

Communication 200
Communication as a Social Science
Fall 2006

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays: 3:30-5:00
Wednesdays: 10:00-11:30; 3:30-5:00
Thursdays: 10:00-11:30; 3:30-5:00
Other times by arrangement.

Please drop by and introduce yourself--I'd like to get to know each of you. You don't need a serious reason to see me. I'm also available to talk about questions, problems, or concerns you may have with this or any other class, your major, school, relationships, or anything else. If you need someone to talk to I'm here. If you can't make my office hours, talk with me before or after class or call me or email me and we can arrange another time.

Text:

Infante, D., Rancer, A. and Womack, D. (2003) **Building Communication Theory**.
Longrove, Ill.: Waveland Press, Inc.

Course Description:

This course is a survey of fundamental content in communication. It focuses on the practical usefulness of a social scientific approach to the study of communication. It introduces you to the nature of social scientific scholarship; major social scientific perspectives on the communication process; basic issues in the philosophy of science; the role of theory in research; beginning research methods; core theories of message production and reception; and major contextual theories of interpersonal, group, and organizational dynamics.

Course Objectives:

1. To have you describe and explain the nature, usefulness, methods and issues connected with a social scientific approach to the study of communication.
2. To have you describe and explain the major perspectives, issues, and theories of communication.
3. To have you demonstrate your ability to use concepts from theories of communication to explain actual communication behavior.

Grading:

Examination 1 100 points

Examination 2	100 points
Examination 3	100 points
Final Examination	100 points
Term Paper	100 points

Standards for letter grades:

A	= 90-100 points
B	= 80-89 points
C	= 70-79 points
D	= 60-69 points
F	= Below 60 points

I give plusses and minuses. For example, B grades are assigned as follows:

B-	= 80-82
B	= 83-86
B+	= 87-89

I do not grade on a curve. I will give as many As, Bs, etc. as are earned. Your course grade will be an average of all of your grades.

Examinations:

Each examination will consist of the following parts:

True-False	10-15 points	(10-15 one-point questions)
Multiple Choice	40-50 points	(20-25 two-point questions)
Short Answer	30-40 points	(5-8 six-point questions)
Essay	20 points	(1 question)

Examinations and Religious Holy Days

You may arrange to take an exam on an alternative date if the exam falls on a religious holy day. Notify your discussion instructor at least two weeks in advance of the holy day. Do not expect to be excused from taking the exam on the assigned date if you fail to notify your discussion instructor two weeks in advance of the holy day.

Obtaining Your Examination Grades:

Your exam will be passed back for you to examine in your Discussion Section after all exams have been graded. This will be about 9 days after the exam is given. If you are absent when the exams are returned, it is your responsibility to ask your Discussion Instructor to see your exam. If you have any questions or concerns about a grade, see your Discussion Instructor during his/her Office Hours. Questions or complaints about Exam 1 must be brought to your Discussion Instructor's attention before Exam 2 is administered; questions or complaints about Exam 2 must be raised before Exam 3 is given; concerns about Exam 3 must be raised before the Final Exam is given. (We will not go back over your exams after you receive your course grade and hunt for extra points.) Grades will be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to be aware your grades.

Make-up Exams:

Make-up exams will be held on the following lecture day after an exam is given. This semester all midterm exams will be given on Tuesdays; thus, the make-up exams will be administered on the following Thursdays during class time (i.e., 11:00-12:20). Get someone to take notes or tape record the lecture for you. The rooms where the make-up exams will be held will be distributed in lecture. You may take the make-up exam without penalty if you have a **valid, verifiable excuse**. If you do not have a valid excuse, you may still take the make-up exam, but you will be penalized 10 points. If you miss both the exam and the make-up exam, you must take the exam on the make-up day for the next exam. For example, if you miss Exam 1 and fail to take it on the make-up day, you must take the make-up exam on the make-up day for Exam 2. Notify your TA if you have to take a make-up exam. Bring your excuses when you take the make-up. If you have no excuse for missing the exam or its make-up, you may still take the exam, but you will be penalized 20 points.

Term Paper:

You will be assigned a theory of communication which you will describe, analyze, evaluate, and use to explain a communication episode. The assignment will be distributed about the seventh week of the semester, which is the point in the semester when I will be discussing these theories. In addition to a hard copy you must also turn in an electronic copy of your paper to Turnitin.com. You'll be told how to submit your paper electronically when the assignment is distributed in class. Turnitin.com will check your paper for plagiarism against their database of sources from past Comm. 200 papers and from the web. NOTE: All prior submitted Comm. 200 term papers are in the Turnitin.com database.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken in your Discussion Section. Your participation will be noted. Excellent attendance and outstanding participation may determine whether your grade will be raised if your final average is at the borderline between two grades; e.g., if your average is at the borderline between B and A (e.g., 89). If you have more than three unexcused absences your grade will not be raised even if you have outstanding participation. **Remember, it takes both excellent attendance and outstanding participation for a borderline grade to be raised.**

Bonus Points

You may earn a possible 15 bonus points, which will be added to the total number of points you earn on the four exams and term paper. You may earn points for participating as a subject in communication research studies conducted by School of Communication faculty, graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students **outside of class/discussion sections**. You must also write a one-page reaction paper describing the study and noting the connections you see between your research experience and any content you are learning in class. Each research study you participate in and write a report on will be worth 5 points. You may participate in a maximum of three research studies. You will not receive bonus points for studies

conducted during lecture or in your discussion section. Opportunities to sign-up for research studies will be announced in class.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The Annenberg School for Communication is committed to upholding the University's academic integrity code as detailed in the SCampus guide. It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code to the Office of Student Conduct. Any serious violation or pattern of violations of the academic integrity code will result in the student's expulsion from the Communication major or minor.

Respectful Behavior

I will communicate with respect to each of you. I expect you to communicate with me and with each other with respect.

I will start class on time and end class on time. I expect you to be in class before 11:00 so that I may start promptly. Coming to class late or leaving early shows a lack of consideration for your fellow students and disrespect for me.

Turn off your cell phones and pagers when you come to class. To let your phone ring in class is not only disruptive but also insensitive and rude.

A Personal Note:

I hope that you find the course informative, that it helps you feel comfortable about Communication as a major, that you meet new and possibly, lifelong friends, and, finally, that you have a very enjoyable and successful semester.

Class Schedule
Fall 2006

Aug.	22		Orientation
	24	Ch. 1	Communication Theory and Scholarship
	29		Continued
Sept.	31		Continued
	5	Ch. 2	The Idea of Theory
	7		Continued
	12		Continued
	14		Continued

	19		Continued
	21	Ch. 4	The Communicator
	26		Examination 1 (Chapters 1 and 2)
	28		Continued
Oct.	3		Continued
	5		Continued
	10		Continued
	12		Continued
	17	Ch. 5	The Message
	19		Continued
	24		Examination 2 (Chapters 4 and 5)
	26	Ch. 6	The Conversation
	31		Continued
Nov.	2	Ch. 7	Communication in Relationships
	7		Continued
	9		Continued
	14		Examination 3 (Chapters 6 and 7)
	16	Ch. 8	The Group Term Paper Due
	21		Continued
	23		Thanksgiving Holiday
	28	Ch. 9	The Organization
	30		Continued
Dec.	4		All Make-Up Exams
	12		Final Examination (Chapters 8 and 9),

8:00 - 10:00 AM

Note: Changes to the schedule may have to be made.