

University of North Texas at Dallas
 Fall 2013
 Syllabus

COMM 1010D-092
Introduction to Communication (3 Hours)

Department of Languages & Communication

Division of Liberal Arts & Life Sciences

Instructor Name: Tanisha S. Bell, M.Ed.
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Office Hours: Mondays 5:30PM-6:30PM
Virtual Office Hours: N/A

Classroom Location: DAL 2, #338
Class Meeting Days and Times: Mondays 7:00PM-9:50PM

Course Catalog Description: Examination of how communication principles and skills influence our understanding of current social issues such as global climate crisis, health care, human rights, diversity, and poverty. Focus on practical applications and community engagement includes experimental learning with community partners. Oral communication skills and collaborative group building skills are emphasized. This course satisfies the Discovery requirement of the University Core Curriculum.

Prerequisites: None
Co-requisites: None

Required Text: Wood, J. T. (2011/2012). *Communication in Our Lives, 6th Edition*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Recommended Text and References: N/A

Access to Learning Resources: UNT Dallas Library:
 Phone: 972-780-3625
 Web: <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm>
 UNT Dallas Bookstore:
 Phone: 972-780-3652
 Email: 1012mgr@fheg.follett.com

Course Overview: COMM 1010 is a survey course of communication principles and communication contexts. Its goal is to create learning experiences for students to better understand and appreciate what communication is, how it works, when it breaks, and how to excel at being an effective communicator. During the course of the semester, students will complete several experiential projects and assignments, work in small groups, and analyze communicative encounters in interpersonal, organizational, team, public, and mass media environments.

Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, the student will...

- Understand the *influence of communication* in our personal, professional, and public lives.
- Explain the *role of perception* and cognitive schemata in communication.
- Recognize *norms and values* that underlie communicative practices of various communities.
- Identify reasons, causes, and motives behind interpersonal and group *conflicts*.
- Improve *listening and interviewing* skills.
- Distinguish between biased and balanced *media presentations* of persons, groups, and events.
- Be able to plan and deliver *professional presentations*.
- Be able to *adapt their messages* to different audiences and communicative circumstances.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes: As a result of their experience with the Core Curriculum, UNT Dallas graduates will...

- Think critically and creatively, learning to apply different systems of analysis.
- Engage with a variety of others in thoughtful and well-crafted communication.
- Be able to articulate the values that undergird their lives, the UNT community, and the larger society.
- Cultivate self-awareness, balance, and an openness to change.

Tentative Course Outline

****This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class.***

TOPICS	TIMELINE
Course Introduction; Syllabus Review; Communication Apprehension Pre-Assessment; Getting to Know You Icebreaker; Introducing a Classmate Interviews; First Impressions Paragraph	M 9/9/13
Introducing a Classmate Speech Activity; Verbal Communication; Nonverbal Communication <i>Extra Credit Assignment: Space Invaders Challenge</i>	M 9/16/13
Communication and Perception; Listening and Adapting to Others <i>Extra Credit Due</i>	M 9/23/13
Communication and Personal Identity; Exam 1 Review <i>Mini-Project #1 Due</i>	M 9/30/13
Exam 1	M 10/7/13
Informative Speeches with PowerPoint Presentations; Communication and Mass Media <i>Mini-Project #2 Due</i>	M 10/14/13
Communication and Culture; Interpersonal Communication; Relational Communication <i>Communication Paper First Draft Due</i>	M 10/21/13
Persuasive Speeches; Exam 2 Review <i>Mini-Project #3 Due</i>	M 10/28/13
Exam 2	M 11/4/13
Refutation Speeches; Small Group Communication <i>Mini-Project #4 Due</i>	M 11/11/13
Task and Team Communication; Presentational Communication	M 11/18/13
Group Work <i>Communication Paper Final Draft Due</i>	M 11/25/13
Group Presentations; Teamwork Assessment; Final Exam Review; Communication Apprehension Post-Assessment; Last Impressions Paragraph	M 12/2/13
Final Exam – 7:30PM-9:30PM	M 12/9/13

Course Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Exams (E): Three exams will be given during the course of the semester. Exams are both objective and subjective in nature, and cover textbook material as well as supplemental material presented in class.

Quizzes (Q): Ten short quizzes will be given to assess your understanding of major communication concepts. **Quizzes may or may not be announced in advance.*

Mini-Projects (MP): Four mini-projects will be assigned to allow you to explore a variety of communicative situations.

Homework Assignments (HW): Ten homework assignments will be given to allow you to further examine communication principles across a variety of contexts. Homework will be announced in class.

Speeches (S): Three individual speeches and one group presentation will be assigned to provide you with diverse public speaking experience.

Paper (P): One major multiple-draft paper about communication, three to five pages in length, will be required.

Class Activities (CA): Five graded classroom activities will be assigned to ensure active student engagement in the learning process.

**Specific guidelines for each assignment will be provided in class.*

Grading Matrix:

INSTRUMENT	VALUE	MAXIMUM POINTS	YOUR SCORE
Mini-Projects (MP)	4 @ 50 Points	200	
Homework (HW)	10 @ 10 Points	100	
Speeches (S)	3 @ 50 Points; 1 @ 100 Points	250	
Quizzes (Q)	10 @ 10 Points	100	
Paper (P)	1 @ 100 Points	100	
Exams (E)	2 @ 50 Points; 1 @ 100 Points	200	
Class Activities (CA)	5 @ 10 Points	50	
Total:		1000	

Grade Determination:

A = 900-1000 Points

B = 800-899 Points

C = 700-799 Points

D = 600-699 Points

F = 0-599 Points

Twelve Keys to Success

- 1) *Attend class daily.*
- 2) *Be prompt.*
- 3) *Come prepared.*
- 4) *Participate actively.*
- 5) *Follow current events.*
- 6) *Take notes.*
- 7) *Ask questions.*
- 8) *Communicate problems.*
- 9) *Be open-minded.*
- 10) *Exhibit a positive attitude.*
- 11) *Build study groups.*
- 12) *Make wise choices.*



UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

The University of North Texas Dallas Faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with documented disabilities are responsible for informing Faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. Grades assigned before an accommodation is provided will not be changed, as accommodations are not retroactive. For more information, you may visit the Student Life Office, located in Suite 200, Building 2.

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy (SETE):

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I receive from students, as I strive to continuously improve my teaching. The SETE is an important part of your participation in this class.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's Code of Academic Integrity Policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at <http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/policies/Chapter%2007%20Student%20Affairs,%20Education,%20and%20Funding/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic%20Integrity.pdf>, for complete provisions of this code.

In addition, all academic work submitted for classes at UNT Dallas, including exams, papers, and written assignments should include the following statement:

On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance that violates the UNTD Academic Integrity Policy.

Bad Weather Policy:

On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campus' main voicemail number at 972-780-3600 or search postings on the campus website at www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because important information, not in the textbook, will be discussed in class. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are also responsible for covering on their own any content missed. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if absent.

****For this course, a maximum of two absences will be allowed without an ensuing final grade reduction. For each absence beyond two, your final grade will be reduced by one letter. Documented absences due to extreme circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.***

The instructor is expected to report the names of students whose progress in class is not satisfactory. The University Advisors will be responsible for contacting "at risk" students after progress reports are submitted.

Scheduled Absences and University Business:

Students involved in activities (co-curricular or otherwise) that conflict with scheduled class sessions are responsible for notifying the instructor about their planned absences during the semester as soon as possible.

Diversity and Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights during class discussions. However, offensive and inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses, will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Life, as the instructor deems appropriate.