

CMN114

Communication and Cognition

TR 10:00 am -11:50 am

Kerr 293

Professor Narine Yegiyan

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Email: nsyegiyan@ucdavis.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 1 pm -2:30 pm or by appointment

Objectives

The goal of this course is to introduce you to basic cognitive processes involved in both interpersonal and mediated communication. By the end of this course you should be proficient in identifying cognitive processes involved in production of a specific communication effect. The course is heavy on reading. You will be expected to read and report on original research papers daily.

Required readings:

Posted on Smartsite and a textbook:

Interdisciplinary Readings in Communication and Cognition (Preliminary Edition), is published and distributed by Cognella, Inc. The book is now available for purchase in both print and digital formats through their student e-commerce store (<https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>).

Course policies

1. You are expected to be active learners in this class. Asking questions when appropriate and participation in discussions is highly encouraged. Class participation will increase your chances of good performance on tests.
2. If you missed a class it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes and relevant assignments from other class members.
3. E-mail will be often used to make announcements related to this course. Please *read* these e-mails.
4. When e-mailing to your instructor it is always a good idea to use your UC Davis account to ensure that it is not categorized as spam.

5. I enjoy what I do and I am doing my best to help you achieve your best in the class. I put a lot into teaching and I find it disrespectful when someone uses their time in class to do other things. If you need extra sleep, or have a need to chat with your friend, or read a newspaper or a blog I reserve the right to comment on your behavior and I may ask you to leave.
6. It is my responsibility to ensure respectful and conducive of learning atmosphere in the classroom. Disruptive behavior is not acceptable in this class. If found disruptive you may be asked to leave the room.
7. Cheating is an academic misconduct. If suspected, it will be handled in accordance with the University policies outlined at:
<http://sja.ucdavis.edu>

Assessment

- Grade in this class is based on 3 exams and your participation in class.

Exams

- There will be three exams worth 90%. Each exam is worth 30 % of your grade. Exams are not cumulative. Each exam is worth 100 points. If an exam is not taken, "0" points are assigned for that exam.
- **Bring a scantron and a #2 pencil to all tests.**
- Each exam test will consist of multiple choice or true/false questions. 50 total.
- Each exam test will last two hours. It is in your interest to be on time for these tests. Showing up late cuts into your allotted time and does not guarantee a good seat. **If you show up after the first person who completed the exam leaves the room you will not be allowed to take the test.**

If you have a documented learning disorder that makes this time frame or testing situation unfair to you, please see your instructor in person the first week of classes for appropriate accommodations.

- 10-20 review questions related to each topic covered in the class will be posted on class website to help you assess your level of preparation. *These questions are your study guide!*
- Knowledge of **both** lecture material and readings will be critical when answering these questions.

- Make-up tests will only be given in exceptional cases. However you have to notify me in advance. Failure to do so will result in a grade reduction. The make-up test will have a different content.
- No student will be allowed to take a test before scheduled testing date. This policy also applies to the final exam. *If you cannot take the final examination at the regularly scheduled time, you will need to complete CMN 114 in a later quarter.*
- You have a right to dispute your grade, but this can only be done within a week after the grades for each exam are posted and in person. No e-mail please.
- If necessary grades will be curved around 2.7 average (B-).

Participation

In class contribution is worth 10% of your grade. This will be assessed via in class and/or homework assignments, or surprise quizzes. You will be assigned 100 points at the beginning of the semester. Each failure to submit the assignment will result in the loss of 5 points. **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS. NO EXCUSES. Emergencies happen, however. Thus, you are allowed to miss two classes without penalty. I strongly suggest you use these for emergencies only.**

Extra credit

An extra credit opportunity is available in this course. You can earn up to 3 extra credit points by participating in a research study (each study participation is worth 1 point) or alternatively you can write two page summaries (1 point each) on a topic approved by me. The points will be added to your exam grade. Remember that you cannot use a single research participation to earn credits for more than one class. *No double dipping!*

Last day to complete EC is May 19th

To access SONA please use:

<http://pscresearch.faculty.ucdavis.edu/extra-credit/>
<https://ucdavis.sona-systems.com/>

See course schedule on the next page

Tentative Course Schedule (Spring, 2016)

Notations: [SS => SmartSite; B => textbook)

03.29T	Models of communication	Transport of ideas vs. resonance (SS)
03.31R	Communication and the Evolution of Cognition	Evans (B)
04.05T	The Information-Processing Paradigm	Lachman (SS); Loewenstein (B)
04.12T	Illusions of reality	Mitrovic (B) Perception and visual common sense(SS)
04.14R	Limited Capacity	Keller (B);
04.19T	Catch up and review	
04.21R	Exam 1	
04.26T	Some Dynamics of Cognition, Judgment, and Bias	Smelser & Reed (B)
04.28R	Forgetting and Blocking in Communication	Connor et al (SS); Burke et al (SS)
05.03T	Misattribution in Communication	Roediger & McDermott (SS); Yegiyani (SS)
05.05R	Consistency bias	Levine (SS)
05.10T	Hindsight bias	Carli (SS)
05.12R	Catch up and review	
05.17T	Exam 2	
05.19R	Egocentric bias	Ross & Sicoli (SS)
05.24T	Schemas and Stereotypes	Hunt et al (SS); Hausmann et al (SS)
05.26R	Cognitive shortcuts	Chaiken & Maheswaran (SS)
05.31T	Emotion and communication	Yegiyani (B)
06.02R	Catch up and review	
	Exam 3 (FINAL) Tue. Jun.07 at 8:00am	