

**University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Communication Studies 201 L01
Introduction to Communication Studies
Winter 2015
January 12 to April 15, 2015
(Excluding February 15-22 and April 3, 2015)
Lectures Wednesday and Friday 12:00-12:50
Required Labs on Mondays**

Instructor: Dr. Linda Vennard
Office: SS214
Office Phone: TBA
E-Mail: vennard@ucalgary.ca
Web Page: D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Description

In this course we will explore the question of what we are doing when we “communicate”. Are we simply transmitting information? Are we creating meaning? Are we participating in a social process? Are we persuading others? Are we supporting the social status quo? Are we voicing challenges to the ‘system’? Incorporating examples from popular culture, Coms 201 will facilitate your finding an answer to these questions for yourself.

Additional Information

Labs are not considered optional; they are an integral part of the course and attendance and active participation are expected.

Please be aware that much of this course deals with the artifacts, experiences, and products of popular culture. As such, some of the material we study may involve course language, sexuality and violence. If this is a problem for you, please see the instructor or your TA.

Objectives of the Course

Through readings, lectures, written assignments and group discussions and activities, Coms 201 will introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of communications. Recognizing that communication is integral to all human activities and interactions, this course explores elements of communication studies that appeal to scholars from a variety of academic disciplines. Through an overview of the key concepts, methodological traditions, and major theoretical currents of the field, Students will have an opportunity to experience the cutting-edge diversity that defines communication studies.

In addition, the course will seek to introduce Students to the activity of scholarly communication itself by covering some of the basic principles of academic research: finding and using sources, developing original arguments based partly on those of others, and writing papers in the genre of academic research.

Textbooks and Readings:

Wood, Julia T. *Communication Theories in Action: An Introduction*. Third Edition. Canada: Wadsworth, 2004.

Additional online readings may be posted on or through D2L.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Only laptops are permitted in class and only for note taking. Other technology devices and uses – such as texting, gaming and social media – are not permitted during class. Other students often report these to be annoying and distracting, with a negative impact on their own learning experience. You are expected to respect the lecturer, teaching assistants and your fellow students.

Assignments and Evaluation

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Test #1 (Early, February 2): | 10% |
| • Test #2 (Midterm, March 2): | 20% |
| • Test #3 (Final, March 30): | 10% |
| • Application of Theory Paper (due March 16): | 20% |
| • Research Paper (due April 13): | 30% |
| • Participation (weekly): | 10% |

About the Tests:

All Tests are closed book and will consist of multiple choice and/or short answer questions designed to test your knowledge of theories covered in lectures, labs and readings. They will be written during the Monday labs. Tests are 'non-cumulative', meaning they are based on lecture, lab and reading material covered from the previous test to that point (refer to Class Schedule for details). Test #1 (Early, February 2) will be composed of multiple choice questions, and is designed to provide early feedback on your comprehension of the course material to that point.

About the Application of Theory Paper:

The Application of Theory Paper (20%) will be a paper of approximately 1000 words in which you discuss a theory that has been covered in class and apply it as a means of explaining an artifact (an element of popular culture, a news item, etc.), a public event, or an aspect of your own life.

A hard copy of your Application of Theory Paper must be handed directly to your TA at the beginning of the lab on March 16. Electronic submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

About the Research Paper:

The Research Paper (30%) will be a paper of approximately 1500-1750 words in which you bring material that you have researched from the library plus material from the lectures and readings to bear on a research question. A selection of topics will be provided to you well in advance. You will be graded on your understanding of the material and on your ability to construct a well-organized and logical argument.

A hard copy of your term paper must be handed directly to your TA at the beginning of the lab on April 13. Electronic submissions WILL NOT be accepted.

About Participation:

Participation (10%) grades will be awarded on the basis of your active involvement in tutorial discussions and activities. Details of required tutorial activities will be provided weekly and posted on D2L. Frequently, you will be expected to write up and bring to lab a brief discussion of a question related to the lecture material and readings. In order to receive participation grades, you are expected to be in attendance for tutorials, contribute to the discussions, and complete required group work and presentations.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

You do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Please hand in your essays directly to your tutor or instructor if possible. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS320; a date stamp is provided for your use. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System & Department of Communication, Media and Film Grading Scale

Work in this course will be graded using letter grades for written paper assignments and numerical grades for tests. The final grade will be expressed as a letter grade. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department grade scale equivalents	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations
4.00	Outstanding	A+	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		A -	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		B+	80 - 84.99%	82.5%
3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		B-	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		C+	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	C	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		C-	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	D+	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		D	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	F	00 - 49.99%	0%

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, for calculation purposes it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. (That is for example, A- would be converted to 87.5; F will be converted to zero).

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Research Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 picarts@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ 403-220-5333
• Calgary Police Service	403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Text Messaging • Emergency Evacuation & Assembly • Safewalk Program 	<p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</p> <p>If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (220-5333). For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</p>
<p>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT help line 	<p>http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</p> <p>403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca</p>
<p>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Support Services • Student Services Mobile App 	<p>http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</p>
<p>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts Reps • Student Ombudsman 	<p>http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</p> <p>http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</p>
<p>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counselling Services • Health Services • Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE • Online resources and tips 	<p>403-210-9355 (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</p> <p>403-266-HELP (4357)</p> <p>http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</p> <p>If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.</p>

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

A Class Schedule of weekly readings will be posted on D2L.