



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: COMM

Course Title: Introduction to Speech Communication

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 1050-X02

Credits: 3

Course Description

Effective communication is frequently cited as one of the most important elements contributing to corporate and personal success. This course will survey the questions, methods, and current status of knowledge in the discipline of speech communication. We will explore communication theory and practice across a variety of context and forms, including verbal, non-verbal, interpersonal, group, organization, and mass communication.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Ashley Christiansen

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate understanding of areas with study within speech communication: basic communication, interpersonal communication, organizational communication, and rhetorical communication.
 2. Examine and analyze speech communication through the analysis of communication theory and practice across written contexts.
 3. Construct and develop competent speech communication skills based on research and written evaluation.
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Course Materials and Texts

Duck, S. & McMahan, D. T. (2020). *Communication in Everyday Life: A Survey of Communication* (4th ed.) Sage. <https://bookshelf.vitalsource.com/#/books/9781071807620/Links to an external site>.

The textbook is on Canvas. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO PURCHASE A HARD COPY.**

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Weekly Observations: With each chapter, you will submit a weekly observation – how does the content in the chapter have an impact on your role as a communicator? This could be a minor influence or a major influence. These observations should include a minimum of **two terms** from the chapter and its effect on your communication methods. **These posts will be due by Sunday night (11:59PM) each week and should be a minimum of one full page (double spaced).** Be critical and showcase an understanding of chapter material. Avoid being broad, dig into certain aspects of the chapter. These are to be submitted on Canvas. Failure to be critical and failure to provide a scholarly dialogue will result in point deductions.

Quizzes: Following each chapter, you'll take a chapter quiz. These quizzes will be open book and open note. You will only have one attempt to complete the quiz. Quizzes will test your understanding and application of chapter content.

Communication Self-Reflection: Near the end of the course, there will be a self-reflection paper. The goal of this assignment is to put the course in perspective by identifying what you learned, what was relevant to you, what was of value to your college goals, and what you will incorporate moving forward. As you'll find out during this course, communication is everywhere.

Theory Report: For your Final Assessment, you will be writing a paper about a foundational communication theory. You will seek to demonstrate your understanding of theoretical foundation, theoretical application, and theoretical critique. There'll be a drafting process to help finalize this paper.

Intercultural Presentation Assignment: You will be exploring a culture (of my choosing) through an informative speech. It's important to widen our understanding by analyzing a culture different than our own, we can become much more critical. This assignment will also include a two-page reflection paper, as you'll view other classmate's speeches.

Assessments: Each assignment above has a clear rubric attached. Please make sure to pay attention to assignment details and rubrics to determine how assignments are assessed for the course.

Late Work Policy:

Written work is due on the date specified in this syllabus. It is your responsibility to read the syllabus and understand when assignments are due. Students are responsible for arranging to make up missed individual work. **Late work will not be accepted.** Make-up work will be provided for university-excused absences only (which include officially sanctioned university activities, official athletic activities, religious observations, military responsibility, or other obligations or extenuating

circumstances). It is the student's responsibility to let the instructor know of such occurrences prior to the event.

Assignment Categories

Assignments	Points
Weekly Observations	140 (14 @ 10 pts each)
Discussions	130 (13 @ 10 pts each)
Quizzes	140 (14 @ 10 pts each)
Intercultural Speech Presentation	75
Intercultural Speech Reflection Paper	25
Communication Self-Reflection	40
Theory Report (DRAFT)	20
Theory Report (Final Assessment)	80
Total	650 pts

The following grading scale will be used in the course:

- A = 94%-100%
- A- = 90%-93.9%
- B+ = 86%-89.9%
- B = 83%-85.9%
- B- = 80%-82.9%
- C+ = 76%-79.9%
- C = 74%-75.9%
- C- = 70%-73.9%
- D+ = 66%-69.9%
- D = 63%-65.9%
- D- = 60%-62.9%
- F = > = 60%

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

All required readings use chapters from the course textbook that align with lectures and assignments.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Chapter 1: Overview of Communication

- Social Construction of Meaning
- Symbolism and Communication
- Communication is Cultural and Relational

Chapter 2: Identities, Perceptions, and Communication

- Myth of the Core Self
- Culture and Identities
- Perceptions Processes

- Communication and Identity Performance
- Chapter 3: Verbal Communication
- Symbolic nature of Verbal Communication
 - Kenneth Burke’s Pentad
 - Functions of Verbal Communication
- Chapter 4: Nonverbal Communication
- Misconceptions of Nonverbal Communication
 - Functions of Nonverbal Communication
 - Types of Nonverbal Communication
- Chapter 5: Culture and Communication
- Defining and Studying Culture
 - Structure Based Cultural Characteristics
 - Transacting Culture
- Chapter 6: Listening
- Active Listening
 - Relational and Engaged Listening
 - Overcoming Listening Obstacles
- Chapter 7: Personal Relationships
- Benefits of Personal Relationships
 - Developing and Maintaining Personal Relationships
 - Personal Relationships Coming Apart
- Chapter 8: Family Communication
- Families as Structures and Systems
 - Change and Disruption in Family Life
- Chapter 9: Groups and Leaders
- Characteristics of Groups
 - Group Development and Decision Making
 - Leadership Styles, Power, and Ethics
- Chapter 10: Communication and the Workplace
- Learning about the Workplace
 - The Workplace as Culture
 - Workplace Relationships
- Chapter 11: Health Communication
- Relationship between Culture, Society, and Health
 - Patient-Provider Relationships
 - Social Networks and Support
- Chapter 12: Technology and Media in Everyday Life
- Perceptions of Technology and Media
 - Cell Phones and Relationships
 - Maintaining Relationships and the Internet
- Chapter 13: Interpersonal Influence
- Sequential Persuasion
 - Emotional Appeals
 - Compliance Gaining
- Chapter 14: Interviewing
- Preparing for an Interview

- Answering Interview Questions
 - Concluding an Interview
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Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

We will be developing skills in COMM 1050 that are important to practice on your own. Using Generative AI tools to produce work you claim as your own goes against what we in the Department of Communication consider academic integrity. In COMM 1050 we specifically forbid the use of ChatGPT or any other generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools at all stages of the work process without your teacher's approval. Violations of this policy will be considered academic misconduct and awarded a zero. We draw your attention to the fact that different classes at Utah Valley University could implement different AI policies, and it is the student's responsibility to conform to expectations for each course.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.