COM 207: INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION INQUIRY

Instructor:

Email:

Contact: This is an online class, email will be used as the channel to reach the instructor. No in-person meetings, telephone calls, texts, Skype, or video chats will be used. Emails will be addressed Monday-Friday (normal working hours Arizona time), typically within 48 hours. Please resend your message if 48 hours have passed and you have not received a response. Emails sent Friday afternoon may not be returned until Monday morning.

Course Description:

Introduction to Communication Inquiry is a foundational course for all communication majors. It prepares you for more in-depth courses on single communication topics by showing you how communication theory and research interrelate. The course is structured as follows: Each week contains a Module. Each week's Module is comprised of a Theory Track and a connected Research Track. The Theory Track provides you with a variety of important communication theories, which will help you to understand communication in various contexts and introduce you to ways of knowing, or epistemology.

The Research Track introduces you to communication research. Research includes finding and understanding scholarly information about a specific communication theory, summarizing what is known about that communication theory, and identifying questions that the theory has not yet answered. You will select a communication theory, conduct a review of relevant communication research literature, and compose an academic literature review using APA style.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

> understand the basic paradigms of human communication inquiry.
> understand and apply the basic vocabulary of communication research and theory.
> recognize, describe, and explain a broad range of communication theories.
> locate, read, and critically summarize communication research studies.
> write a review of literature ("synthesis of scholarship") in appropriate academic style.
> explore the relationship between communication theory and practice in the context of your everyday life.

Required Texts:

Griffin, E., Ledbetter, A., & Sparks, G. (2015). *Communication: A first look at communication theory* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.*

It is strongly recommended that you obtain a copy of the 6th edition APA Manual. This is an important resource for doing well in <u>all</u> of your upper division communication classes. Used copies are readily available online.

Other texts, including academic articles posted to Blackboard as well as several that you will find and acquire on your own, are also part of your required readings.

ASU Disability Resource Center:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the ASU Disability Resource Center (DRC) will be appropriately accommodated. They must, however, inform the instructor of their needs as soon as possible, provide the appropriate documentation within the first week of class, and make all necessary arrangements with the DRC.

ASU Online Access:

This course is delivered solely through the Internet. Please see http://asuonline.asu.edu for online course information and http://asuonline.asu.edu/student-resources/technical-support for a list of **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS** that you need to access and properly use this course. If you are unfamiliar or uncomfortable with this type of computer-mediated environment, you may be better suited in a face-to-face section. Students are permitted to contact the instructor in any way other than email.

Please become familiar with the class interface as soon as the session begins. Seek help if necessary! All ASU campuses have resources available to help you succeed. *A lack of technical knowledge is not an acceptable excuse for late work. All students are responsible for managing their time in regards to assignments, exams, quizzes, discussion boards, and other course content.* There are infrequent periods where Blackboard is inaccessible for system maintenance. Information on these planned outages can be found at http://systemstatus.asu.edu/. You are responsible for compensating for planned system outages. Unplanned outages will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Technical Support:

If you need help with technical problems, you can email, chat live with a support technician, or call 855-278-5080 (choose option 3, then option 2). Email and Live Chat links to technical support are available on the course site. Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day. Please do not contact instructors regarding these matters, they cannot assist with either user-related or system-related technical issues.

An Important Note:

This class, as all others in the School, is taught in English. If English is not your first language and you are having difficulty in speaking, writing, or understanding—please seek assistance at the Writing Center on campus or with the International Student office which provides conversational groups for non-native speakers. Since this class is taught in English, all work in this course will be graded based on a common rubric that assumes an understanding of English.

Course Assignments and Schedule:

NOTE: Modules are comprised of one week, which is Monday through Sunday, with the exception of exams. Exams contained within Modules are open on specified days. *All chapter reading assignments and skill sets* for the week / module are due *before* midnight (meaning 11:59 PM) Arizona time on Sunday. Research Track assignments have specific due dates that vary throughout the term. Due to the self-directed nature of this online course and the time frames in which students may complete and submit coursework, late work cannot be accepted for any reason.

Each module will be open from the beginning of the session. *You are encouraged to look and work ahead of schedule.* However, please do the work in the proper order and pay close attention to due dates. To complete your literature review successfully, you will need to be working on it over the course of the course session. *You should understand that the other research assignments are all intended to build toward your literature review and should be taken seriously.* Finally, you should be very careful and fully prepared when you take the exams.

If you are repeating COM 207: You may ***NOT*** turn in work that duplicates or substantially reuses assignments or papers you did in this or any other class. Doing so constitues a breach of academic integrity and could result in failure for the assignment, failure for the class overall, or potentially a grade of XE (failure due to academic dishonesty). *You must do new work for this class.*

Point Breakdown:

Course Participation

Syllabus Quiz	5 Points
Getting to Know You Discussion Board Posts	10 Points

Theory Assignments

Theory in Action Discussion Board Posts (3, 10 points each)	30 Points
Theory Exam	100 Points

Research Assignments

APA Assignment	25 Points
Annotated Bibliography	50 Points
Coding Sheets (3 @ 10 points each)	30 Points
Literature Review	100 Points
Research Exam over Skill Sets	50 Points

TOTAL   **400 Points**

Final Grades - Grading Scale:

392 - 400 = A+	352 - 357.9 = B+	312 - 317.9 = C+	238 – 277.9 = D
363 - 391.9 = A	327 - 351.9 = B	278 - 311.9 = C	237.9 - below = E
358 - 362.9 = A-	318 - 326.9 = B-		

Deadlines:

The deadline for all online assignments (unless otherwise noted) is 11 PM Arizona time on the due date. Computer and/or system problems do NOT excuse late work or missed quizzes or exams. No late assignments will be accepted. Deadline extensions will be considered ONLY for those who immediately provide **written *and verifiable* documentation** of severe illness or death in the immediate family.

Submitting Assignments:

The APA assignment, the Annotated Bibliography, the Coding Sheets, and your Literature Review will be submitted to links labeled with the assignment title. All assignments are checked for plagiarism. **Always <u>attach</u> your assignments as a file (must be Word or Word compatible) appropriate assignment submission link using the Attach File option. Do not copy and paste your assignment or use the Text Submission / Write Submission option.** Assignments may NOT be submitted via e-mail. **It is your responsibility to properly submit assignments. Improperly submitted assignments will not be graded.**

Writing Requirements for ALL Assignments:

All papers should be typed in black 12-point Times New Roman, be double-spaced (unless otherwise noted) and have one-inch margins. All submissions must be your work and solely your work. You are expected to write at a *collegiate* level. [**Be aware:** Any use of "text message" jargon in a written assignment will result in 0 for the assignment.] Writing in a scholarly manner

is a major component of this course. If you need help with spelling, grammar, or APA format, contact the campus Writing Center which is available for on-line assistance: http://tutoring.asu.edu/online-tutoring. You may also visit the Writing Center in person http://tutoring.asu.edu/writing-centers.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Failure to properly apply APA style will significantly reduce your grades. Do not simply copy the index listing that led you to a source, assuming that it is APA. Do not rely on automatic APA format generators. They are *unlikely* to be correct and will cost you points. Please note that it is exceedingly difficult to apply APA properly without direct access to the APA manual. Online guides are rarely enough. ASU librarians may be able to provide you with some assistance but may not always be familiar with the most recent changes in APA style. The APA manual should be your main reference guide.

Grading will be based on:

1. Meeting ALL of the defined requirements.

2. Clarity of expression.

3. Quality of reasoning (logical, consistent, sufficient).

4. Mechanics (good writing, spelling, grammar, APA style, proper formatting, etc.).

Assignments:

Following are brief descriptions of the Com 207 assignments. *Specific instructions for each assignment are found at the "Course Home" under "Theory and Research Assignments." NOTE: Simply meeting criteria for a writing assignment does not guarantee an A; it usually only constitutes a C. Earning an A means that your work is exceptional and very nearly flawless. B work is excellent, C work is average, and D work is below average. E work fails to meet requirements and/or is otherwise insufficient.*

APA Writing Style Assignment:

25 points

Please complete Skill Set 8: *Mastering APA style* before completing this assignment. APA format may be new to you, <u>but you must learn to use it properly and proficiently in your academic writing.</u> You will be expected to know it in Com 308 and 407/408. For this assignment, submit a document that provides **nine APA examples**. You must create (i.e., make up) original examples rather than copying examples from other sources (e.g., the APA manual, Perdue Online Writing Lab). Don't worry about being clever in your original (i.e., made up) examples, but rather work on being accurate. Please put your full name and the name of the assignment on the document that you submit. You will lose one point for each error you make in this assignment. Errors in spacing, punctuation, and capitalization add up fast so be careful and review your assignment before submitting for grading!!

The assignment will be submitted through the assignment link **no later than 11 p.m. Arizona time on the due date**. *Technical problems do NOT excuse late submission*.

Annotated Bibliography:

50 points

The annotated bibliography is a list of sources (in this case, academic/scholarly journal research articles), each of which is followed by an annotation or a brief description of the source. The annotated bibliography will serve as an initial building block for your literature review/"synthesis of scholarship."

- Four of the **five sources** you employ for the assignment must come from communication journals. All the articles must be research studies. **Do not use theoretical essays, metatheoretical analyses, dissertations or conference papers** that talk about a theory but don't engage in original research. If you have questions about whether or not an article is appropriate for the assignment, don't hesitate to ask your instructor. Additionally, **all articles must be based on a communication theory described by Griffin in our course text**, preferably (but not required) one that we have covered in the course. (e.g., expectancy violations theory; relational dialectics, social penetration theory, etc.) such that you will eventually be able to make some claims about the research conducted from your theory of choice (this builds the foundation for your eventual literature review). Ideally all your articles will be grounded in one single communication theory.

The assignment will be submitted through the assignment link no later than 11 p.m. Arizona time on the due date. Technical problems do NOT excuse late submission.

Coding Sheets:

10 points each, 10 x 3 = 30 points total (you'll complete three and submit them as one document)

Coding sheets outline key aspects of a research study in a scholarly article. The articles and the coding sheets should help you write your Literature Review. Thus, you will choose research articles for your coding sheets that are all based on the same one theory, the theory you will be writing about in your literature review assignment. **Do not use theoretical essays, metatheoretical analyses, dissertations or conference papers** that talk about a theory but don't engage in original research. If you have questions about whether or not an article is appropriate for the assignment, don't hesitate to ask your instructor. You will complete **three** coding sheets. The assignment will be submitted through the assignment link no later than 11 p.m. Arizona time on the due date. Technical problems do NOT excuse late submission.

Literature Review:

100 points

The process of writing a literature review includes finding, reading, and evaluating current research on a specific theory. In this assignment, you will be required to include the following sections in your paper: 1) Introduction; 2) Theoretical Discussion; 3) Synthesis of Scholarship; and, 4) Conclusion. The assignment will be submitted through the assignment link no later than 11 p.m. Arizona time on the due date. Technical problems do NOT excuse late submission.

Course Policies:

Participation and Accountability - The content of this course is complicated. Read all of the assigned chapters and review the outlines and summaries, which are provided to assist in your learning **but are not a substitution for your reading**. Missing the deadline for completion of an assignment, a paper, an exam, or a discussion posting is never acceptable. You will receive a **zero** on an exam unless you have a fully and officially **documented** and viable excuse for not taking it on time.

Academic Integrity - The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication strongly believe in academic integrity; thus cheating and plagiarism is not tolerated. If a student is charged with academic dishonesty and found to be in violation, disciplinary action will be taken. For further information, please read the Student Academic Integrity Policy and the code of conduct for The Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at: http://www.asu.edu/clas/communication/policies/. Please read the CLAS policies at http://clas.asu.edu/students/ai. All assignments will be checked on Turnitin for plagiarism.

Use of Language - Since how we use language does affect our perceptions, you are asked to use gender neutral language in all of your work. In other words, unless you are directly writing about a man, use words like people or humankind and not the generic "he." This is a little easier if you use plural language.

Grades: If you have a question or concern about a grade you should send a **detailed** description of your grade concern to me within **three** days of the posted grade. I will carefully review the posted grade and your question/concern and respond to you within one week. **I reserve the right to lower your score after taking the time to re-assess a grade.** Please read the following for an understanding of what I consider to be a fair grade.

 A & A- = Writing excellence for all assignments, at least 90% on exams, all work submitted on time, commitment to course, respect.

 B+ = An ability to think critically and display this in papers and exams, and an above average commitment to the course.

 B & B- = Similar to B+ work, but missing some of the criteria listed above.

 C+ = Completion of all assignments, adequate understanding of course work, indicative of solid effort and understanding.

 C = Completion of all assignments, average scores on papers and exams.

 D = Below average work, usually indicative of missed assignments, not following assignment instructions, or poor exam scores.

 E = Failure to meet the course requirements.

Read this syllabus carefully. By remaining enrolled in the class, you have accepted the conditions and requirements of the course. The requirements and rules indicated in this syllabus are non-negotiable. You should drop the class immediately if any aspects of the course, including rules and requirements are not acceptable to you.