

Introduction to Relational & Organizational Communication

SPCM 130

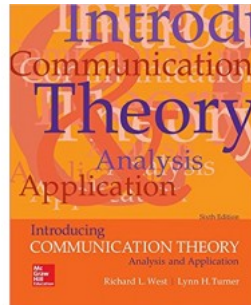
Course Description

The primary goal of this course is to explore communication in a variety of relational and organizational contexts. Students will be introduced to methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of human communication from a social scientific perspective. They will learn about the influence of group membership and individual differences in human behavior as it relates to communication phenomenon.

Textbook and Readings

Additional readings will be available on Canvas.

West, R. & Turner, L. H
(2018). *Introducing
Communication Theory:
Analysis and
Application* (6th ed.).
New York, NY:
McGraw-Hill
Education.



Course Learning Objectives

- Apply communication research methods to analyze and interpret communication phenomenon.
- Describe and discuss the influence of group membership and individual differences on conceptions of the self, perceptions of others, and communication in both relational and organizational contexts.
- Compare achievements, issues, and characteristics of societies of the world and its different cultures with respect to relating with others and organizing in the workplace.
- Think critically and write effectively about communication issues.

Assignment Overview

Writing Assignments (300 pts.)

Interpersonal Paper-150 pts.
Organizational Paper-150 pts.

Peer Reviews (40 pts.)

2 peer reviews at 20 pts. each

Quizzes (260 pts.)

13 quizzes at 20 pts. each

Discussion Boards (150 pts.)

10 discussions at 15 pts. each

Assignments

The assignments in this class have three broad purposes: 1) to exercise your critical thinking and problem solving skills, 2) to test your knowledge of communication theories, and 3) to encourage application of communication theory as you analyze contemporary issues in relationships, organizations, and cultures. Below is a brief synopsis of each of the assignments. More detailed descriptions will be posted on Canvas.

Writing Assignments—300 pts. (2 @ 150pts. each): There are two major writing assignments in this class. Both papers require you to collect data, analyze it based on theoretical frameworks we cover in class, and incorporate three scholarly articles into the discussion of your findings. These papers will be no more than 4 pages in length and must adhere to APA formatting.

Peer Review—40 pts. (2 @ 20pts. each): For each of your two papers, you will participate in a peer review. Critically examining your peers' papers provides you another opportunity to think critically about application of the theories. Additionally, you will benefit from articulate feedback from your peers. You will be required to submit your paper for peer review and provide feedback to one other classmate.

Quizzes—260 pts. (13 @ 20pts. each): Quizzes serve to incentivize reading of the class material and reading/listening to the powerpoint lectures as well as test your comprehension of the concepts covered. Each week you will be tested on the content covered in both the powerpoint and the assigned readings.

Discussion Boards—150 pts. (10 @ 15pts. each): Discussions will serve two functions: a) to engage in application exercises that help crystalize course concepts and b) to provide a space for you to interact with and learn from classmates. There will be eleven discussion boards throughout the course (your lowest score will be dropped) for which you will be required to post a response and then read and respond to classmate's posts. Your timely response is necessary to facilitate discussion amongst your peers, as such discussion board posts will not be accepted late. See the assignment description on Canvas for further instructions.

Grading Scale

A	697-750	C+	577-599
A-	676-696	C	525-576
B+	652-675	D	450-524
B	622-651	F	<450
B-	600-621		

Grading Policies

- You will receive the grade equivalent to the points you earned in the class. If you have earned 675 points you will receive a B+. I will not round up.
- Grade questions must be brought to me within one week of the assignment being returned.

Expectations

In order to facilitate individual success and to ensure an environment conducive to learning, I have several expectations of students in this class. Please follow these guidelines:

- Read and view the powerpoint each week so that you are prepared to take quizzes and to thoughtfully engage in the discussion boards.
- Respect your classmates and their opinions when engaging in discussion online.
- Do not take quizzes with classmates. These are to be individual assignments and each student will get a different set of questions to eliminate the temptation to cheat.
- Communicate proactively and promptly if you have questions or grading concerns via email.

Just as I have certain expectations for you, you can expect the following from me:

- I will respond to your emails in a timely fashion (this usually means within 24 hours).
- If needed, I will be available during my office hours, appointment, or via phone.
- I will do my best to clearly explain key concepts from the textbook and will also draw on other materials to further crystallize these concepts for you.
- I will provide timely and extensive feedback on all assignments.

Late Work

Late and/or incomplete work is not acceptable. Quizzes, discussion boards, and peer reviews will not be accepted late. Lateness of papers will result in a 10% reduction of the grade for the first late day, 20% for the second day late, 30% for the third day late, 40% for the fourth day late, 50% for the fifth day late and, so on...until the 10th day when no credit is possible for the paper. Please inform me well in advance of any scheduling problems. If you have a family or medical emergency, please contact me *before* your assignment is late to see what arrangements can be made.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog (p. 7) and the Student Conduct Code. On any assignment, suspicion of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) will be pursued commensurate with the CSU General Catalog. You are not permitted, on any assignment, to use other students' notes, copy their answers, or use their previous work. This class assumes that every time you put your name on an assignment, quiz, or exam, you are giving your word that the work is yours and was completed ethically. The CSU Institute for Learning and Teaching has provided guidelines for practicing academic integrity at <http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity/>. When in doubt, check!

Contingency Plan for Catastrophic Events

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Should such an emergency occur, I will post information about changes on Canvas and will send announcements via e-mail

Reasonable Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations, including materials given in an alternative format, will be made available for individuals with disabilities and in accordance with University policy. Please inform me as soon as possible and provide documentation from the Student Disability Center about any accommodations that you require.