

# CMST 202 Survey of Speech Communication

## Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Laura Driscoll Nudelman

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**Text:** Trenholm, Sarah, Thinking Through Communication, 6th edition Pearson, Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 9780205688098

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

This course is designed to introduce you to basic concepts and theories in the field of speech communication. As a result of taking this course, you should become more aware of how communication surrounds you and affects your life, better able to identify and analyze communication patterns and their effects, and more aware of your own communication strengths and weaknesses. The specific learning outcomes for this course are:

1. Define the process of communication from multiple discipline perspectives.
2. Explain the influence of ancient Greek and Roman philosophers on current rhetorical and communication theory.
3. Describe the unique qualities found in group interaction and organizational communication and the methods of effective teambuilding and decision making.
4. Analyze a public speech and demonstrated an understanding of effective organization, argument construction, and guidelines for speech delivery.
5. Identify the barriers to effective intercultural communication and describe the methods of adapting to new cultures.
6. Apply contemporary communication research methods to human discourse and behavior.
7. Describe the symbolic nature of verbal and nonverbal communication and the role of communication theory in improving message clarity and relational satisfaction.

### **Course Requirements**

**Quizzes (500 points):**

During the course of the quarter, you will take 1 Orientation Quiz and 6 Quizzes over the chapter reading and website materials. The Orientation quiz is worth 20 points and the six remaining quizzes are worth 80 points and will consist of 40 true-false or multiple choice questions.

### **Discussion Board Participation (250 points):**

Participation in chapter discussions is required for completion of the course and is worth 250 points. Students must post 1 answer for each chapter being discussed. Postings must address all aspects of the discussion question and consist of a well-developed paragraph of 150-200 words. Emphasis should be placed on discussing the concepts and theories discussed in the text and personal experience should only be used as examples of course-related material.

### **Final Research Project and Paper (250 points)**

The final research project and paper are completed as a group. You will work together to identify an area of study, summarize what research on the subject has been done in the academic community, create a hypothesis, conduct your own research (survey, observation etc.), report your findings and discuss the significance of your results.

### **Grading Breakdown:**

940-1000 = A 900- 939 = A- 860- 899 = B+830- 859 = B  
800- 829 = B- 760- 799 = C+730- 759 = C 700- 729 = C-  
651- 699 = D+600- 650= D 0- 599 = F

### **POLICIES**

- **Late work (including the discussion board postings, final paper, or exams) will not be accepted unless arrangements are made with me before the due date.**
- Students are required to access their project group's discussion board daily and respond to any question asked of them within 24 hours Monday-Thursday

while working on the paper. Failure to do so may result in removal from the group and forfeiture of the 250 point assignment.

- Students caught cheating on an assignment will not receive any credit for that portion of the class. Repeat offenses will be reported to the Dean of Student Programs.
- If you have a documented disability and need to have some type of accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible so I can best meet your needs.
- Students are expected to model the behavior discussed in the content of this course. Online and in class discussions you may certainly disagree and debate, but you are required to demonstrate tolerance and respect at all times in your postings.
- Students are welcome to post any discussion board postings ahead of their due dates if this approach better meets their schedules.
- I am here to help you succeed and I'm looking forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.