

COURSE SYLLABUS

HUMAN COMMUNICATIONS

FALL 2015

MORAVIAN COLLEGE

DR. D. WETCHER-HENDRICKS

CONTACTING THE PROFESSOR

office: PPHAC 314

office hours: Monday 9:00-11:00

Thursday 11:30-1:30

voice mail: 610-861-1415

e-mail: wetcher-hendricksd@moravian.edu



REQUIRED READING



Alberts, J.K., T.K. Nakayama, J.N. Martin. (2012). *Human Communication in Society*. New York:Pearson. ISBN: 978-0-205-02938-9

Hawkins, Katherine (ed.) *Communication Currents*. National Communication Association. <http://www.natcom.org/CommCurrentsArchive.aspx> .
Use the hyperlinks in the course schedule.

Through this course, students will

1. acquire basic knowledge about the discipline of communication studies.
2. gain factual knowledge about communication, including terminology and forms of communication.
3. learn the fundamental principles and theories about interpersonal, small group, public, and mass communications.
4. explore and reflect upon the relationship between theory and real-world situations.
5. develop an appreciation for cultural influences upon communication and current trends in communication.

Course Outcomes




EVALUATION

Course grades reflect student performance in five areas.

- I. journal entries – Using Blackboard’s “journals” function, each student must submit five journal entries of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ typed (single space) page by NOON on Wednesdays of designated weeks. The journal grade is based upon
 - a. the journal entry, itself
 - identify a feature of communication (e.g. development, theory, term, strategy) discussed in class or assigned readings that became evident or occurred in the news during the preceding three weeks.

- describe the news element.
 - describe how the topic from class applies to the news element.
- b. comments on at least TWO other students' postings by noon on Friday of each designated week.
2. paper - A journal entry of the student's choice becomes the basis for an explanatory or an argument paper of four to six pages. Specifically, each student should expand upon his or her journal entry, citing information from scholarly sources to provide either an explanation for how the originally described communication feature pertains to the news story's events or a judgment about its impact. Additional information about the paper can be found in the document entitled, "Guidelines for Paper."
 3. project – Relatively early in the semester, each student must complete a project that focuses upon a model of communication. The finished product may take the form of a paper, a poster, a power-point or Prezi file, a video, or another form approved by the professor. Please see the document entitled, "Guidelines for Presentation" for detailed instructions.
 4. exams – Three exams are given through the Blackboard system on scheduled days. (Please see the course schedule.) Blackboard will allow 1 hour to complete each exam and *this hour takes the place of that day's class meeting*. However, you may complete it at any time between 12:01 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the scheduled day, not necessarily during the scheduled class meeting time. The exams contain short-answer questions that assess student understanding of concepts presented in class and in assigned readings. You may use your book and notes to help you answer questions.
 5. participation/class activities - The participation portion of the grade reflects students' interactions in class. Each class during which an individual provides substantive contributions to class discussion or exercises increases this grade. Conversely, disruption (such as consistently arriving late for class), a lack of effort, or obvious inactivity (including sleeping) lowers the grade. The activities portion of the grade reflects students' efforts toward completion of in-class assignments as well as performance on periodic "pop" quizzes.

The preceding factors are combined in the following manner to determine each student's course grade.

	JOURNAL ENTRIES and COMMENTS (5 x 3%)	15%
	PROJECT	15%
	PAPER	15%
	EXAMS (3 x 15%)	45%
	PARTICIPATION/CLASS ACTIVITIES	10%

Moravian College uses the letter-grade system. The numerical ranges used in assigning each letter grade in this class are as follows. Please consult the Moravian College Student Handbook for a description of the level of work characteristic of each grade.

A	92%-100%	B	82%-87.9%	C	72%-77.9%	D	62%-67.9%
A-	90%-91.9%	B-	80%-81.9%	C-	70%-71.9%	D-	60%-61.9%
B+	88%-89.9%	C+	78%-79.9%	D+	68%-69.9%	F	0%-59%

All policies listed in the college catalog that deal with withdrawal, cheating, plagiarism, and other pertinent policies apply to this class.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain information and distributed materials from any class that he or she misses. Please make every possible effort to attend classes on scheduled quiz days. Late journal reactions can be submitted for half credit. Late exams will be accepted with a ten-point penalty and late papers and projects will be accepted with a five-point penalty for each day that they are late (including weekends and holidays.)

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall (extension 1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic & Disability Support office.

Please note: The calendar on the following pages presents an anticipated schedule of topics and assignments. Be aware that changes may be made based upon the progression of the term.

