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: Communication Capstone

Year: 2025
Course and Section #: 2110-003
Credits: 3

Course Description

Effective interpersonal communication is frequently cited as one of the most important elements contributing to personal, scholarly, and business success. As such, this course is designed to teach you the basics of interpersonal communication and provide opportunities to develop your interpersonal skills.

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: Kim Hanson

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Demonstrate** understanding of foundational interpersonal communication concepts and theories.
- **Evaluate** strengths and weaknesses of interpersonal communication research
- **Access and synthesize** scholarly research in the area of interpersonal and family communication
- **Demonstrate** proficiency in reading communication research
- **Apply** interpersonal communication theories and concepts to existing interpersonal and family communication problems

Course Materials and Texts

The required textbook for this course is:
Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships. By: J.S. Wrench, N.M. Punyanut-Carter, & K.S. Thweatt. 2020.
The text will be provided for you in Canvas as you begin the course. No purchase necessary

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
Make-up policy/Late Work
Fairness is extremely important to me. Fairness, in terms of class policies, means ensuring all rules are enforced equally with all students. For example, unless I can accept late-work from one student due to a work-related absence, I must be able to do that for all students. Because I can't accept late work due to work-related or vacation absences for all students, I cannot accept late-work for one student. As a result, my policy is to only accept late-work in this course in the case school excused absences, illness, or family emergency.

Written work
Your ability to communicate your ideas in writing is important. Written assignments will be held to the standards of college writing including content, organization, and presentation. Furthermore, one aim of this course is to teach you how to present your work in formats acceptable in professional settings. The following guidelines should be followed:
- All written work must be completed in APA style, unless otherwise noted.
- Proofread your work. Points will be subtracted for errors in form (spelling, punctuation, grammar, format, and neatness).

Course Assignments
Assignments will be graded using a point system. For each assignment, an assignment sheet will be provided explaining guidelines and expectations. The point breakdown below represents the maximum credit awarded for each assignment.

Course Mode: Online
Every week students will apply a communication concept to their lives. Weekly assignments include research blogs, reflection journals, communication analysis, communication self-assessment. Many of these assignments will take place in class, so attendance and participation are important.

Assessments:
Quizzes
Each module students will take a 30 point reading quiz. Reading quizzes will be a mix of close and open-ended questions. To do well on these quizzes, you will need to take notes. You may be tempted to do the quiz and reading at the same time. You will not have enough time to complete both simultaneously.
How do I take effective reading notes?! The following link will provide tips and tricks take effective reading notes: How to Take Effective Reading Notes

Links to an external site.
Research Activities

One goal of this course is to help students become familiar with social scientific research. Research assignments help students find and evaluate social scientific research on an interpersonal communication topic of students' choice. These assignments are meant to build to the final project.

Creative Project/Rationale

This semester you have read, discussed, and engaged in foundational interpersonal communication concepts and principles. You have also collected and read scholarly research on a specific topic that interested you. In this project, you will be applying the scholarly research you found to a non-academic audience in the form of a creative project. Creative projects can be anything that translates scholarly research to a lay audience. An excellent creative project will catch peoples attention and articulate the research findings in a way that the audience can understand.

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 course textbook and student guidebook that align with lectures and assignments.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Module 1: Introduction to Human Communication
- Baisc communication principles
- Communication competence
- Types of human communication

Module 2: Overview of Interpersonal Communication
- Elements of interpersonal communication
- Perception processes

Module 3: Intrapersonal communication
- Serlf-concept
- Personality and perception
- Communication and relational dispositions

Module 4: Functions of language
- Words and meaning
- Functions of language

- Improving verbal communication

Module 5: Nonverbal Communication
- Functions of nonverbal communication
- Categories of nonverbal communication

Module 6: Cultural and Environmental Factors
- Function of culture
- Cultural characteristics and communication

Module 7: Talking and Listening
- Sharing personal information – disclosure
- Listening taxonomy
- Perception checking

Module 8: Building and Maintaining Relationships
- Nature of relationships
- Relationship formation
- Relationship stages
- Relationship dialectics
- Dating scripts

Module 9: Conflict in relationships
- Understanding conflict
- Emotions and Feelings
- Power and Influence

Module 10: Friendship Relationships
- Stages and types of friendships
- Friendships in difference Contexts

Module 11: Family & Marriage Relationships
- Defining family
- Family communication patterns
- Family changes
- Relational dimensions

Module 12: Interpersonal communication in mediated contexts
- Technology and communication
- Computer-mediated-communication process
- Online identity

Module 13: Interpersonal relationships at work
- Requirements of professionalism
- Leader-follower relationships
- Problematic workplace relationships

Module 14: Darkside of communication
- Destructive relationship behaviors
- Hurtful messages

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
Any assignments or content generated with AI will be given a 0, and 50 points will be deducted from the end of term grade for every infraction.

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.