**COMMUNICATION AS CRITICAL INQUIRY (COM 110)**

**Instructor:** Kelly Lambert **Office Hours:** MW 10:30-12 &

**Office:**  54 Fell Hall 3-4

**Email:**  klambe2@ilstu.edu **Section:** 09

**Classroom:** Fell 180 **Meeting time:** TR 8:00-9:15

**TEXTS**

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

Simonds, C. J., Hunt, S. K., & Hooker, J.F. (2019). *Communication as critical inquiry:*

*Supplementary materials packet.* Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing.

(Available at the School of Communication Resource Center in the basement of Fell —See below).

**COURSE MATERIALS**

**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.

**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.

**Communication Resource Center Hours of Operation**

**1st two weeks’ hours: Fell 34**

**Monday—Thursday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Friday—9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**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.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**Exams.** There will be a midterm exam and a 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:

a. Informative speech (5-7 minutes, no more than 7:30; at least 4 sources must be cited in the presentation and in the references)

b. Group presentation (25-30 minutes depending on the number of members, each member must speak at least 5 minutes consecutively, at least 10 sources must be cited in the presentation and in the references)

c. Persuasive speech (5-7 minutes, no more than 7:30; at least 3 new sources in addition to sources used in the group speech must be cited in the presentation and in the references)

**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. Typed outlines and references are required for each (a sample will be provided). If you have any concerns about your ability to meet the requirements of this course, please come and see me to discuss your concerns.

**Participation (Daily Speaking Opportunities).** Because Communication as Critical Inquiry is a skills-based, developmental course, participation is essential. It is important that you get these daily speaking opportunities to increase your confidence with your classroom audience. 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.

**EVALUATION**

Informative Speech 100 pts.

Group Presentation 100 pts.

Persuasive Speech 100 pts.

CIP 50 pts.

Synthesis Paper 50 pts.

Midterm Exam 100 pts.

Final Exam 100 pts.

Participation 90 pts.

The grading scale is a standard ten percentage point scale:

90-100% = A; 80%-89% = B; 70%-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F

**COURSE POLICIES**

**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. Additionally, these presentations and speaking opportunities (participation) must comprise 50% of the overall grade.

**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.**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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

**BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS POLICIES**

**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.

**Presentation Etiquette.** On presentation 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 presentation is finished. Because most people are nervous when they present, you will be supportive both verbally and nonverbally. You will never enter or leave the room while a presentation 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.

**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/](https://sites.google.com/site/ilstusocstudies/%20)

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.

**Optional:**

**For each research study you participate in, I will award 2 points of extra credit (up to 10 total points).**

Alternative extra credit opportunities will be provided after the first half of the semester which will also be worth 2 points of extra credit each (up to 10 total points). The maximum number of extra credit points for the semester is 10, these can be any combination of the 2 options.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

INTRO ACTIVITY: The second day of class, you will be required to deliver a 2-minute speech in which you will introduce yourself to your fellow students. (I will explain more on this later.)

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

FORMAL SPEECHES:  Each student will present three formal speeches. Each student is required to attend all speech days in the course. If a student is absent on a day as an audience member, they will lose 15 points off of their speech.

a. Informative speech (5-7 minutes, no more than 7:30; at least 4 sources)

b. Group presentation (25-30 minutes, no more than 30:30; at least 10 sources)

c. Persuasive speech (5-7 minutes, no more than 7:30; at least 6 sources)

CIP:  This is a short paper in which you will analyze your own communication style, strengths, and weaknesses and discuss what your goals and expectations are for your improvement in this course. The paper will also discuss a plan of action that you will use to achieve those goals.

SYNTHESIS: In this paper, you will reflect on your experiences as a COM 110 student. Specifically, you will explain how the material learned in this class can be applied to your personal and professional life. You will also discuss ways you have improved as a communicator throughout this class, as well as the areas in which improvement is still necessary.

PREPARING TO PARTICIPATE CHAPTER ASSIGNMENTS (P2Ps):  Each chapter of the text includes questions entitled “Preparing to Participate.” You are required to answer the “knowledge” and “application” questions for the 18 chapters. These P2P’s will prepare you for discussion and serve as a study tool for the midterm and the final.  Each chapter MUST be typed or legible (if I cannot read your handwriting I will not count it), turned in during class, free of grammatical errors, in full sentences, and turned in on the day it will be collected. You may not turn in P2Ps after the assigned date. If you are absent on the day a P2P is due, you will not receive credit. **P2Ps are not accepted if you are absent from class without a doctor’s note.** Each P2P is worth 5 points.

ACTIVITES/QUIZZES

Activities and quizzes are an integral part of Com 110. These may include participation in activities, class discussions, using ethical communication, etc. Activities and quizzes will not always be posted on the syllabus. Please be sure to listen carefully for when these assignments are due. Final activity points will be released before the final at the end of the semester since they are TBD and vary by day.

ASSIGNMENT FORMAT

Your Name

Date

8:00

Title of Assignment

All typed assignments for this class must be in Times New Roman, 12-point font. All papers must be double spaced.  All headings must be on the left side of the page. Every assignment should have one-inch margins. Headings should contain your name, the date, your character, and the title of the assignment. No other information should be included in your heading. Points will be deducted from outlines and all other assignments for failure to follow proper formatting guidelines. Please be sure to take into account proper spacing after paragraphs and periods. Write only in the second person if you are referring to me directly. Otherwise, all assignments should be in the first or third person (depending on assignment guidelines). Please proofread your work carefully for spelling or grammatical errors. Also, be sure to staple all assignments consisting of two or more pages. In addition, you must staple any rubrics required to your assignment.

**Note: 3 points will be taken off your papers if they are not stapled together**

**EVALUATION:**

Informative Speech 100 pts.

Group Presentation 100 pts.

Persuasive Speech 100 pts.

CIP 50 pts.

Synthesis  50 pts.

Midterm Exam 100 pts.

Final Exam 100 pts.

P2Ps 90 pts.

Introductory Speech 10 pts.

Syllabus Quiz     5 pts.

**Total  TBD**

\***Assessment and point values are subject to change\***

The grading scale is a standard ten percentage point scale:

90-100% = A; 80%-89% = B; 70%-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F

In this course, simply doing an assignment does not result in an “A.” Failure to follow directions or meet criteria will result in a loss of points. Students should note the definition of each letter grade:

“A” is reserved for work that is exceptional

“B” is reserved for work that is above average

“C” is reserved for work that is average (meets criteria)

“D” is reserved for work that is below average

“F” is reserved for work that is failing, late, or not submitted for evaluation

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Day** | **CHAP.** | **Material Covered** | **Assignment Due** |
| **1** | 8/20 | T |  | Syllabus Review and Introductions |  |
| 8/22 | R |  | Any Old Bag Speech |  |
| **2** | 8/27 | T | 1 | Intro to Communication  Assign CIP | **Ch. 1 P2P, Syllabus Quiz** |
| 8/29 | R | 2 | Communication Confidence | **Ch. 2 P2P** |
| **3** | 9/3 | T | 3 | Ethical Communication | **Ch. 3 P2P** |
| 9/5 | R | 4 | Perception and Self-Concept  Assign Info. Speech | **Ch. 4 P2P** |
| **4** | 9/10 | T | 5 & 6 | Choosing Topics & Analyzing Your Audience | **Ch. 5/6 P2P**  **CIP** |
| 9/12 | R | 7 | Locating and Incorporating  Assign Library Activities | **Ch. 7 P2P**  **Info. Speech Topic** |
| **5** | 9/17 | T | 8 & 9 | Organizing Ideas & Outlining the Presentation | **Ch. 8/9 P2P** |
| 9/19 | R | 10 | Beginning and Ending the Presentation | **Ch. 10 P2P**  **Outline Draft Due** |
| **6** | 9/24 | T | 11 | Using Appropriate Language | **Ch. 11 P2P** |
| 9/26 | R | 12 & 13 | Designing Presentation Aids & Delivering the Presentation | **Ch.12/13P2P** |
| **7** | 10/1 | T |  | Informative Speeches | **Presentations** |
| 10/3 | R |  | Informative Speeches | **Presentations** |
| **8** | 10/8 | T |  | Informative Speeches | **Presentations** |
| 10/10 | R |  | Assign Group Speech  Midterm Review |  |
| **9** | 10/15 | T |  | Midterm Exam |  |
| 10/17 | R | 14 | Communicating in Groups | **Ch. 14 P2P**  **Group Topic Due** |
| **10** | 10/22 | T | 15 | Listening & Critical Thinking | **Ch. 15 P2P** |
| 10/24 | R |  | Group Presentations | **Presentations** |
| **11** | 10/29 | T |  | Group Presentations | **Presentations** |
| 10/31 | R |  | Assign Persuasive Speech & Synthesis Paper |  |
| **12** | 11/5 | T | 16 | Understanding Persuasive Principles | **Ch. 16 P2P** |
| 11/7 | R | 17 | Building Arguments | **Ch. 17 P2P**  **Persuasive Topics Due** |
| **13** | 11/12 | T | 18 | Using Communication for the Common Good | **Ch. 18 P2P** |
| 11/14 | R |  | Persuasive Workshop Day | **Synthesis Paper Due** |
| **14** | 11/19 | T |  | Persuasive Speeches | **Presentations** |
| 11/21 | R |  | Persuasive Speeches | **Presentations** |
| **15** | 11/26 | T |  | THANKSGIVING |  |
| 11/28 | R |  | BREAK |  |
| **16** | 12/3 | T |  | Persuasive Speeches | **Presentations** |
| 12/5 | R |  | Final Exam Review |  |

 \****Note:*** *At any point throughout the duration of this course I reserve the right to change the syllabus details. Of course, I will inform you of these changes.*