

COMM 2050: Perspectives in Communication (HU)

Salt Lake Community College

Fall 2024

Prerequisites: none

Instructor:

Course Description

This course is a survey of the basic issues, theories, and perspectives in the study of human communication, through critical analysis oral, written and audio-visual texts.

We will analyze communication patterns in intra-personal, interpersonal, small group, organizational, cultural and mass communication contexts. This course requires you to participate in activities, experiments, research, discussions and presentations designed to develop critical thinking and communication skills.

Course Objectives

1. Describe essential theories of human communication in light of Interpretive, Social Scientific, Critical Approaches and Communication Traditions.
2. Apply communication theories to creatively manage communication in personal and professional life.
3. Use theory evaluation criteria to critically analyze and evaluate communication theories.
4. Use self-reflection to improve personal and professional communication.
5. Ethically use information and technology.
6. Use contemporary technology to complete assignments and navigate student systems.

Required Material



West, Richard, and Lynn H. Turner. *Introducing Communication Theory: Analysis and Application*. 6th ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2018.

The textbook is not digital. It can be purchased in the Taylorsville/Redwood bookstore or perhaps other places online.

*This syllabus is subject to change. If students are absent, they are responsible for finding out the changes

Class Policies

Etiquette

Because the topic of this class is interpersonal relationships, discussion forum entries may include personal stories. If you hear a student illustrate a concept with sensitive examples of personal relational experiences, respect that person's trust and privacy. Please refrain from repeating classmates' personal examples outside of this class.

Withdrawal from class

Any student who fails to withdraw but does not attend class and/or submit assignments will receive an "E" grade for the course. The instructor will not award "I" grades to non-participating students. Withdrawing from the course and other matters of registration for and/or dropping the class is the student's responsibility.

Written Work

Your written work will be evaluated on both content, mechanics and correct citations. **Clear writing is good communicating.**

Citations

We will be using **APA format** for all intext citation which includes **dates** for **websites** and **page numbers** for **books** and **articles**. Be sure to **verbally** share citations **in your Presentations**. Points will be deducted for incorrect formatting or failure to verbally cite sources in a Presentation. For citation formats see our Announcement on Citation Instruction or owl.purdue.edu.

Intext Citations and Reference Section

If you are not familiar with citing sources or need a refresher, don't worry, we will review creating intext citations and Reference sections. Being able to cite your sources is part of good scholarship at the college level and important ethical writing on the job. Being able to do so will impress your instructors and your boss.

Late Work

Quizzes and Discussions will not be accepted late. Paper Drafts, Papers and Presentations will be accepted up to 1 week late with a 10% late penalty at the discretion of the instructor.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit. It is better to spend your energy on doing well on the assignments in the course.

Tracking Individual Grade

A good rule of thumb for college: *for every hour you spend in class expect to spend two+ hours outside of class.* This is a 4.8hr a week class x 2+ hrs = 9.6+ hrs. **You are responsible for tracking your own grade (see "Grades" on our Canvas website).** Reading the instructor's feedback on each assignment is the best way to make improvements and progress on each assignment and get better and better scores.

Grading Scale

A = 930-1000	C+ = 770-799	D- = 600-639
A- = 900-949	C = 740-769	E = 0-599
B+ = 870-899	C- = 700-739	
B = 840-869	D+ = 670-699	
B- = 800-839	D = 640-669	

Assignments

(See the assignment pages in Canvas for a complete description of assignments.)

Weekly Assignments

- Check Inbox and Announcement at the beginning of every week
- Read the assigned Chapters in your textbook
- Read the material assigned for the module
 - Basics Tab
 - Reading and Video's Tab
 - Application Tab
- Post a brief essay in response to a prompt on the Discussion boards (includes concepts defined with intext citations, and applying them to your life).

- Respond to TWO classmates' Postings with more than just "I agree" or "Good job." Include a personal example from your life illustrating a concept you are talking about.
- Submit any assignments associated with the Papers.

Discussions

You will be asked to apply the course concepts in each module by answering a prompt and Posting your answer. Then you will be asked to talk about the concepts when you Respond to at least TWO of your classmate's Posts.

Posts

Here are things to check to receive full credit in each Post.

- Have you defined the required course concepts in your Discussion Post? Is each concept accompanied by an intext citation formatted correctly? This means, have you told us where you got the definition. For example, from the textbook.
- Have you shared an example from your life that illustrates the concept you are talking about? In your example have you given us good details so we can follow your story along as if we were there and feeling what you were feeling and seeing the communication behavior that you were seeing?
- Have you remembered to include a bibliography for your intext citations at the bottom of your Post? Is it correctly formatted? Is it titled "References" at the top?

Responses

Here are things to check to receive full credit for your Responses.

- Have you Responded to TWO classmates Posts, not just one?
- Have you let them know if you agree or disagree with their Post and why?
- Have you included a personal experience of your own that illustrates the concept you are talking about? Not just, "that happened to me to," but a full story, when, where, who was involved, your feelings at the time and what happened.

Quizzes

For each chapter you will complete a quiz. These are made up of multiple choice, True/False questions. Many of the questions will require you to analyze communication scenarios and suggest the most appropriate response. Some questions will check your knowledge of vocabulary and basic concepts. These tests are designed to be a learning experience. Because the quizzes are open book, some students make the mistake of not reading the material ahead of time. They run out of time when taking the quiz. Remember the quizzes are timed.

Papers

Midterm Paper # 1 is a written analysis of a conflict using a communication theory to resolve it. Final Paper #2 is a written evaluation of a communication theory for quality.

Presentations

You will Present the key information from your Midterm Paper and Final Paper to your instructor and the class via audio-PowerPoint. Tutorials for how to create your Presentations are in our Canvas class. You will also be asked to give feedback to TWO of your classmates Presentations.

ePortfolio

At the end of the semester, you will add to your ePortfolio either your Midterm or Final Paper, whichever one of these papers you think best illustrates what you have learned in the class. You

will include the instructions for the Paper- found on our class website- and answers to the Reflection Questions.

College Policies

College-Wide Learning Outcomes see the Institutional Syllabus

SLCC is committed to fostering and assessing the following student learning outcomes in its programs and courses:

1. Acquire Substantive Knowledge
2. Communicate Effectively
3. Develop Quantitative Literacy
4. Think Critically and Creatively
5. Civic Engagement
6. Work Professionally and Constructively
7. Develop Computer and Information Literacy
8. Lifelong Wellness

General Education

This course is part of the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning. General Education enables you to develop a broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world.

Perspectives in Communication as a Humanities (HU) requirement for General Education

Communication, as a relatively new academic discipline, draws from the humanities as well as social science traditions.

If you like to study human behavior, you will be glad to know we will be studying human behavior and human's efforts to communicate effectively.

Communication is examined in light of various cultural and historical settings. Human behavior is analyzed using

- artifacts in the environmental (i.e. furniture, artwork, cars),
- personal artifacts (i.e. fashion, jewelry, hair styles),
- texts (i.e. written, verbal, nonverbal),
- various contexts (i.e. funerals, ball games, work meetings), and
- past experiences (i.e. culture, gender, history).

You will be invited to consider all these aspects in order to learn from past human behavior. Evaluating past human behavior is a way you can effectively navigate your way to effective communication choices in the future.

This course will lead you through the historical development of theory. The course includes a broad range of perspectives,

- from Classical Greek rhetorical analysis to more modern perspectives such as
- pragmatics,
- systems,
- social action,
- human organizations as cultural sense-making,

- group decision-making processes,
- intercultural communication as face-negotiation,
- agenda setting functions of media,
- coordinated management of interpersonal meaning,
- the power of political narrative, and more.

Methodologically, many of the communication theories rely heavily on Interpretive and Critical Approaches.

Please see the [Institutional Syllabus](#) for a full description of school policies and student support resources, including Title IX and ADA accommodations.

Americans with Disability Act ADA Accommodation Statement:

Students with **medical, psychological, learning** or other **disabilities** desiring **accommodations** or services.

Student Code of Conduct:



Plagiarism is considered intellectual theft. How can you be plagiarism free?

If you use part or all of another’s words, work, or ideas be sure to give them credit in your writing AND speaking

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism: Academic dishonesty/plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from this course. “Plagiarism” is the failure to acknowledge any words or ideas which are not your own. You should always reference the sources of your information. Plagiarism also includes the using of, or sharing with, others’

Cheating- “Cheating is the act of using, attempting to use, or providing others with unauthorized information, materials, or study aids in academic work: essays, quizzes, and pre-written, purchased, or downloaded materials.”

Fabrication- “Fabrication is the use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings.”

Plagiarism- “Plagiarism is copying someone else’s work (even if that person is a friend or spouse or items from Web sites) and passing it off as your own work without proper attribution.”

Sexual Harassment Reporting

TITLE IX 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1681 (a):

**Transfer to a University
for
SLCC Communication Majors**

Notice for students interesting in transferring as a Communication major at 4-year college or university within the state of Utah, go to our [SLCC Communication website](#) for more information.
