

COM 110: COMMUNICATION AS CRITICAL INQUIRY

Section 274

M 6:00

Fell Hall 148



Instructor: Bryan Asbury

Office: Fell Hall 416

Office Phone: 438-7768

Office Hours: M: 4:00-6:00; 9:00-10:00

Email: beasbur@ilstu.edu

Expect a 24 hour response time



Teaching Philosophy...

It is my belief that at this institution we are to
become a community of learners by providing a
safe, open environment in which all students are
capable of fulfilling the role of both learner and
learned. It is the responsibility of each student to
come prepared for each class having completed all
assigned tasks, having an open mind, and
having a complete commitment to the process of
learning.



COMMUNICATION AS CRITICAL INQUIRY (COM 110) COURSE GOALS

Communication as Critical Inquiry (COM 110) seeks to improve students' abilities to express themselves and to listen to others in a variety of communication settings. Effective oral communication is viewed as an essential life skill that every person must possess to function in today's society. The course emphasizes participation in a variety of communication processes to develop, reinforce, and evaluate communication skills appropriate for public, small group, and interpersonal settings. The course content and experiences will enable students to assume their responsibilities as speaker-listener-critic in a culturally diverse world. In short, the course is designed to make students competent, ethical, critical, confident, and information literate communicators.

COM 110 addresses the following General Education outcomes:

II. intellectual and practical skills, allowing students to

- a. make informed judgments
- c. report information effectively and responsibly
- e. deliver purposeful presentations that inform attitudes or behaviors

III. personal and social responsibility, allowing students to

- a. participate in activities that are both individually life-enriching and socially beneficial to a diverse community*
- c. interact competently in a variety of cultural contexts

IV. integrative and applied learning, allowing students to

- a. identify and solve problems
- b. transfer learning to novel situations
- c. work effectively in teams

Primary outcomes are indicated in plain text and secondary outcomes are indicated in italics.

Texts

Simonds, C. J., Hunt, S. K., & Simonds, B. K. (2018). *Engaging communication*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press.

COM 110 Top Hat eBook. You are required to have an eBook for COM 110, which you will access through the interactive platform Top Hat. This platform will allow you to engage with the textbook and complete assignments for the course. You will receive an invitation from Top Hat to register your book with your section of the course. You may purchase eBook access directly from Top Hat or at the bookstores.



Simonds, C. J., Hunt, S. K., & Hooker, J.F. (2019). *Communication as critical inquiry: Supplementary materials packet*. Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing.

Spiral Workbook Purchasing Procedures. Students will purchase the spiral workbook (COM 110 Communication as Critical Inquiry) through the School of Communication online store using a credit, debit, or monetary gift card. The website can be found at the following address:

http://Bit.ly/COM_110

The workbook will be available for the students to pick up in the Communication Resource Center located in the basement of Fell Hall 1-2 business days after the online purchase. Students will need to show their ISU ID card and Resource Center workers will verify they have purchased the book and give it to them at that time.

Additional Requirements

- ✓ Some mechanism that can record at least 8 minutes of video that can be uploaded to a computer (smartphone, tablet with video capabilities, laptop with a webcam, or a friend/classmate with said technology.)

- ✓ Poster/Tri-fold Board
- ✓ Notecards
- ✓ Stapler
- ✓ A working ISU e-mail account that you check regularly!

ASSIGNMENTS:

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will assess your understanding of communication concepts and theories, as well as your application and integration abilities.

SPEECHES: Each student will present three speeches:

- Informative speech (5 minutes)
- Group presentation (5 minutes per person in group)
- Persuasive speech (5 minutes)

ALL THREE SPEECHES MUST BE COMPLETED TO PASS THE COURSE! Each presentation will be evaluated on content and delivery. Specific details will be clearly outlined in class.

ILLINOIS ARTICULATION INITIATIVE:

The Illinois Articulation Initiative is designed to allow students to transfer course credit between institutions. The IAI requires that all Com 110 students present at least three speaking opportunities that include research and are five minutes, or longer, in duration.

SPEECH LAB

You are encouraged to visit the speech lab at least once during the semester to practice your speech. It is also recommended that you plan a visit to the speech lab at least one week before your speech so you have enough time to synthesize the feedback received from the attendant and incorporate it into your speech. Ultimately, the speech lab can be a useful tool in improving the quality of your speech and public speaking skills.



To schedule time in the speech lab, call 438-4566 or come to Fell 032 and schedule an appointment in person. If you wish to video-record your presentation, please tell the attendant when booking your appointment. Remember to book your appointment early, as there are a great number of students trying to make appointments. You must bring a completed outline to the appointment. **You must also schedule an appointment at least 24 hours before the date you are scheduled to deliver your speech in class, or you will not be able to use the speech lab. If you need to change or cancel your appointment, you will need to call the Speech Lab at 438-4566 or stop by in person (Fell Hall 032) 24 hours in advance. If you fail to cancel your appointment 24 hours in advance you will not be allowed to use the speech lab again.**

PARTICIPATION

Because Communication as Critical Inquiry is a skills-based, developmental course, participation is essential. Participation is a function of attendance, demonstration of having read the material, asking questions that extend the thinking of the class and instructor, contributing relevant examples, and demonstrating respect for the contributions of classmates. The tone of the learning community will directly reflect the participation of the class.



EVALUATION

Informative Speech	100 pts.
Group Presentation	100 pts.
Persuasive Speech	100 pts.
Midterm Exam	50 pts.
Final Exam	50 pts.
Homework/Activities	TBA
Participation	50 pts.

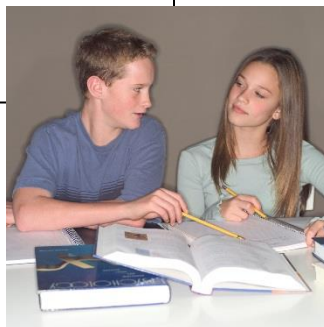
The grading scale is a standard ten percentage point scale:

90%–100%	= A
80%–89%	= B
70%–79%	= C
60%–69%	= D
Less than 60%	= F



ACTIVITIES

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and participate in activities associated with the readings. I will not lecture over the material you have read, rather I will synthesize the material into discussions and activities, of which you will play a large role. In order to assess your preparation for class, you may be asked to hand in completed preparing to participate (P2P) assignments in the textbook. The learning community developed in this course will be dependent upon the success of these activities that will be both educational and engaging.



COURSE POLICIES

- ❖ **ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is expected. Being absent will deprive you of valuable class discussions and will also prevent you from fulfilling certain graded in-class activities which cannot be made up. Excessive absences will affect your participation grade in this class. You are always responsible for all material distributed in your absence. Additionally, *ANY* and *EVERY* absence should be explained to the professor. It is expected that you will notify the professor within three hours of missing a class; however, it is preferred that you contact of any absence (excused or not) with a brief explanation before said absence. **YOU WILL ALSO LOSE AT LEAST 10 POINTS FOR ABSENCES ON EACH SPEECH DAY!**
- ❖ **TARDINESS:** Participation/Attendance sheets will be distributed at the beginning of each class session. If you are late (and please try NOT to be), you are responsible for completing this sheet immediately after class or you will not get credit for that day. You will also be forced to make up the time for the class as the instructor sees fit. **YOU WILL ALSO LOSE POINTS FOR TARDINESS ON ALL SPEECH DAYS!**
- ❖ **ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:** All speeches, assignments, and exams must be completed on the date assigned. If you are unprepared to deliver a speech on your assigned day (you sign up for your own speech dates) or do not come to class on an exam day, you will receive a ZERO for that assignment unless an alternate due date has been previously approved or documentation has been provided for extreme circumstances.
- ❖ **PROFESSIONAL COURTESY:** Professional courtesy includes respecting others' opinions, not interrupting in class, being respectful to those who are speaking, and working together in a spirit of cooperation. I expect you to demonstrate these behaviors at all times in this class. With that in mind, sleeping, reading materials irrelevant to class purposes, texting, or disrupting the class will not be tolerated and will result in the student being considered absent for that particular class period.
- ❖ **SPEECH ETIQUETTE:** On speech days, you have dual responsibilities as a speaker and an audience member. When you are presenting, you will dress appropriately. When you are an audience member, you will be attentive and ask challenging but constructive questions when the speech is finished. Because most people are nervous when they give a speech, you will be supportive both verbally and nonverbally. You will never enter or leave the room while a speech is in progress.
- ❖ **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATION POLICY:** Should any student violate the expectations of appropriate classroom behavior (as mentioned in the professional courtesy and presentation etiquette policies above), the instructor will schedule a meeting to discuss these expectations and develop a behavioral modification plan. If these behaviors persist, you will be at-risk for failing the course.

EVEN MORE COURSE POLICIES?!?



CHEATING/PLAGIARISM: Students are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and unacknowledged collaboration on speech topics and/or the presentation of someone else's work warrants plagiarism.

Students found to inadvertently commit acts of dishonesty will receive appropriate penalties specific to the assignment in question. Students found to commit intentional acts of dishonesty will receive a failing grade in the course and will be referred for appropriate disciplinary action through Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office.

Communicating with Me: The best way to communicate with me would be to stop into my office face-to-face. If you need to contact me by email, please feel free to do so at my Illinois State e-mail address. Please do not contact me through Reggie Net. However, you must give me 24 hours to respond to your email on weekdays and 48 hours to respond to your email on weekends. For example, if you email me an hour before class starts, do not assume I will respond to that email within the hour. As a student of higher education, it is expected that all communication be of professional quality. When writing through e-mail to an instructor ***identify the subject matter in the subject line of the email.*** Please be sure to address the instructor in a professional manner. Always sign your name in your e-mails. Please follow these guidelines so your e-mail is given full consideration.



Electronics Policy: Please refrain from using your cell phones in my class. Text messaging is distracting to other students and therefore, I reserve the right to read your text messages out loud to the entire class. However, if there is some type of emergency for which you may need to take a phone call during class, talk to me beforehand and we will work something out. I understand you may want to take notes on your computer, iPads, etc. That is great, however, if you are surfing the internet, I reserve the right to move you to the front row and ask you to put away your technology.



More Course Policies...

- ❖ **Illinois State University Bereavement Policy:** If a student experiences a death of an immediate family member or relative as defined below, the student will be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. The student will provide appropriate documentation and arrange to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible according to the process outlined below.

Upon notification of the absence and proper documentation, each faculty member shall excuse the student from class according to this policy and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work. Ultimately, the student is responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual professor as soon as they return to complete any required work. Details can be found at the following website: <http://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27.shtml>

- ❖ **Special Needs:** Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.
- ❖ **School of Communication Research Pool Webpage:** Additionally, there will be a few extra credit opportunities for research participation. The extra credit points will be added to your final grade, and may not necessarily appear in the gradebook immediately upon your completion of the opportunity. There are no guarantees for extra credit, and it is each student's responsibility to be aware of and take advantage of such opportunities. You may receive extra credit for participating in any of the studies in the School of Communication's Research Pool. The Research Pool is updated as research studies are opened/closed, and it is your responsibility to access the Pool and be aware of available opportunities. The Research Pool can be accessed via:
<https://sites.google.com/site/ilstusocstudies/>
In general, each 30 minutes of participation in an extra credit study will earn you .5 Research Credits. Each project listed on the Research Pool site will indicate the specific number of Research Credits associated with the project. I will get evidence of participation and the time of participation from the researcher(s) who administer the research studies at the conclusion of the semester; however, it is *your* responsibility to make sure that the researchers have the necessary evidence of your participation at the time of the study. Before participating in a study, **please be sure to have your name, ULID** (i.e., the part of your email before @ilstu.edu), **instructor name, and course and section number ready**, as you will need to provide these to receive credit. Research Credit can only be applied to one course for each study, unless specified otherwise in the Research Pool. A maximum of 5% of your

final course grade can be earned from extra credit opportunities via the Research Pool. After the final exam there will be no further opportunities for extra credit or to otherwise improve your grade.

Please also be aware that federal guidelines indicate that instructors offering extra credit for research participation must offer a reasonable alternative (such as a research paper) for students who want to earn extra credit but do not want to participate in a study.

- ❖ **Mental Health Resources:** Life at college can get very complicated. According to recent research, nearly 40% of college students are at-risk for developing generalized anxiety disorder and are less likely to seek help for it compared to other mental health issues. Students also sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience depression, and struggle with relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at Counseling.IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-3655.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

FINAL THOUGHTS: This syllabus is a contract between us. Though the schedule may shift a bit here and there as the course proceeds, everything we have discussed thus far in the syllabus will not. I am contracting with you to follow these guidelines. I will ask you to sign and date it below; so that I *know* that you have read and understood it.

I HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS FOR BRYAN ASBURY'S COM 110 CLASS AND AGREE TO THE TERMS FOR REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND ACCEPTABLE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR ABOVE.

UID _____ **SIGNATURE** _____ **PRINTED NAME** _____

DATE _____ **MAJOR** _____ **PHONE** _____

PLEASE LIST AT LEAST TWO GOALS THAT YOU HOPE TO MEET THROUGH THIS COURSE:

1.

2.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU "GROW UP?"

WHAT IS A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE TO ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR?

FAVORITE MOVIE/BOOK EVER

1. _____ 2. _____

FAVORITE TV SHOW EVER

1. _____ 2. _____



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tentative Schedule for Communication as Critical Inquiry

Week	Date	Day	Material Covered	Assignments Due
1	08/19	M	Introduction to Course Assign Group Speech Ch. 1: Introduction to Communication	Ch. 1 P2P
2	08/26	M	Introduction/Bag Speeches Assign Informative Speech Ch. 2: Communication Confidence Ch. 3: Ethical Communication	Bag/CIP Speech Syllabus Contract Notecard Library itour Ch. 2 P2P Ch. 3 P2P
3	09/02	M	No Class: Labor Day Group Speech Workshop (Topic, Syllabus, Schedule)	Meeting Minutes
4	09/09	M	Ch. 4: Perception and Self Ch. 5: Choosing Topics Ch. 6: Analyzing Audience Ch. 13: Delivering the Presentation	Ch. 4 P2P Ch. 5 P2P Ch. 6 P2P Ch. 13 P2P
5	09/16	M	Ch. 7: Locating and Incorporating Information Ch. 8: Organizing Ideas Ch. 9: Outlining the Presentation Ch. 10: Beginning and Ending Presentations	Ch. 7 P2P Ch. 8 P2P Ch. 9 P2P Ch. 10 P2P
6	09/23	M	Ch. 11: Using Appropriate Language Ch. 12: Designing Presentation Aids Informative Speech Workshop	Ch. 11 P2P Ch. 12 P2P
7	09/30	M	Informative Speeches Ch. 15: Listening and Critical Thinking	Info Poster Ch. 15 P2P
8	10/07	M	Informative Speeches	Info Poster Midterm Exam
9	10/14	M	Group Speech Workshop (Research)	Meeting Minutes
10	10/21	M	Ch. 16: Understanding Persuasive Principles Ch. 17: Persuasive Principles	Ch. 16 P2P Ch. 17 P2P
11	10/28	M	Persuasive Speeches	Persuasive Outline
12	11/04	M	Group Speech Workshop (Outline)	Meeting Minutes

13	11/11	M	Chapter 14: Group Communication	Ch. 14 P2P
14	11/18	M	Group Speeches	Outline Peer Evaluation
15	11/25	M	No Class: Thanksgiving Break	Synthesis Participation
16	12/02	M	Group Speeches	Outline Peer Evaluation

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED BY UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR