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Principles Human Communication

COM 101 Section 001

Spring 2014, Lecture

Angela Billings

Office Hours and Contact Information

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:30am-8:45am

Thursday 10am-12pm

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites

No prerequisites or none listed.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

General introduction to communication studies as a way of understanding how humans coordinate social meaning and achieve communicative goals. The focus is on identifying the foundation of human communication and the functions of communication in everyday situations. Offered in the spring semester. SB designation for university core curriculum.

Core Designations:

Social and Behavioral Sciences
Communication, as a field of study, encompasses a great deal more than studying two people sitting around talking to one another, although that is in fact, a very important part of our area. Communication involves understanding how it is possible that when one utters sounds, another person makes sense of those sounds; how (mis)understanding allows social interaction to occur; how relationships develop; how groups function; how organizations maintain order; how cultures develop, maintain, and reinforce themselves; how individuals learn to persuade others, and how masses are moved to action, to name just a few areas.

This course is designed to introduce you to a variety of areas within the field of communication, laying groundwork for your upper-division coursework at the University of Alabama. By the end of this course, you should have an understanding of the types of work done within our field, how to use our basic library resources, how research in communication proceeds, and how these things can benefit you as students, as professionals, and as human beings.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, you will:

* Know the history, structure and questions that define the field of communication
* Understand the nature and importance of theory in the study of communication
* Understand the variety of research methods used by communication researchers
* Be familiar with the library resources available to you here at UA

**Required Texts**

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

- ALBERTS / HUMAN COMMUNICATION IN SOCIETY *(Required)*
- ALBERTS (RENTAL) / (RENTAL) HUMAN COMMUNICATION IN SOCIETY *(RENTAL)*

**Attendance**

**Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework**

All work must be turned in on time. Exams and presentations cannot be “made up.” The only exception to this rule is in the case of documented medical emergencies, death related absences, or other special circumstances beyond the control of the student (NOTE: Taking a vacation during the semester does not constitute an excused absence. Being called in for jury duty, however, does). Under these special circumstances it is your responsibility to make arrangements for make-up work (or early test taking) and provide appropriate documentation.

**Attendance Policy**
Students are expected to attend class every class period and participate actively in class. Students are permitted four unexcused absences before a grade penalty will occur. Each additional absence will result in a **30 point** deduction from the final grade. Showing up for class more than **10 minutes** after the start time will be marked as a tardy. **Three tardies** will be counted as an absence. It is the students’ responsibility to give the instructor any documentation for excused absences one week from the absence.

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and to do so on time. Much of the learning will take place inside of the class through discussions, presentations, and interactions.

For an absence to be considered excused, you must provide documentation regarding that absence to the instructor within **one week** of that missed class. Excused absences are very rare. If you are sick, go to the health center. In order for any absence to be excused, you must provide documentation.

Keep in mind, if you anticipate an absence, it is your responsibility to turn in the work in advance of the class meeting when the assignment is due. Late work will not be accepted, and this includes work submitted after class on the due date. Emailed assignments WILL NOT be accepted without prior approval and special circumstances.

**Severe Weather Guidelines**

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.

The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
• Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at [http://wvuatv.com/content/weather](http://wvuatv.com/content/weather). WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check [http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts](http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts) for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

**Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the [Code of Student Conduct](http://wvuatv.com/content/code-of-conduct) for more information.