COMM 6303: Communication Theory  
Tuesday Evening, 6pm-9pm  
Dr. Leslie Y. Rodriguez  
Fall 2020

Instructor Information:  
Office: LIB 306M  
Phone: 325-486-6089  
Email: Leslie.Rodriguez@angelo.edu  
Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday: 11 am – 12 noon; Tuesday/Thursday: 11 am – 1 pm; Virtually by Appointment

Readings:  
- Additional Articles as Assigned.

Course Description:  
An overview of communication theories impacting the design and maintenance of communication systems.

Course Objectives:  
- Describe the essential features of several important theories of human communication.  
- Articulate to an audience how a real-world or fictional example demonstrates a specific communication theory.  
- Compare and contrast communication theories in order to understand and evaluate communication behavior.  
- Critique communication theory according to the standards appropriate for the theory’s metatheoretical tradition (i.e., scientific, interpretive, or both).

Course Requirements:  
- **70 points: Literature Review (6 page text)** – On October 6th by 6 pm, each student will be required to turn in the first 6 pages of their literature review. These 6 pages are expected to be spelling/punctuation and formatting error-free, and correctly formatted according to the most recent APA manual. An accurate APA reference page must also be included.  
- **14@10 points=140 points: Article Reading Summaries** – Students will turn in short reading summaries of articles assigned for the week on the Monday before class.  
- **14@10 points=140 points: Chapter Theory Summaries** – Students will turn in short chapter summaries of textbook readings assigned for the week on the Monday before class.  
- **2@50 points=100 points: Article/Discussion Leader** – Student will select 2 dates where he/she will be responsible for presenting the article to the class for that particular day. A 1 page (1 sided) HO should be provided for all students in the class (uploaded to Blackboard under Weekly Folder in Discussion Board). The presentation and HO should focus on the methods, results/findings, and discussion section, although the HO may include a brief summary of literature review (but the DL should not focus much time on LR in discussion). The discussion leader should have questions for the class regarding the reading that focus on the methods or results/findings, which can include limitations, gaps, strengths, proposed changes, point of interests, etc. that encourage/facilitate discussion in the class. 30 min max (10 mins summary of article max/remainder time devoted to discussion and questions) devoted to each article. **In addition to creating this HO for class and presenting in class, the presenter must also record and upload to Blackboard under Discussion Board a Zoom presentation of them presenting the article summary by the Monday prior to them presenting in class. (also upload to Weekly Folder under Discussion Board)**  
- **2@50 points=100 points: Theory Presentation & Discussion Leader** - Students will select two chapters to create a formal PowerPoint presentation for the class. The presentation should not last any longer than 15 minutes. The presentation will be followed by the presenter becoming the discussion leader regarding this chapter/theory (15 min. max). A 1 page (1 sided) HO should be provided for all students in the class (uploaded to Blackboard under Weekly Folder in Discussion Board). **In addition to creating this PowerPoint for class and presenting in class, the presenter must also record...**
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.) is prohibited unless being used for class functions.
5. Courtesy and Respect: Be mature. Share your viewpoints, but give others the opportunity to do so, as well. Argue issues; do not attack people.

Course Grading:

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

1000-900 = 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

Title IX at Angelo State University:

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.

Students 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 at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at 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.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

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.

Course Syllabus Statement on Required Use of Masks/Facial Coverings by Students in Class at Angelo State University:

As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing
practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 – August 18</th>
<th>Introduction to Course</th>
<th>Review Course Syllabus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 – August 25</td>
<td>Definition of Comm. Lecture - LR</td>
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**Week 3 - September 1**

2: Talk About Theory
3: Weighing the Words


(does both)


**Week 4 – September 8**

**Interpersonal**
7: Expectancy Violations Theory
8: Social Penetration Theory


**Week 5 – September 15**

9: Uncertainty Reduction Theory


**Week 6 – September 22**

10: Relational Dialectics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7 – September 29</th>
<th><strong>Writing Workshop</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 8 – October 6</strong></td>
<td><strong>Social Judgment Theory</strong></td>
<td><strong>First 6 Pages of Lit Review Due</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week 9 – October 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Persuasion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 10 – October 20</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Culture</strong></td>
<td><strong>Week 10 – October 20</strong></td>
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<td>Week 11 – October 27</td>
<td><strong>Gender &amp; Critical Theory</strong></td>
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<td>35: Standpoint Theory</td>
<td><em><strong>Complete Literature Review Due/Reference Page Included</strong></em></td>
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<th>Week 12 – Nov. 3</th>
<th>36: Muted Group Theory</th>
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<th>Week 13 – Nov. 10</th>
<th><strong>Writing Workshop</strong></th>
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<td>Week 14 – Nov. 17</td>
<td>Paper Presentations (ALL)</td>
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<td>Week 15 – Final Exam</td>
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<td>ALL PAPERS DUE BY 6 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday, November 21\textsuperscript{st} from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm</td>
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