

Communications Syllabus

COMM 1120

Fall, 2009

Columbia State Community College
Franklin Campus...Monday/Wednesday 11 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Daniel L. Johnson
Assistant Professor Of Communication Studies
BFA in Theatre.....University Of Southern Mississippi, 1976
MA in Communications, Southwestern, Fort Worth, TX, 1985
Lessons From The School Of Life, 1953 - present

Phone: (615) 790-5987

Office Hours: Mr. Johnson will meet with students during his office hours that will be posted on his office door. To ensure a meeting with him, make an appointment.

Course Number: 80781
COMM 1120 – FO5 Intro To Communication Studies
Classroom: WCC 105

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to the principles of interpersonal, small group and public communication theory and practice. The communication process, personal communication skills, non-verbal communication, small group communication and speech preparation and delivery are emphasized.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL GOAL: To provide the students with an opportunity

to develop effective oral communication skills in order that they may function effectively in society as students, citizens and workers.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- A. To develop three primary areas of public speaking**
 - 1. Speech Construction**
 - 2. Speech Delivery**
 - 3. Critical Thinking/Listening**

- B. To develop knowledge in interpersonal communication theory and skills.**

- C. To develop knowledge and skills in small-group communication. We will meet these objectives through a combination of lectures, group discussions, exercises, the watching of various videos, classroom performances and other methods.**

REQUIRED TEXT:

Communication Odysseys, 1st Edition.....Lenig, Benns & Johnson
Signs Of Life, 6th Edition, Sonia Maasik & Jack Solomon

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

You will be allowed only two un-excused absences for this semester. Attendance is mandatory during speech presentation days. After the second un-excused absence (or for any un-excused absence on speech presentation days), your grade will be reduced by five (5) percentage points for each additional un-excused absence.

Excessive un-excused absences can result in course failure. Excused absences do not reduce your grade. Excused absences include: a doctor's note; well-documented personal reasons; or documented college functions. Excused absence notices must be given to Mr. Johnson on the day the student returns to class.

A daily roll sheet will be taken. The roll sheet will be passed around at the beginning of the class. After it is taken by Mr. Johnson, no one will be able to sign the roll, and only those whose names are signed on the roll will be counted to be present. Tardy students who do not sign the roll as it is passed will not have the opportunity to sign it after class. Therefore, it is imperative that you come to class on time and be ready to participate in the class activities.

NOTE: This aspect of the class has the potential to be the most important factor in determining your final grade.

GRADING/ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION:

- A. There are basically 12 chapters in *Communication Odysseys* that will be examined and discussed in the 16-week semester. An exam will be given after covering assigned chapters in *Communication Odysseys* and other assigned materials. Therefore, there will be three exams during the semester that will constitute 60 percent of the student's grade – 20 percent each test.**
- B. Students will prepare and present two formal speeches during the semester. These speeches will be assigned by Mr. Johnson during the semester. Each student will present an "Informative" speech and a "Persuasive Debate" speech. These speeches will constitute 40 percent of the student's grade – 20 percent each.**
- C. A portion of each class period will be devoted to activities designed to develop the communication skills of the students. In order to participate, students must attend class and take part in the activities of the day.**
- D. As extra credit, students will compile a weekly journal of vocabulary words. Each week during the semester, the students will list 10 words that are new to them, along with each word's definition – a total of 150 words. Then, the student will write a short sentence, properly using the word. This extra credit will add five (5) percent to the student's final grade. Mr. Johnson will inspect these journals on the day of the final exam.**
- D. Scheduled exams:
First Exam: Oct. 14
Second Exam: Nov. 11
Final Exam: Dec. 14**
- E. Impromptu speeches will be assigned to all students by Mr. Johnson throughout the semester.**
- F Labor Day will be observed Sept. 7.
Fall break will be observed Oct. 19-20.
Thanksgiving break will be observed Nov. 26-27.**

GRADING STANDARDS:

Letter grades will be given to each student at the completion of the course. The following general standards will be applied to the student's work.

GRADE: A

Exceptionally well-prepared and executed completion of assigned work indicating effort, individualized style, and demonstrating a thorough grasp of large portions of the course material.

GRADE: B

Creative, well-prepared work, demonstrating unusual effort, talent, or grasp of the material that is distinctly superior to an “average” effort.

GRADE: C

Satisfactory completion of assigned work at a level of effort and competency normally expected of the majority of students (basic completion, average performance, and reasonable effort).

GRADE: D

Unsatisfactory completion of work indicating misperceived objective or failure to grasp key concepts, but with reasonable effort.

GRADE: F

Failure to complete assigned work through lack of reasonable effort, or failure to attain a passing average on either exams or assignments.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

- A. College students are expected to conduct themselves in respectful ways with their professor and with other students. Excessively rude or violent behavior will not be tolerated. Students that exhibit such behavior will be asked to leave.**
- B. Students are asked to turn off electronic devices before entering the classroom; i.e. cell phones; walkmans; etc. If a student’s electronic device rings/buzzes and interrupts a class period, that student will automatically lose 10 points on the next scheduled exam.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Don’t cheat or plagiarize! Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “F” on the relevant assignment. (NOTE: When Mr. Johnson explains this syllabus, he will specifically explain how plagiarism applies to speech research. You will responsible for this information).

DISABILITY SERVICES:

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students are encouraged to register with the Counseling and Disability Services office for possible assistance with accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to voluntarily and confidentially provide appropriate documentation regarding the nature and extent of a disability. Students requesting special accommodation are encouraged to contact Counseling and Disability Services (931-540-2572) at the beginning of the semester.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR SPRING, 2009 COMM 1120

Each week, Mr. Johnson will lead the class in discussion of the written material in *Communication Odysseys*. He will also assign various readings from Maasik's and Solomon's *Signs Of Life* throughout the semester. Also, he will provide handout material. All of these resources will be used in compiling exams.

**Aug. 31.....Comm 1120.....The Shifting World
Sept. 2....Introduction/Getting To Know U
Sept. 9....Communication Philosophy...Chapter 2
Sept. 14.....Communication Philosophy...Chapter 2
Sept. 16/21.....Communication History....Chapter 1
Sept. 23.....Communication Models.....Chapter 3
Sept. 28/30.....Tag-Team Talking....Assigned "Signs Of Life"
Oct. 5/7.....Tag-Team Talking...Assigned "Signs Of Life"
Oct. 12.....Informative Speeches Chosen
Oct. 12.....Communication And Research/Exam Review.....Chapter 5
Oct. 14.....First Exam
Oct. 19.....Fall Break
Oct. 21....Communication And Informing....Chapter 6
Oct. 26...Communication And Popular Culture...Chapter 11
Oct. 28.....Communication And The Performance....Chapter 4
Oct. 28.....Communication And Correct Format.....Chapter 12
Nov. 2.....Begin Student Informative Speeches
Nov. 4..... Informative Speeches
Nov. 9.....Communication And Persuading.....Chapter 7
Persuasive Debates Chosen
Nov. 11.....Second Exam
Nov. 16.....Communication And The Media.....Chapter 10
Nov. 18.....Communication And The Media
Nov. 23.....Communication Interculturally.....Chapter 9
Nov. 25.....Communication Interpersonally.....Chapter 8
"The Day Of The Circle"
Nov. 30....Persuasive Debates Speech Begin
Dec. 2/7/9....Persuasive Debates Continue**

Dec. 14.....11 a.m.....Final Exam