

CMN 101: Theories of Human Communication Course Syllabus (Spring, 2016)

**You are required to know all the information presented in this course syllabus.*

Instructor: Virginia Hamilton, Ph.D.

Lecture Course Time: T/R's 3:10 – 4:30 pm (Olson 6)

Hamilton's Office Hours: T/R's 12:00 – 1:30 pm (and by appointment)

Office Location: Kerr Hall 173

E-mail: vohamilton@ucdavis.edu

Teaching Assistant: Tessa DeAngelo

Discussion Section Times: Fridays: 9:00- 9:50 (A01); 10:00 – 10:50 (A02)
(Hart 1130)

E-mail: tideangelo@ucdavis.edu

Course Description: This course focuses on understanding key issues in communication theory in general and differences among specific theories. This course covers several traditions or genres of studies with in the discipline as a whole. The course assumes that theories are inherently applied; as such we will work with highly abstract concepts and will then translate them to the more applied level. CMN 101 is one of the more comprehensive and demanding courses of the major.

Reader: You will need to purchase a copy of the required course reader at Davis Copy Shop at 232 3rd Street, Davis, CA.

Evaluation Method

You will be evaluated on three multiple-choice exams, worth 50 points each (3 x 50 = 150 points).

There will be two midterms and one final exam.

The 50 questions for each exam will be a mix of questions from both lecture and reading material.

The final exam is NOT cumulative.

Attendance is required in the discussion sections.

Attend 9/9 = +1

Attend 8/9 = no penalty

Attend 7/9 = -1 point from total

Attend 6/9 = - 2 points more (total of -3)

Attend 5/9 = - 3 points more (total of -6)

Attend 4/9 = - 4 points more (total of -10)

Miss more than 5 = "F" for the entire course!

Typically, I do not curve exams or the final grades. The score you receive on your Scantron, is the final score for that exam. Add up all your exam scores plus extra credit – any attendance penalties and divide by 150. That's your final grade. (See below)A+ =

97% +, A = 93%+, A- = 90% +, B+ = 87% +, B = 83% +, B- = 80%+

C+ = 77% +, C = 73% +, C- = 70% +, D+ = 67% +, D = 63% +, D- = 60% +, F = 59%

Extra Credit

Two points of extra credit may be earned by watching the extra credit movie shown in class. Two points is the maximum amount of extra credit anyone can earn.

Exams

It is important that you show up for exams. Please bring a Scantron 2000 and a #2 pencil to every exam. Please arrive on time for exams.

Make up exams will be allowed only under very extreme cases. If you have three exams scheduled on the same day, you can take mine on a different date. (I will require proof.)

DO NOT MAKE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS THAT INTERFERE WITH SCHEDULED EXAMS.

Testing Accommodations: If you are UCD-certified by SDC for testing accommodations, email me the first week of the quarter and inform me of exactly what testing conditions you do and do not require. The sooner I can schedule alternate locations in advance of the first exam, the better.

Cheating: Cheating will not be tolerated! Cheating includes the following: Sharing information during exams, reading notes during exams, taking photos of exams, taking photos of notes and looking at them on your cell phone, taking exams out of the classroom, discussing exams with latecomers outside of the classroom, having possession of a stolen exam or a photocopy of any part of a stolen exam, writing a non-attending person's name on an attendance sheet, and copying others' work.

Any suspicion regarding cheating of any kind will be reported to Judicial Student Affairs. Cheating can result in expulsion from UC Davis. Don't do it!

Manners in Class: Please be conscious of your behavior so as not to offend, bother, or distract those around you. Don't make noise with food, food wrappers, gum in your mouth, rustling through your backpack, texting or playing games on your phone, etc. If you have a cold or allergies and are sniffing, coughing, and sneezing a lot, please sit as far away from others as you can. Be aware that you are in a large crowded classroom and everyone needs to respect each other's space.

Attendance: Your presence in class is recommended and desired. If you choose NOT to attend class do NOT e-mail me or come to my office hours to ask me questions about what you missed or do not understand. If you miss class, you must get your questions answered elsewhere. Anyone who asks me a question that was either explained in this syllabus or discussed in class more than one time will go on my "rec letter reservations list." This does not apply to those who do attend class.

Grades: Unless you believe I made a mistake in calculating your grade, DO NOT ASK ME TO CHANGE A GRADE. Further, I prefer not hear about your grade problems and stresses except when it involves my particular course. Although I do care about your success, I do not want to be pulled into a conversation about how much you need to get off probation or how much you need to get into a competitive law school. Your counselor is the one to go to.

Spring 2016 Class Schedule (Subject to change)

Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
T. 3/29	Course Introduction/ Defining Communication	
R. 3/31	What is theory? Classifying Communication theories	F. 4/1 The Media Introduction
T. 4/5	Trait theories	
R. 4/7	Equivocation/Cognitive dissonance	F. 4/8: Agenda-setting function/The critical tradition
T. 4/12	The Self/Guilt/Social approach	
R. 4/14	Identification/ Identity negotiation	F. 4/15: None due
T. 4/19	Social construction of emotion/ Exam review Q&A	
R. 4/21	Exam #1	F. 4/22: Medium theory/ Classical/McLuhan/New Media
T. 4/26	Critical thinking	
R. 4/28	Constructivism/Semantic-meaning theory	F. 4/29: Social action media studies
T. 5/3	Speech act theory/ Indirectness/ Nonverbal coding	
R. 5/5	Nonverbal coding, continued/Elaborated and restricted codes/Relational schemas in the family	F. 5/6: The effects tradition
T. 5/10	Compliance gaining/Conversational maxims/Uncertainty reduction theory	
R. 5/12	Politeness/Accommodation theory/Expectancy violations theory	F. 5/13: Cultivation theory
T. 5/17	Deception theory/ Exam review Q&A	
R. 5/19	Exam #2	F. 5/20: Public opinion and Spiral of silence
T. 5/24	Theories of the Relationship	
R. 5/26	Theories of the Relationship	F. 5/27: Uses and gratifications
T. 5/30	Extra credit movie: <i>Twelve Angry Men</i>	
R. 6/2	Theories of Groups	

Final Exam Time: Monday, June 6 @ 10:30 am – 12:30 pm (usual classroom)