Integrity:

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.

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. Plagiarism is a violation of academic expectations, but it is sometimes difficult to understand what plagiarism actually is. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on APA documentation rules is available at Purdue University’s OWL: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/, and from our local Writing Center at CASA.

In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in penalties ranging from a zero on that assignment up to and including a report filed with the Dean of Students.

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. (November 5) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

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.C0.03I, 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.

For grade concerns in this class, students must discuss the issue with the professor no less than 24 hours after a grade is issued, but no more than up to the date the next major assignment is due. Grade concerns should include specific questions about feedback given, questions about opportunities for improvement on future assignments, and/or evidence that the numeric value of the grade was added up incorrectly. Grade concerns should NOT include whining about how “hard” the grading in the course is, how a student’s grade differs from another’s, or complaints that information on how to complete the assignment wasn’t given. You will be given detailed assignment specifications for each major assignment that include a grade breakdown in the form of a rubric and/or evaluation form. Failure to read and follow these instructions does not constitute an excuse to complain about a grade. You must read everything that is provided for you in this class in order to understand exactly what you are being asked to do for each assignment. Failure to read information is a sure way to do poorly in the class.

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.

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 professor always reserves the right to modify the course at any time.

**Schedule of Classes**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>- Course intro</td>
<td>Syllabus quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 8/19-S</td>
<td>- Icebreakers</td>
<td>Discussion board posts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>- Communication Process and Principles</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 8/24-S</td>
<td>- Comm Models; Assign Comm Model Analysis</td>
<td>Comm Model due</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30</td>
<td>- Communication competency</td>
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<td>- Communication Model Analysis</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>M 8/31-S</td>
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<td>9/6</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<td>M 9/7-S</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>- Self-Awareness</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 9/14-S</td>
<td>- Self-Concept</td>
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<td>9/20</td>
<td>- Perceptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>- Defining Language</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>M9/21-S</td>
<td>- Language and Meaning Making</td>
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<td>9/27</td>
<td>- Avoiding Bias</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>- Nature of Nonverbal Communication; Assign Expectancy Violations Report</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 9/28-S</td>
<td>- Functions of Nonverbal Comm</td>
<td>Unit 1 WR</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/4</td>
<td>- Nonverbal Codes and Interpretations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Unit 1 Writing Response</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>- Expectancy Violations Theory Report</td>
<td>EVT due</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 10/5-S</td>
<td>- Research and Writing</td>
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<td>10/11</td>
<td>- APA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>- Initiating Relationships: Attraction &amp; Uncertainty</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 10/12-S</td>
<td>- Initiating Relationships: Conversations</td>
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<td>S 10/18</td>
<td>- Maintaining Relationships: Self-Disclosure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>- Stages of Relationship Development &amp; Dissolution (reading+activity)</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<td>M 10/19-S</td>
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<td>Unit 2 WR</td>
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<td>S 10/25</td>
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<td>ITA due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Dates</td>
<td>Assignments</td>
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| 11    | M 10/26-S 11/1 | -Managing Interpersonal Conflict (reading+activity)  
-Unit 2 Writing Response (assignment)  
-Interpersonal Theory Analysis due (assignment) | Chapter 9 and Chapter 10  
Unit 3 WR |
|       |             | -Groups vs. Teams and Stages of Development (reading+activity)  
- Group Roles and Norms (reading+activity)  
- Group Problem Solving, Conflict (reading+activity)  
-Unit 3 Writing Response (assignment) | Chapter 11 and Chapter 12  
*November 5 last day to drop* |
| 12    | M 11/2-S 11/8 | -Topic Selection & AA (reading+activity)  
- Organization, Outlining (reading+activity)  
-Assign individual presentation | Chapter 13  
Outline Draft #1 due |
| 13    | M 11/9-S 11/15 | -Delivery, Visual Aids (reading+activity)  
- Oral Citations and Research Chart Workshop (reading+activity)  
- Outline draft #1 due (assignment) | Chapter 13  
Outline Draft #1 due |
| 14    | M 11/16-S 11/22 | -Defining Persuasion/Theories (reading+activity)  
- Ethos, Logos, Pathos (reading+activity)  
- Fallacies (reading+activity)  
- Outline Draft #2 due (assignment) | Chapter 15  
Outline Draft #2 due |
| 15    | M 11/23-T 11/24 | Speech conferences  
Thanksgiving Break 11/25-11/27 | *students will receive information regarding scheduling* |
| 16    | M 11/28-T 11/29 | -Individual Persuasive Presentations  
All materials for Individual Persuasive Assignment due on assigned speech day! | *students will receive instructions regarding online submission and peer review* |
| Finals| Week 12/1-12/7 | Final Exam (Unit 4 Writing Response) Online | Unit 4 WR |
Campus Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University has adopted policies and practices for the Fall 2020 academic term to limit virus transmission. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses and course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.):

- **Self-monitoring**—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. **Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction.**
- **Face Coverings**—Face coverings (cloth face covering, surgical mask, etc.) must be properly worn in all non-private spaces including classrooms, teaching laboratories, common spaces such as lobbies and hallways, public study spaces, libraries, academic resource and support offices, and outdoor spaces where 6 feet of physical distancing is difficult to reliably maintain. Description of face coverings and additional guidance are provided in the Face Covering policy and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) available on the Provost website.
- **Physical Distancing**—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in course and course-related activities.
- **Classroom Ingress/Egress**—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- **To attend a face-to-face class, students must wear a face covering (or a face shield if they have an exemption letter).** If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Student Conduct office for sanctions. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day’s class remotely for all students.

**TAMU-CC Face Coverings**

TAMUCC Face Coverings Policy and FAQs:
https://www.tamucc.edu/fall-2020/face-coverings-faq/

Rule and Procedure:
https://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/34.99.99.c0.02_use_of_face_coverings.pdf