

COMMUNICATION THEORY *FALL 2017*

COMM2315-002
TBD

Dr. Brian W. Horton

brianhorton@uta.edu

Fine Arts Building 413C

(817) 272-2163 (Department of Communication - Main Office Telephone)

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00AM - 12:00PM; by appointment.

TIME AND PLACE OF CLASS MEETINGS: MWF, 10-10:50

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT: This course examines concepts and processes related to the study of communication theory in interpersonal, group, public, organizational, mass media and intercultural contexts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ☐ Describe theories in interpersonal, organizational, mass media and intercultural communication
- ☐ Use communication theories to understand how we and others communicate
- ☐ Improve your communicate competenc in intercultural contexts
- ☐ Think theoretically
- ☐ Think critically

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS: Griffin, E. (2014). A first look at communication theory. (9th ed.). NY: McGraw-Hill)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- ☐ Regular access to Blackboard to take the online quizzes
- ☐ Access to films for Group concept presentation

Classroom Technology Policy: Please switch off cell-phones. Please leave the class room to use any e-devices **except during quizzes**.

ATTENDANCE: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have elected to take attendance but will not factor attendance into the grade.

GRADING/ASSESSMENT

| ASSESSMENT | POINTS | TOTAL % OF GRADE |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| 7 INDIVIDUAL ONLINE QUIZZES (20 POINTS EACH) | 140 (20PTS * 8) | 30% |
| 5 GROUP QUIZZES (25 POINTS EACH) | 100 (20PTS * 4) | 20% |
| 5 EXAMS (100 POINTS EACH) | 500 (100PTS * 5) | 40% |
| GROUP PRESENTATION/ACTIVITY | 100 | 10% |

DESCRIPTIONS OF MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS: The course has been designed to promote active learning AND learning at multiple stages.

INDIVIDUAL QUIZZES (30%): All individual quizzes will be completed on Blackboard. You will have between 20-30 minutes to complete each quiz. All quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions. Once you start a quiz, **YOU MUST COMPLETE IT DURING THAT ATTEMPT.**

GROUP QUIZZES (20%): During the second week, you will be randomly assigned to a group. Once you are assigned to a group, you will need to sit next to your group members. This is necessary for you to interact with your group members and to take the group quizzes.

You will need an IF-AT form to take the group quiz. I will provide you with these forms. You will have approximately 25 minutes to complete 10 questions with your team. Once you have completed your team quiz and calculated your team score, you will hand in the text questions and your IF-AT Form. If you are late to the group quiz, you may not take it.

MAKE-UP EXAMS: If you miss an exam because of a documented absence, you will be allowed to make up the exam. All make up exams must be completed within 5 days of the documented absence.

EXPECTATIONS FOR OUT-OF-CLASS STUDY: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc.

DROP POLICY: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

The last drop date for the course is **April 3rd, before 4:00 p.m. CST.**

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

TITLE IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

















FINAL REVIEW WEEK: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the left and up the stairs.

When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Course Schedule

| # | Day | Date | Topic | Class Preparation | Due |
|-----|-----|-------|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1.1 | W | 01/21 |  Introduction to the course | --- | --- |
| 1.2 | F | 01/23 |  What is theory? | 1, 2 | |
| 1.3 | M | 01/26 |  Evaluating theories | 3 | • QUIZ 1 (CH. 1-3) |
| 2.1 | W | 01/28 |  Seven traditions | 4 | |
| 2.2 | F | 01/30 |  Symbolic Interactionism | 5 | |
| 2.3 | M | 02/02 |  Symbolic Interactionism  Expectancy Violations Theory | 5, 7 | |
| 3.1 | W | 02/04 |  Expectancy Violations Theory | 7 | • QUIZ 2 (CH. 5, 7) |
| 3.2 | F | 02/06 |  *Constructivism | 8 | |
| 3.3 | M | 02/09 |  *Constructivism  Uncertainty Reduction Theory | 8, 10 | • QUIZ 3 (CH. 8, 10) |
| 4.1 | W | 02/11 |  Uncertainty Reduction Theory | 10 | |
| 4.2 | F | 02/13 |  Social Information Processing Theory | 11 | |
| 4.3 | M | 02/16 |  Social Information Processing Theory  Group Presentation and Activity | 11 | |
| 5.1 | W | 02/18 |  Group Presentation and Activity | | |
















“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Brian Horton.”

Course Schedule

| # | Day | Date | Topic | Class Preparation | Due |
|-----|-----|-------|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 5.2 | F | 02/20 |  EXAM 1 (Chapters 5, 7, 8, 10, 11) | | |
| 5.3 | M | 02/23 |  Relational Dialectics | 12 | |
| 6.1 | W | 02/25 |  Relational Dialectics  Communication Privacy Management Theorydg | 12, 13 | |
| 6.2 | F | 02/27 |  Communication Privacy Management Theory  Elaboration Likelihood Model | 13, 16 | |
| 6.3 | M | 03/02 |  Elaboration Likelihood Model  Cognitive Dissonance Theory (Video Lecture) | 16, 17 | • QUIZ 4 (CH. 12, 13, 16) |
| 7.1 | W | 03/04 |  Group Presentation and Activity | | |
| 7.2 | F | 03/06 |  EXAM 2 (Chapters 12, 13, 16, 17) | | |
| 7.3 | M | 03/16 |  Functional Perspective on Group Decision Making | 18 | |
| 8.1 | W | 03/18 |  Functional Perspective on Group Decision Making  *Cultural Approach to Organizations | 18, 20 | |
| 8.2 | F | 03/20 |  *Cultural Approach to Organizations  Critical Theory of Communication in Organizations | 20, 21 | |
| 8.3 | M | 03/23 |  Critical Theory of Communication in Organizations | 21 | • QUIZ 5 (CH. 18, 20, 21) |
| 9.1 | W | 03/25 |  Rhetoric | 22 | |









“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Brian Horton.”

Course Schedule

| # | Day | Date | Topic | Class Preparation | Due |
|------|-----|-------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 9.2 | F | 03/27 |  Narrative Paradigm | 24 | |
| 9.3 | M | 03/30 |  Group Presentation and Activity | --- | • QUIZ 6 (CH. 22, 24) |
| 10.1 | W | 04/01 |  Exam 3 (Chapters 18, 20, 21, 22, 24) | | |
| 10.2 | F | 04/03 |  Semiotics | 26 | |
| 10.3 | M | 04/06 |  Semiotics | 26 | |
| 11.1 | W | 04/08 |  Cultural Studies | 27 | |
| 11.2 | F | 04/10 |  Cultural Studies | 27 | |
| 11.3 | M | 04/13 |  Uses and Gratifications | 28 | • QUIZ 7 (CH. 26, 27) |
| 12.1 | W | 04/15 |  Uses and Gratifications  Cultivation Theory | 28, 29 | |
| 12.2 | F | 04/17 |  Cultivation Theory  Agenda-Setting Theory | 29, 30 | |
| 12.3 | M | 04/20 |  Agenda-Setting Theory | 30 | |
| 13.1 | W | 04/22 |  Group Presentation and Activity | | |
| 13.2 | F | 04/24 |  Exam 4 (Chapters 26, 27, 28, 29, 30) | | |

“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Brian Horton.”

Course Schedule

| # | Day | Date | Topic | Class Preparation | Due |
|-------------|----------|--------------|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 13.3 | M | 04/27 |  Communication Accommodation Theory | 31 | |
| 14.1 | W | 04/29 |  Face-Negotiation Theory | 32 | • QUIZ 8 (CH. 31, 32) |
| 14.2 | F | 05/01 |  Speech Codes | 33 | |
| 14.3 | M | 05/04 |  Genderlect Styles | 34 | |
| 15.1 | W | 05/06 |  Muted Group Theory | 36 | |
| 15.2 | F | 05/08 |  Group Presentation and Activity | | |
| 15.3 | M | 05/11 |  EXAM 5 (Chapters 31, 32, 33, 34, 36)  Exam is 8:00 - 10:30 AM | | |

“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Brian Horton.”