

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown  
Introduction to Communication  
Course Syllabus  
Summer 2018

Dr. Patty Wharton-Michael  
Office Location: 249B Biddle Hall  
Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. 11:40-12:10, and also by appointment  
Office Phone: 269-7983  
Email: wharton@pitt.edu

Required Textbook: The required textbook is *Human Communication; The Basic Course*, by Joseph A. Devito 12<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup> edition

Course Goals: This course seeks to help you learn more about

- theories of communication, and the diversity of the discipline;
- the importance of culture in all forms of human communication;
- how you can communicate more effectively in a world that's becoming increasingly multicultural;
- ethical principles and dilemmas that surface in communication interactions;
- the connection of mass media to interpersonal, small group and other areas of communication;
- listening skills; improving receptive and analytic skills;
- speech planning: topic and purpose formulation;
- speech presentation skills: delivering the messages effectively;
- the role of communication in a democratic society.
- the role and influence of computer-mediated communication.

Class Attendance:

Regular attendance and active participation in group discussions will contribute greatly to learning course material. Since the summer course is an intensive course of study over a 3 week period, students should not miss a class. Leaving class early will result in ½ day absence. Attending class is necessary to contribute toward participation in this course. Grading for participation is explained below. If you miss more than once class, your final grade for the course will be reduced by 10 points for each day missed (beyond the first missed class).

Grading:

Class Attendance & Participation:	10%
Journal Critique	10%
Exams	60%
Public Comm Report:	10%
Film Response:	10%

### Class Attendance & Participation: 10%

Students are expected to 1) regularly attend class, 2) participate in group and class discussion, and 3) and complete any homework assignments provided. Ten percentage points have been selected because of the high level of engagement expected from you in this course. The majority of classes will consist of working in teams to complete exercises that will clarify the readings you have done for class. You are expected to attend class having read your assignments and prepared to participate in group discussion and activities. If you miss class, you are unable to make up in-class exercise points. **Simply attending class, does NOT mean you are participating.** If you are texting or not contributing to group discussions, you will not earn participation points for the class. Please see the grading rubric listed on Courseweb for a description of how participation is graded.

### Exams: 60%

There will be three exams given to test students' knowledge and understanding of key concepts and terminology. The exams will each count for 20% of your grade.

### Journal Critique: 10%

Students will conduct an oral critique of a scholarly journal article, which relates to the topics and theories discussed in class. A list of the journal articles is attached to the syllabus, and students must select one article to critique. The critique must discuss the authors' rationale, theoretical framework, methodology, results, limitations, implication, and suggestions for future research. Students are expected to present a **critique** of the research, rather than simply a summary. The oral presentation should be 10-12 minutes in length, and should include a PowerPoint as a visual aid. **The outline should follow the format of the working outline provided on the course website**, and should be submitted to the instructor before beginning the oral presentation in class.

### Film Response: 10%

Students will respond to a film presented in class. The instructor will provide a set of prompts after viewing the film. Papers should be typed, and submitted the following class.

### Public Communication Analysis: 10%

The public communication project addresses a public problem or issue of concern. An additional handout will be provided, which will outline the requirements for the paper and oral report.

### Students with disabilities:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Health & Wellness (OHW), G-10 Student Union Building, (814) 269-7119 to schedule an appointment as early as possible in the term. OHW will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### Academic Integrity:

All students and faculty at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown are bound by and should be familiar with the University's guidelines for academic integrity. The University of Pittsburgh at

Johnstown's policy makes clear that plagiarism (including on speech outlines and-or in papers, the absence of citation of others' work), cheating on exams, and other forms of dishonesty cannot be tolerated in a university and will not be tolerated in this class. Violation of academic integrity will be punished according to penalties outlined by UPJ policy. Plagiarized or imprecisely documented written or oral work will receive an "F" grade, and could be grounds for failure in the course.

**Note:**

- ✓ If class is canceled, it is your responsibility to check our Courseweb website for instructions and assignments. Postings may be made up until midnight of the day of cancellation.
- ✓ You **MUST** check your Pitt email account each day. If you use another email account you may consider forwarding your email from one account to the other.
- ✓ When you communicate through email, please remember you are not sending a text. Use a greeting and sign your name after the message as you would in any professional communication message.
- ✓ All assignments (including homework assignments) should be handed in typed.
- ✓ Cell phones must be on a silent ringer and absolutely **NO TEXTING** during class. If you are texting, you are not participating in class, and you will receive a deduction in your participation grade for this course (i.e. you will be marked absent and receive no participation points if you are texting).
- ✓ Students are expected to respect each other and the instructor by paying attention and not speaking, texting or engaging with electronic devices (e.g. listening to music or movies) during presentations. Failure to do so will result in an absence for the day resulting in a penalty of participation grade.
- ✓ Laptops and tablets are not permitted for taking notes in the classroom. (If you have an e-book, please see instruction for permission to use electronic text in class). While there are occasional times students are permitted to use electronic devices in group exercises technology should not be used unless the instructor has given permission to do so.
- ✓ Textbooks should be brought to class.
- ✓ You need to show up for class on time. If you are late more than once, you will not receive participation points for the class that you arrive late to attend.

Tentative Schedule: Please note students are responsible for following changes made to the schedule. If a change is necessary, an announcement will be made and an updated schedule will be posted on Courseweb.

Week 1	May 14	Introduction & Course Overview Chapter 1, Preliminaries to Human Communication <i>Sign-up for Article Critique</i>
	May 15	Communication Research (no reading assignment) (Understanding Methodology Used in the Communication Discipline)  Public Speaking Topics Supporting and Organizing, Style and Delivery
	May 16	Rhetorical Communication (reading provided on Courseweb under Course Documents) Assign Public Comm Project  Chapter 2, Culture and Communication
	May 17	Exam Review 1 Chapter 3, The Self and Perception (tested on Exam 2) Submit selection of speech for Public Comm. Assignment
Week 2	May 21	<b>Exam 1</b> Culture Film
	May 22	Chapter 4, Listening Chapter 5, Verbal Communication <b>Film Response Due</b>
	May 23	Chapter 6, Nonverbal Communication Nonverbal Homework Due
	May 24	Public Communication Presentations Chapter 7, Interpersonal Communication (tested on Exam 3)
Week 3	May 28	Memorial Day (No Class)
	May 29	Chapter 10, Small Group Communication Chapter 13, Interpersonal, Small Group, and Workplace Conflict <b>Exam 2</b>
	May 30	Mass Media and Communication (reading provided on Courseweb under Course Documents) <i>Killing Us Softly 4</i>
	May 31	<b>Exam 3</b>

## Intro to Communication-Article Critique Sign-up

May 17: Names \_\_\_\_\_

### The Self and Perception

Lin, W., Zhang, X., Song, H., & Omori, K. (2016). Health information seeking in the web 2.0 age: Trust in social media, uncertainty reduction, and self-disclosure. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 56, 289-294. Doi: doi:10.1016/j.chb.2015.11.055

May 22: Names \_\_\_\_\_

### Listening

Chapin, J., Froats, T., & Hudspeth, T. (2013). Who's Listening to Victims? Nurses' Listening Styles and Domestic Violence Screening. *International Journal Of Listening*, 27(1), 2-12. doi:10.1080/10904018.2012.639651

May 23: Names \_\_\_\_\_

### NonVerbal Communication

Laustsen, L., & Petersen, M. B. (2016). Winning Faces Vary by Ideology: How Nonverbal Source Cues Influence Election and Communication Success in Politics. *Political Communication*, 33(2), 188-211. doi:10.1080/10584609.2015.1050565

May 29: Names \_\_\_\_\_

### Small Group Communication

Ferraris, C. (2004). Investigating NASA's intergroup decision-making: **Groupthink** and intergroup social dynamics. *Conference Papers -- International Communication Association, 2004 Annual Meeting*.