COMM 6329: Seminar on Problems in Organizations
Monday Evening, Conference Room, 6pm-9pm
Dr. Leslie Y. Rodriguez
Fall 2017

Instructor Information:
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Email: Leslie.Rodriguez@angelo.edu
Office Hours: MW: 12 noon-1:00 pm, 2:15pm-3:00pm; TR 12 noon-3:30 pm, And by appointment

Readings:

Additional Articles Noted Below.

Course Description:
Investigation of various communication problems occurring in organizational communication, such as in decision-making, group communication within organizations, communication and organizational culture, and organizational rhetoric and issue management with the aim of developing and implementing communication solution strategies.

Course Objectives:
To develop an advanced understanding of organizational communication theories and their application to actual organizational life.
To understand methods for study of varied aspects of organizational communication.

Course Requirements:

- **250 points: Reading/Leading/and Participation in Class Discussions** – follow the course outline to keep up with reading material to prepare for discussions. Each week, be sure to give us your perspective on the week’s reading material. If designated discussion leader, provide all class members with an outline of the reading, and then prepare a list of key questions or issues you would like to discuss about the reading material. Points will be awarded on the following scale: Excellent=238 points Good=213 points Average=187 points Fair=162 points Poor=137
- **250 points: Midterm Exam**: essay form, asking for application of material discussed in class
- **250 points: Final Exam**: essay form, asking for summary and application of material discussed in class.
- **250 points: Literature Review**: students are expected to select an area of organizational communication which they are interested. Their goal is to develop a familiarity with relevant research in that particular aspect of organizational communication. A paper summarizing the review of literature and findings will be turned in. The paper should be concise 15-18 pages. The paper should include an introduction, review or literature (somehow categorized), summary of findings, and conclusion. Paper must be correctly cited in-text using APA style. An APA style works cited or bibliography page should also be included (not included in the 15-18 page page count). An oral presentation of your research will be given in the form of a 10 minute presentation discussion at the end of the semester.
Course Policies:

1. Late Work: All assignments will be due on the assigned day at the assigned time. I do not accept late work. So, work ahead of the due date in case something happens.
2. Attendance: Attendance is essential for learning. Absences will affect your course grade.
3. Tardiness: Graduate school indicates you meet a certain level of maturity and professionalism. As such, be on time to class.
4. The use of electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.) in prohibited unless being used for class functions.

Course Grading:
The following grading scale will be used to determine final grades:

100-900 = A  899-800=B  799-700=C  699-600=D  599 and lower =F

Academic Misconduct:

Plagiarism will result in a zero for that assignment, and the instructor may pursue additional measures, which include receiving an “F” in the course or being referred to the academic integrity board. All assignments are to be the original composition of each student. Outside sources are required for each assignment with proper citing in a bibliography/works cited page as required.

Class Etiquette:
Please be a courteous student and peer. Remember, the classroom is diverse. All students have differing value systems. What does not offend you, may offend others. As such, speak and behave in a professional manner.

Honor Code Policy:

Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/estudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Disability Statement:

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting Mrs. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development 325-942-2047 office or 325-942-2211 Fax dallas.swafford@angelo.edu University Center, Suite 112B

Holiday Observance:

A. “Religious holy day” means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code 11.20.
B. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
C. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence, however; the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.
Schedule

*Schedule is subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to prepare accordingly.

**August 28** - Introduction to Class, Discussion of Syllabus & Course Schedule  
K&S: pg. 1-10

**September 4** – HOLIDAY

**September 11** - The Meaning of Work  
ETLG: Chapter 1; K&S Case 26, 28.


**September 18** - Communication in Organizations  
ETLG: Chapter 2; K&S Case 29, 30, 31


**September 25** - Classical and Human Relations Theories  
ETLG: Chapter 3; K&S Case 21, 22, 23


**October 2** - Systems and Sense Making Theories  
ETLG: Chapter 4; K&S Case 35 &39


**October 9** - Cultural Studies of Organizations  
ETLG: Chapter 5; K&S Case 1, 2, 3, 4,


**October 16**- MIDTERM

**October 23** - Individuals, Society, and Work  
ETLG: Chapter 7, K&S Case 10, 11, 13, 27


**October 30**- Fight the Power: Critical Approaches  
ETLG: Chapter 6; K&S Case 24, 25, 36, 38


November 3: Last Day to Drop a Course or Withdraw from the University

November 6 - Leadership in Organizations
ETLG: Chapter 9; K&S Case 5, 6, 7


(Must show me minimum of 8 pages of final paper)

November 13 - Relationships in Organizations
ETLG: Chapter 11; K&S Case 20, 34, 37


November 20 - Teams and Networks
ETLG: Chapter 8; K&S Case 14, 15, 16


November 27 - Paper Workshop

December 4 - Presentations (Final Papers Due)

December 11 - Final Exam (6-9pm)