

Communication 200
Communication as a Social Science
Summer 2005

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Office Hours:

M through Th. 12:20 till 12:50. After class as needed.

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, or anything else. (I am the Director of the Undergraduate Program for the School of Communication.) If you need someone to talk to I'm available. If you can't make my office hours, see me before or after class, call me or email me and we can arrange another time.

Texts:

Littlejohn, S. **Theories of Human Communication.** Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2005, 8th edition.

Sereno, K. **Lecture Notes.** (You may purchase these notes at the Magic Machine in University Village.)

Course Description:

This course is an introductory survey of fundamental content in communication. It focuses on the practical usefulness of a social scientific approach to the study of communication (description, explanation, prediction, and application). It introduces you to the nature of social scientific scholarship; a range of 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 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 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:

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. Let me know in the beginning of the semester if any exam date falls on a religious holy day.

Make-Up Exams

You may take a make-up examination without any penalty if you have a valid, verifiable excuse (e.g., written excuse from a doctor). Family vacations, family reunions, your boss requiring you to work on the day of the exam, your having to entertain visitors from out-of-town, etc. are not valid excuses. In these cases, you may take a make-up examination, but you will be penalized 10 points. Do not ask to take the final examination early because your family has a summer trip already planned. If you cannot take the final exam at the time scheduled by USC, drop the course.

Term Paper

You will be given four communication scenarios to analyze. You will be required to use theoretic constructs from theories we have examined to explain the communication processes and effects in these scenarios. Details of this assignment will be distributed in class.

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken. 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. If you have more than two 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.

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 University Office of Student Conduct. Any serious violation or pattern of violations of the academic integrity code will result not only in an F for the course but also in 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 1:00 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
Summer 2005

May 18	Ch. 1.	Orientation Communication Theory and Scholarship
May 23	Ch. 2.	Continued The Idea of Theory
May 25	Ch. 4.	Continued The Communicator
May 30		Memorial Day Holiday
June 1		Examination 1 (Chapters 1 and 2) Continued
June 6	Ch. 5	The Message
June 8	Ch. 6	Continued The Conversation

June 1		Examination 2 (Chapters 6 and 7) Continued
June 15	Ch. 7	The Relationship
June 20	Ch. 8.	Continued The Group
June 22		Examination 3 (Chapters 9 and 12) Continued
June 27	Ch. 9	The Organization Term Paper Due
June 29		Final Examination (Chapters 13 and 14)

Note: The schedule may have to be changed.