**MPC 6010 Introduction to Graduation Studies and Communication Theory**

Instructor: Office Phone:

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Office Hours:

**Texts:**

* Preparing Literature Reviews: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches, 3rd ed, by M. Ling Pan, Pyrczak Publishing, 2008.
* Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition, 2013
* Theories of Human Communication, 10th ed, by Steven Littlejohn and Karen Foss, Waveland Press, Inc., 2010

**Course Description**

This course provides a survey of major theoretical perspectives in the field of communication with an emphasis on how theory can be applied in interpersonal, group, organizations and mass communication contexts. Students also learn about the logic of communication inquiry and techniques for academic literature searches and reviews.

**Course Format:** includes 24 hours of classroom instruction, approximately 24 hours of online instruction and approximately 60-70 hour of reading and projects outside of class.

**Course Objectives:**

After completion of this course, you should be able to:

* Identify, explain and compare theoretical concepts
* Apply theories to real-life situations and artifacts
* Understand the relationship between theory and research and the process of creating new knowledge in the field of communication.
* Form a communication research question, conduct an academic literature review and develop hypotheses. This project will serve as the basis for a communication research project in MPC 6700 Research Methods.

**Course Assignments:**

**Weekly assignments in Canvas** – each week there will be a discussion assignment in Canvas covering a different theoretical perspective. You will be asked to respond to discussion questions individually, then discuss the questions in a weekly group discussion forum. These assignments will cover material from the reading. Each assignment is worth 20 points.

**Application Papers** (1) Choose one of the theories we have studied in the units on interpersonal and group communication. Write a paper applying the theory to an interpersonal or group situation you have encountered in your professional life.

(2) Choose one of the theories we have studied in the units on organizational or mass communication. Write a paper applying the theory either to a situation or case study of an organization, or to your own or a key constituent group’s use of mass communication. Each paper is worth 50 points.

**Final Paper** Use one of the theoretical perspectives discussed in class, conduct an literature review, develop one or more hypotheses or research questions, and write a preliminary methods section on how you would collect data to answer the research questions. For this assignment you do not have to conduct the study. You will conduct a study based on this assignment in MPC 6700 Research Methods. The steps involved in completing this project total 200 points.

**Attendance and Class Participation** Each class period you are expected to attend, be actively engaged in group activities and class discussions, and share information and ideas gleaned from reading course material ahead of time. Each evening that you attend class and actively participate you will earn five points.

**Graded Assignments**

Weekly discussions in Canvas 6 @ 20 each 120

Application papers 2 @ 50 each 100

Final Paper first draft 50

Final Paper 150

Attendance and Class Participation 40

**Total 460 points**

A = 94% and above; A- = 90 to 93%; B+ = 87 to 89%; B = 83 to 86%; B- = 80 to 82%; C+ = 77 to 79%; C = 73 to 76%; C- = 70 to 72% ; D+ = 67 to 69%; D = 63 to 66%; D- = 60 to 62%; E = less than 60%

**Class Schedule**

Week 1 Theoretical traditions within the field of communication, theory v. applied research, Read Littlejohn & Foss (L&F) Ch. 1-3, articles online Discussion 1 due in Canvas by Sunday at midnight

Week 2 Interpersonal communication theories, conducting literature searches and finding resources in the library, Read L&F Ch. 6-7, Pan Ch. 1-2

Guest Speaker: Nicole Beatty, WSU Reference Librarian

**Discussion 2 due in Canvas**

Week 3 Group communication theories, citing sources, creating reference lists,

using the APA styleguide, Read L&F Ch. 8, bring APA Manual to class

**Discussion 3 due in Canvas**

Week 4 Developing research questions and hypotheses, writing literature reviews

Read the rest of Pan text, APA Manual Ch. 1-3, **Application Paper #1 Due**

**Discussion 4 due in Canvas**

Week 5 Organizational communication theories, Read L&F Ch. 9, reading online

**Discussion 5 due in Canvas**

Week 6 Mass communication theories, Read L&F 10, **Application Paper #2 Due**

**Discussion 6 due in Canvas**

Week 7 The relationship between theoretical perspectives and research methods, Read L&F Ch. 11 and “Theorizing Your World”

Writing workshop, peer review of first draft in class

**First draft due**

Week 8 Working with the IRB, methods of data collection, Read articles online

**Final paper due**

**Policies**

**Due Dates:** Late papers are strongly discouraged and will be docked 5% per day late.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating on written assignments is a violation of the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” We will talk more about what constitutes plagiarism at the beginning of the semester. Anyone found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will receive a zero (no credit) for the specific assignment, and may, in serious cases, fail the entire course.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you have a disability that requires special accommodation in this course, please make the request in conjunction with the Center for Students with Disabilities at the beginning of the semester in which the accommodation is being requested.

**Core Beliefs:** If course reading or requirements conflict with your core beliefs, it is your responsibility to make that determination early in the semester and drop the course before the last day to drop courses without penalty. If you find this solution impractical, you may request resolution from me (the instructor) in writing and deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on your beliefs.

**Emergency Closure:** If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via e-mail and the university’s Canvas online course management system. Please check your WSU student email frequently or forward it to an account you use regularly.