

U601-110: Introduction to Communication

Course Format: Online

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Course credits: 3

Pre/Corequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the concepts and theories of communication, and then asks students to apply those concepts and theories to interpersonal interactions, small group processes, and public addresses. Through participating in the course, students will recognize the importance of communication's relevance to everyday life, and the importance of critically examining and celebrating diverse voices.

Required Course Materials:

- Communication in the Real World: An Introduction to Communication Studies, University of Minnesota Open Library, ISBN 978-1-946135-07-0
 - Full Text: Communication In The Real World (Full).pdf provided in your course. Websites with multiple e-versions are also provided in your course.
 - Note: This is the full e-text. Edited chapters will be provided for each unit

Required Technology:

You will need:

- The ability to access the Internet and this course
- Access to a video camera (cell phone cameras work as well) that is able to record clear audio and video. (You will need to upload these to YouTube, which you can do this privately, share them via the Dropbox or other web-hosted site, or be able to send them as a physical copy.)
- Speakers or headphones for your computer, in order to listen to podcasts and course materials
- Capability to view YouTube/streaming videos

Course Learning Objectives

- Summarize the meanings of interpersonal communication, small group communication, and public speaking.
- Describe key concepts related to communication processes.
- Think critically about communication and its relevance to our lives, at personal, community, and cultural levels.
- Demonstrate what it means to communicate ethically and inclusively.
- Interpret one's own communication style and its strengths and weaknesses.
- Evaluate the communication in a group in your life by using the components of effective group communication.
- Communicate how the concept of media literacy is helpful in handling mass media messaging.
- Apply the fundamentals of effective public speaking into public speaking presentations delivered in the course.

Course Overview:

UNIT #	Unit Topic	Evaluated Activities
1	Fundamentals of Communication	Written Assignment 1
2	Public Speaking	Written Assignment 2
		Speech 1: Oral Interpretation
3	Verbal Communication	Written Assignment 3
4	Non Verbal Communication	Written Assignment 4
		Paper 1: Character Analysis
5	Perception and Identity	Written Assignment 5

6	Communication and Culture	Written Assignment 6
		Speech 2: Speech of Demonstration
7	Listening	Written Assignment 7
8	Interpersonal Communication	Written Assignment 8
9	Group Communication	Written Assignment 9
		Paper 2: Group Communication
10	Social Media	Written Assignment 10
		Speech 3: Peak Experience Speech
		Final Paper: Reflection

Evaluation Methods:

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

1. Written Assignments (100 points total)
2. Papers (90 points total)
3. Speeches (80 points total)

Written Assignments (100 Points)

There are 10 unit writing assignments, each worth 10 points, which require short essay responses. These range from answering questions from the book to analyzing your own unique experiences with communication. You will need to draw on the concepts from the text, commentary, as well as any required media that is required for each unit. Through these assignments, you will come to understand the key components of communication, their impact on your own experiences, and how to become a more effective communicator.

Papers (90 Points)

For this course, you will need to write three papers, each worth 30 points. The first paper will ask you watch a well-known Hollywood film and draw on the characters in it to connect the concepts that we've studied to the communication within the film. The second paper will ask you to draw upon a past or current group experience and, using the group chapters as a guide, analyze and reflect on the communication within that group and what could/would have made it more effective. For the third, final paper in this course, you will need to draw on all of the course materials and reflect on your overall learning for the course.

Speeches (80 Points)

You will be asked to give three speeches for this course: Oral Interpretation Speech (20 points), Demonstration Speech (30 points), and Peak Experience Speech (30 points). You must have an audience of at least 4 people for each speech. An audience is an important part of the public speaking process, and is a requirement to pass the speeches. You will need to record these speeches, and submit them so that I can give you feedback on those speeches. Please read about audience guidelines and submission instructions in the Course Information Module. The speeches will ask you to ask to give an oral interpretation (reading a children's story), to demonstrate a skill or process, and to deliver a "Peak Experience" speech in which you talk about a pivotal moment in your life.

Exam Method: There are no exams in this course.

Grading Scale:

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and to determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.