COMM 4351: Communication Theory
Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Brojakowski
Spring 2020

Library 316 – TR 11:00 a.m. -12:15 p.m.

Instructor information:
Email: Benjamin.Brojakowski@angelo.edu
Telephone: (325) 486-6079
Office: Porter Henderson Library 306L

Office Hours:
MW 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.; By Appointment
TTH 12:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.; By Appointment
F 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; By Appointment

Readings Required:

Course Description:
COMM 4351 introduces students to many of the theories in the field of communication studies. Students will examine theories from broad fields such as new media, rhetoric, interpersonal communication, and others. Students will have the opportunity to improve their research skills through an annotated bibliography project and show their creativity by creating an educational video. They will also apply and demonstrate their knowledge through attendance activities, exams, and a writing project.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Increase student knowledge about communication theories and research.
Challenge students to critically evaluate and utilize communication theories and research.
Empower students to apply course-related knowledge and skills by collaborating with classmates to produce a communication theory video project.

Course Requirements (500 points):

Communication Theory Project = 200 points
This project allows students to work independently and as part of a group to improve their knowledge about one specific theory during the semester. Students will improve their research skills by independently completing a sample annotation exercise and a more detailed annotated bibliography. Students will then work in groups to create an educational video about their theory. I will maintain a digital copy of this video and may add it to YouTube to use as a teaching tool in future classes.
Communication Theory Writing Assignment = 50 points
Students will have the opportunity to choose an assignment from a list of questions about communication theory. Assignments will be 5-8 pages and include APA citations. Additional details and assignment options can be found in the Communication Theory Writing Assignment Folder on BlackBoard.

Exams (2) = 200 points (100 points each)
Students will demonstrate their mastery of the course material by completing two exams. The exams will cover material from the textbook & assigned readings. In order to perform well on exams, it is important to complete the assigned readings and be an active participant in class discussions.

Attendance Activities = 50 points
Students must be in class to complete all attendance activities. The activities will be unannounced and will each be graded on a scale of 0-5 points. Students will have the opportunity to complete 12 activities and the lowest two grades will be dropped.

Course Grading

A=500-450 points  B=449-400 points  C=399-350 points  D=349-300 points  F=299 points and below

Course Policies

1. Attendance

Regular attendance is required in this course. Attendance will be taken and counted beginning the first day of class. The student is allowed to miss 2 attendance activities without penalty to the final grade. However, a student’s absence will result in a zero for all work/assignments completed on that day. Students will lose five Attendance Activity points for every three tardies (more than 10 minutes late).

To be considered excused for a class absence, the student must be excused through the school as they will be attending a school sponsored event or provide proof of a medical or family emergency. In these cases, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any assignments they will be missing prior to their departure. Please come talk to me as soon as you know you will be missing a class.

2. Late Assignments

Late work will receive a 20% point deduction every day that it is late (including weekends). If students are unable to submit their work on BlackBoard because of technology issues or because a deadline has passed, they should submit the work to me by email as soon as possible.

3. Missed Exams

1. Contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. If you are aware of your need to be absent prior to the exam, you should contact to me before missing the assignment.
2. By the next class session you attend, provide documentation of your absence.
3. I will view your documentation and make a final decision as to whether or not you are permitted to make up the exam.
4. Make-up presentations will only be granted for documented absences.
4. Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism in your assignments will result in a zero for the assignment and the instructor may pursue additional measures. All assignments are to be the original composition of each student. Outside sources are required for each assignment with proper citing in a bibliography as required.

5. Class Etiquette

Please be a courteous student and peer.

Laptops and tablets are encouraged for in-class activities and note taking. If any student uses this technology for non-class activities, he/she will lose all attendance and participation points for the day. If any student is disciplined for using this technology inappropriately three times throughout the semester, they will lose the ability to use their laptops and tablets in class for the remainder of the semester.

Students may not use Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media outlet to post pictures or videos of other students or their performance in the classroom. Failure to comply with this rule will result in failure for the semester.

6. 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/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf)

7. 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

8. Religious 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.

9. Language

Under no circumstance will racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other type of oppressive language be tolerated in COMM 451. Please think before you speak and use your language carefully. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class with no credit for attendance if your language crosses this boundary.

We must respect one another’s opinions, even when we disagree with them. This is not to say that debate is unwelcome. Rather, I expect healthy, reasoned, thoughtful debate that in all ways respects and values the individual person. Be prepared to provide and support your arguments.

10. Social Media

I do not communicate with students on social media. All of my active social media accounts are set to private and I will not accept/request social media connections with students.

11. Food

Food is allowed in class during lecture hours. No food will be allowed in class on presentation days unless it is a medical requirement.

12. Title IX Statement

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

**Michelle Boone, J.D.**

*Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator*

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

[ michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form).
If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

The Office of Title IX Compliance also provides accommodations related to pregnancy (such as communicating with your professors regarding medically necessary absences, modifications required because of pregnancy, etc.). If you are pregnant and need assistance or accommodations, please contact the Office of Title IX Compliance utilizing the information above.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter Readings</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 Week of Jan. 13</td>
<td>Syllabus Communication Theory Videos Chapters 1 &amp; 4</td>
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<td>2 Week of Jan. 20</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 3 Social Exchange Theory PDF</td>
<td>Jan. 24 Sign Up for Communication Theory Video</td>
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<td>3 Week of Jan. 27</td>
<td>Chapter 7 Young PDF (Sample Annotation)</td>
<td>Jan. 29 Young Annotation Due Jan. 30 Communication Theory Workshop</td>
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<td>4 Week of Feb. 3</td>
<td>Chapters 8, 9, &amp; 11</td>
<td>Feb. 6 Contracts Workshop Feb. 7 Contracts Due</td>
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<td>5 Week of Feb. 10</td>
<td>Interpersonal Deception Theory Chapter 17</td>
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<td>6 Week of Feb. 17</td>
<td>Video Editing Workshop Chapters 19-21</td>
<td>Feb. 18 Video Editing Workshop</td>
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<td>7 Week of Feb. 24</td>
<td>Group Project Workshop Exam Review Exam #1</td>
<td>Feb. 27 Exam #1</td>
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<td>8 Week of March 2</td>
<td>Chapters 34 &amp; 35</td>
<td>March 6 Annotated Bibliographies Due</td>
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<td>9 Week of March 9</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>No Classes</td>
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<td>10 Week of March 16</td>
<td>Chapters 31-33 Gender Communication</td>
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<td>11 Week of March 23</td>
<td>International &amp; Political Communication Health Communication</td>
<td><strong>March 26 – Last Day to Drop Class</strong></td>
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<td>12 Week of March 30</td>
<td>Chapters 22, 23, &amp; 26 Schedule Flexible – Conference Travel</td>
<td>Collect Video Footage</td>
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<td>13 Week of April 6</td>
<td>Chapters 14-16</td>
<td><strong>Spring Holiday April 10</strong></td>
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<td>April 13</td>
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<td>Chapters 28-30 Video Editing Workshop</td>
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<td>April 14 Video Editing Workshop No Class Meeting</td>
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<td>April 20</td>
<td>Week of April 20</td>
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<td>Communication &amp; The Media Communication &amp; New Technologies</td>
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<td>April 26 Video Assignments Due</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>Week of April 27</td>
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<td>Film Screenings Exam Review</td>
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<td>April 28 Turn in Video Project Consent Forms</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>Communication Theory Writing Assignment Due Exam #2</td>
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<td>May 5 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</td>
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