COMMUN 313-201: HUMAN COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY
Winterim 2014

Instructor: Erin Ruppel, Ph.D.
Email: ruppele@uwm.edu
Please allow up to 24 hours for a response to your email.
Office hours: By appointment
Course description: Examination of the actual and potential role of technology in facilitating satisfying communication relationships.

COURSE WEBSITE

D2L will be used for the course website: http://d2l.uwm.edu. Course readings will be posted on D2L. All discussion and exams will take place on D2L, and papers will be turned in via D2L. Class announcements will be made on the front page of the course’s D2L site. Please check D2L daily in order to receive important information about the course.

You will not be penalized for official problems with D2L. However, individual computer and/or Internet problems are not an acceptable excuse for turning in assignments late, missing discussions, etc. To avoid potential issues, be sure to (a) complete assignments and discussion in advance of the due date/time and (b) have a back-up plan to gain access to an Internet-enabled computer (such as through the library on campus or a public library) in the event of a problem.

Issues with D2L should be addressed to campus tech support. Contact information is available at http://www4.uwm.edu/technology/help/campus/index.cfm
Grades are based on the point system. The total points earned by the end of the semester will determine your final grade.

A (93-100%) = 372-400  
A- (90-92.9%) = 360-371  
B+ (87-89.9%) = 348-359  
B (83-86.9%) = 332-347  
B- (80-82.9%) = 320-331  
C+ (77-79.9%) = 308-319  
C (73-76.9%) = 292-307  
C- (70-72.9%) = 280-291  
D+ (67-69.9%) = 268-279  
D (63-66.9%) = 252-267  
D- (60-62.9%) = 240-251  
E (0-59.9%) = 0-239

Your final grade will be made up of the following points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Thursday, Jan 2 at 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (5 points/topic X 10 topics)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synthesis and Extension Papers (30 points/paper X 3 papers)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>See assignment sheet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Friday, Jan 17 at 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Exams (75 points per exam X 2 exams) | 150              | Exam 1: Thursday, Jan 9 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM  
|                                    |                  | Exam 2: Friday, Jan 17 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM |
| **TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE**          | **400**          |                               |

It is very unlikely that the grades for this class will be curved at the end of the semester. Thus, for example, if you have earned 319 total points, you will receive a C+. **Your final grade is final.** Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the class or the material throughout the semester. **If you are concerned about your grade, please contact me before the end of the course.** Once the course is over, there is nothing either you or I can do to change your grade. The sooner you come to me with your concerns, the sooner we can work to address them. I cannot change your grade after the course is over—applying subjective standards after the fact invalidates the standards of the class and is unfair to every student.

All assignments must be submitted via D2L. Assignments will not be accepted via email.
ASSIGNMENTS

Syllabus Quiz
This quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions regarding the syllabus and must be **completed by 10:00 PM on Thursday, January 2.** The quiz is open-note and has a 1-hour time limit. The quiz can be taken multiple times, with the highest score counting toward your grade.

Participation
You will be graded on the frequency and quality of your contributions to class discussion. Four **substantive** posts per discussion topic (not discussion question—most topics will have more than 1 question) and 1 example exam question are needed to earn the maximum number of points for each discussion topic. **A substantive post makes a meaningful contribution, helps advance the discussion of a topic, and provides evidence that you have done the relevant course readings.** In general, it’s perfectly fine to agree or disagree with a previous post. However, for the contribution to be substantive, you must explain why you agree or disagree and attempt to advance the discussion in a way that provides evidence that you have done the assigned readings that week. Discussion due dates are in the course calendar below and will be posted within each discussion topic on D2L. All contributions to discussion must be made within this time frame. Finally, please note that **it is not possible to make up missed class participation,** and contributions to one topic cannot be applied to your grade on another topic.

Synthesis and Critique Papers
See assignment sheet on D2L

Final Paper
See assignment sheet on D2L

Exams
Exams will be open-note and consist of 50 multiple-choice questions each. Exams are **not** cumulative. Exams will be available from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM on the day of the exam. Once you begin the exam, you will have 1 hour to complete it. **Although exams are open-note, I encourage you to prepare for them thoroughly**—it will be difficult to answer 50 questions in an hour if you rely on your ability to search through the readings and discussion posts for the answer to each question. **Collaborating on exams is not allowed and will result in a grade of zero for the exam.**

Late Assignments
Late work will be penalized 10% of the total grade per day it is late (e.g., 20% would be deducted from an assignment due on Thursday and submitted on Saturday). The **late work policy excludes the syllabus quiz, participation, and exams—it is not possible to make up these assignments.** Please contact me if you require accommodations due to religious observances or active military duty.
UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES

Participation by Students with Disabilities
If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Religious Observances
Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance.

Academic Misconduct
The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, the appropriate citation of sources, and respect of others’ academic endeavors.

Complaint Procedures
Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible of reinforcing the policy.

Grade Appeal Procedures
A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in written form the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School.

Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community, which creates an unacceptable or working environment.

Incompletes
A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who had carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantial cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above.
COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu, Jan 2</td>
<td>Syllabus Quiz at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory discussion post at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Jan 6</td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Interpersonal Relationships” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Impression Management” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Jan 8</td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Virtual Community” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Political Communication” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Jan 9</td>
<td>Exam 1 (1-hour time limit, available 7:00 PM -10:00 PM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Jan 13</td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Media Choice” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Virtual Work” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu, Jan 16</td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Health Communication” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Anonymity and Privacy” at 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion posts for “Problematic Mediated Communication” at 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri, Jan 17</td>
<td>Exam 2 (1-hour time limit, available 7:00 PM -10:00 PM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final project at 10:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE READINGS

All course readings are located on D2L.

Overview of Research on CTs

Interpersonal Relationships

Impression Management
Virtual Community

Political Communication
doi:10.1177/0093650210381738

Media Choice

Virtual Work

Health Communication

Anonymity and Privacy
**Problematic Mediated Communication**


The contents of this syllabus are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes will be announced and posted on D2L.