

Augsburg College – Rochester Campus

Instructor: Kelly Soczka Kaiser

Office Hours: Before or after class or by appointment

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Please refer to records and registration on the inside Augsburg Page (<http://augnet.augsburg.edu>) for the latest information on room assignments.

Textbook

West, R. & Turner, L. (2009). *Introducing communication theory: Analysis and application*. (4th ed). New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

ISBN #: 978-0-07-338507-5

Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the basic theories in the field of communication. During the course, we will engage in stimulating discussions, participate in personal reflection, and will learn through invigorating classroom activities. This course will explore the discipline of communication through organizational, interpersonal, rhetorical, and mass media theoretical lenses. In the process of examination, we will apply these theories to our everyday life experiences as humans. This course will give you a foundation of communication knowledge with which to build upon in future communication courses.

Learning Objectives

The following goals will guide our learning throughout this course:

- To better understand humans as individuals and their roles in a larger social systems
- To understand the historical context and research methods of the social sciences
- To be able to identify problems and frame research questions relating to humans and their experiences
- To become familiar with the process of theory building and theoretical frameworks used by the social sciences
- To describe discipline specific knowledge and its applications
- To understand the differences among and the commonalities across humans and their experience, as tied to such variables as gender, race, socioeconomic status, etc.
- To sharpen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance is a necessity due to the nature of the course. Your involvement and participation are required – whether it be as a presenter, respondent, or listener. One absence will be tolerated, but more than one absence and you will most likely be asked to drop the course.

Late Assignments: All work is due by the end of the class period listed in the syllabus. Any written work that is that turned in late will receive an **automatic 25%** reduction regardless of the excuse presented by the student. If you do happen to miss an exam, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements with me to make up the exam. Specific guidelines and instructions for each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle.

Missed Presentations: If one of your absences occurs on the date you are required deliver your speech, you may make up the presentation. Unfortunately, your speech will only be worth half credit. For example, if the presentation was worth 100 points, you may give your speech during the next class period, but the maximum amount of points you will receive is 50 points.

Writing Considerations: All work turned in for a grade must be **typed**, double spaced, and cited according to the APA style manual. All papers and outlines must be in Times New Roman Font, Size 12. Deductions will be taken for not following these instructions.

Exam Study Guides: You will be provided with a midterm and final exam study guide to aid in your preparation for these exams. You will not be able to use any “cheat sheets” or other aids when completing your exams. The purpose of testing students is to ascertain the amount of information students are able to comprehend and retain.

Electronic Citations: Be aware that not all electronic citations are correct. Before cutting and pasting an electronic reference into your bibliography or works cited, make sure you double-check the format with an official APA style guide.

Academic Dishonesty: All work presented in this class must be no less than 100% your own. All violations will be handled through the University Judicial System. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Classroom Conduct

You will be exposed to new and divergent views in this class. Every student has a right to freely express his or her opinions, ideas, and questions throughout the semester. Please respect everyone’s point of view, even if it is contrary to your own. You do not have to agree with everyone (including me!!), but I do ask that you listen with an open mind. This is what a liberal arts education is all about – opening oneself up to new philosophies, realities, and possibilities!

Electronic Media: Please try to remember to turn off your cell phones, blackberries or pagers during class. A laptop is not required for class and can be distracting to other students.

Moodle

What is Moodle?: Moodle is an online electronic instructional aid for both the student and the instructor.

How can I access Moodle?: When you are on the Augsburg Augnet website (<http://augnet.augsburg.edu/>), enter you username and password (on the left hand side of the page, same password and username as your email), double click on the hyperlink “Moodle”

What information will I find on Moodle for this course?

- This syllabus
- Helpful websites
- Study aids & writing assistance information (APA guides, templates, etc.)
- All assignment descriptions & grading rubrics
- Journal articles assigned for the course

Coursework

Readings: Since this is a new pedagogically designed book, there are many text boxes, pop quizzes, and reflection boxes. When you are reading your textbook, try to read all of the regular text first, then go back and read the text boxes. If you bounce around in your reading it will be hard to retain and comprehend the main messages of the chapter. Those who do not keep up with the reading in the course will have difficulty with this course.

Chapter Outline & Presentation (50 pts.): Each student will pick one class period in which they will teach the class about a chapter presented in the book. Each student will write a 3 to 5 page outline of the chapter and will provide a hard copy of said outline to their classmates to review during their presentation. The student will also present at least 3 discussion questions for the class and any suggestions for further research.

Midterm Exam (100 pts.) & Final Exam (100 pts.): The midterm exam will cover the first half of the course and the final the second half of the course. Further details will be discussed in class.

Journal Article Paper (100 pts): First, choose an article from a communication journal and clear the article with me (a list of journals are posted on Moodle). Next you will write a 5 to 6 page analysis of the article. The first two pages should describe what the article was about and the research methods used. The following pages should critique the article. How does it apply to course concepts? Does it have any applications possible applications in the “real world”? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the article? A good critique will include a clear summary of the article and will help the reader see the strengths, weaknesses, and connections to other ideas. Further details will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle.

Individual Research Paper (150 pts): You will conduct research on a theory that is of greatest interest to you and prepare a research paper that includes: an Introduction, Literature Review, Analysis, and Conclusion. Further details will be discussed in class and posted on Moodle.

Course Outline

Grade Calculation: This course runs a standard grading scale. The grading scale is as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Final Grade</u>		
Midterm Exam	100	A	500 – 450 = 4.0	D+ 349 – 330 = 1.5
Final Exam	100	B+	459 – 430 = 3.5	D 329 – 300 = 1.0
Journal Article	100	B	429 – 400 = 3.0	
Individual Research Paper	150	C+	399 – 380 = 2.5	
Chapter Outline	50	C	379 – 350 = 2.0	
Total	500			

All papers and exams will be returned to students by the following class period. Students should retain their work in order to ensure grade accuracy. Please notify me immediately if you believe your grade was incorrectly calculated.

LAF Courses in Humanities

The following language is required by Augsburg as part of this syllabus. Feel free to consider this message:

This course fulfills a Liberal Arts Foundation requirement in the Humanities. Augsburg's Humanities departments and programs include Communication Studies, English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Religion, American Indian Studies, and Women's Studies. These eight disciplines engage human experience from different perspectives using different modes of discourse, but they share a common goal of rigorous inquiry into ways written and spoken language can record, discover, and creatively express the truths of human experience. In this Humanities Liberal Arts Foundation class you will explore some the range and possibilities of that experience.

Depending on the course you take you may investigate our diversity of human nature and culture, our forms of communication and persuasion, our powers of reason, sympathy, and imagination, our needs as individuals and roles as citizens, and our relationship to the beautiful, the transcendent, and the divine. As the philosopher Martha Nussbaum has written, "Humanities courses help students use reason and imagination to enter the broader worlds of cultures, groups, and ideas."

Tentative Course Schedule - Fall 2009

Date	Agenda	Assignments	Reading
9/15	Intro. to Research Intro. to Course		Print syllabus Read chapters: 1-4
9/29	Intrapersonal Theory	Email me a copy of your article before class	Read chapters: 5-8
10/13	Groups & Org. Theory	Journal Article Assignments Due	Read chapters: 14-17
10/27	Rhetorical Theory	Midterm Exam Research Paper Topic is Due	Read chapters: 18-20
11/10	Media Theory		Read chapters: 21-23
11/24	Cultural Theory	Individual Research Papers Due	Read chapters: 26-29
12/5 Sat.	Individual Research Paper Discussions	Final Exam	

We will be skipping Interpersonal Theories because we covered these theories intensely last semester. These theories will appear again in other courses as well (organizational comm., persuasion, etc.)