Communication

Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Fall 2020
Communication 15: Computer Mediated Communication

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Required:
➢ There is no textbook for this class but students will be assigned articles and videos online, which are a mandatory portion of the course content. Therefore students must have access to high speed internet.
  o Students will be asked to create online accounts in gmail, twitter and LinkedIn.
  o These accounts only need to be open during this semester.
➢ Submitted assignments must be in .DOC or .RTF or PDF file formats (this is important for the Mac users in the class.) Make sure you have the capability to convert your files to these formats.
➢ Students should have a working knowledge of computer technology. But the point of this course is to explore new ways of using CMC to communicate.

Course Description

From email to social networking to online dating new communication technologies have changed the way people build and maintain relationships. This course explores several areas of study related to computer-mediated communication including historical perspectives, relationship formation online, online dating, hyperpersonal communication, the sociology of social networks and online communities, families and online communication, privacy and safety issues, and the convergence of mass and interpersonal communication.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Summarize the similarities and differences between face-to-face and computer-mediated communication.
2. Make effective use of the major online communication technologies including, but not limited to, social networks, email, blogs and the 3D Web.
3. Demonstrate the social implications of the changing face of interpersonal relationships maintained in part or whole through computer mediated communication
4. Collaborate effectively on tasks utilizing online tools.
   SLO's will be assessed via Mock Job Interview, online discussion boards and the group webpage.

Student Rights

Students are encouraged to become familiar with the "Campus Policies" section of the Schedule of Courses. This material includes information regarding cheating and plagiarism, disruptive classroom behavior, and other instructional issues. This class will also require proper online etiquette. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing in my class will receive a zero on the assignment and any assignment connected to that assignment. If plagiarism is detected students will earn a zero on that assignment and will forfeit all of their participation points. If the plagiarism is repeated students will earn a zero in the course and will be reported to the dean of student services. Be aware that students will be submitting all papers through anti-plagiarism software, *Turn It In*. Any assignment that indicates a 35% or more match via Turn it in must be addressed and resubmitted by the student. References will not count.

Students with disabilities: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Classroom Advisory, Requirements and Deportment

Since this is an online course, it is recommended that students have good basic computer skills. If students are intimidated to utilize computer programs and do not want to conquer the fear, this is not the class for you. Students should have access to a computer and an internet connection. A DSL/broadband line is preferred since you will need to upload documents and watch videos.

Additionally an online course requires a high degree of independent learning. Students must have self-discipline to stay on top of their work without reminders from me or anyone else or you will fail this class. Although you do not physically attend the course you must log in and engage in the material on a weekly basis. Successful students are those who log in and engage in the material on a regular basis at least two to three times a week.

Students must respect the other students in the class. Comments and posts should be respectful and appropriate. I reserve the right to block any student whose comments are out of bounds. If necessary students can be reported to the dean of student services or removed from the course. As a communication course, part of the content is to recognize that our messages should be created for a specific audience. The audience for this course is: "educated adults" and I will expect the discussions and posts to be appropriate for an educated adult audience. Under no circumstances will flaming (online name-calling, hate speech, etc.) be allowed.

Please know that due to the nature of this class (with students having freedom of choice in some discussion board and project topics), it is possible that some of the subjects and language in this class could delve into the PG-13 or R-rated area. Students can use adult material if it truly fits the assignment.

This course is purely online and as such it is the students' responsibility to stay connected via Canvas. Due dates are firm and late assignments will not be accepted.

Assignments

Graded Item	Points Possible
Various Discussion Boards	
Introduction online video	50
Discussion boards 10 @ 10 pts each **SA** (4 of the 10 will be used as a signature assignment.)	100
McLuhan-ism Discussion	50
Pod Cast Discussion	50
Mock Job Interview responses	25
Projects	
LinkedIn Profile (Set up = 20, Submission = 80)	100
Mock job interview **SA Live** (Interview = 80, DB = 20)	100
Twitter Assignment (Set up = 20, Engagement/Submission = 80)	100
Screen Cast PSA (App selected = 10, Submission = 90)	100
Collaborative Assignment	
Group Webpage on CMC **SA** (Topic = 5, Individual Bio = 10, Individual Page = 100, Sources = 5, Overall Unity = 5)	125
Exams	
Mid-Term	50
Final	50
Participation	
Participation, & Engagement	100
Total Points Possible	1000

SA indicates signature assignments which are required.
Students who do not complete signature assignments will forfeit **all** participation points.

The chart to the right will be used in the assignment of final grades.	900-1000 = A 800-899 = B 700-799 = C 600-699 = D 599- 0 = F

Canvas – Assignments, and all interaction will be handled via Canvas. Due to the format for this class students will be asked to participate on a regular basis via Canvas and other formats. Make sure you have the internet connection necessary to fulfill the course components. Some of the items you will need: Gmail account, Twitter account, LinkedIn account, video camera or capability to film and upload videos. Keep in mind when looking at Canvas that the point total is the ONLY thing that matters, percentages do not reflect true grade. The instructor is not responsible for technical difficulties, and technical difficulties are NOT a valid excuse. The course will also employ a 12 hour window to allow for technical issues. For a 5 point deduction students will have 12 hours to submit their work. Do not take advantage of this 'grace period' lightly. Students who continually take the 12 hour option will lose participation points. The 12 hour window will only be allowed for assignments designated as "projects" in the list above.

Drop Policy: If you fail to post your introduction presentation to the discussion forum by the end of the second week I will drop you from the course. Additionally during the first nine weeks, if you do not access the website for more than one week of class I will drop you from the course.

Attendance/Engagement = Participation: This might sound crazy but students must have good *attendance* even in an online class. Students must check in regularly or they will be dropped. Class contact must happen every week on a steady basis. Students are expected to log in at least 2 times per week and spend a good deal of time in discussions, lessons, and activities. Online classes require time management on the part of the student! Check in and check often to make sure you stay on track. Participation points will be drastically affected if you do not log in consistently during the semester. Not completing signature assignments will also result in forfeiting all participation points.

Exams: There are two exams – a mid-term and a final exam. The questions will be pulled from the assigned readings, videos and discussions. Questions will be mixed between multiple choice and short answer formats. These quizzes are open-resources exams. They are timed, but you will have three chances to take the exam. No one will be able to access the exam once the closing date has passed. Canvas will record the highest grade earned in your three attempts.

Projects: This course is designed as a project based course. In other words you will have projects to complete during the semester and you can get them done any time prior to the due date. The projects are to be interactive, educational and hopefully fun. Students will be assigned one collaborative project but the rest of the projects are individual assignments. Students should seek out their questions to technical issues – there are a great deal of how-to youtube videos available online that can assist you with some of the technology. Look for answers but feel free to contact the instructor or tech services at the college for any additional help.

Discussion Board: This portion of the course is interactive. You will be asked to post an initial post in the discussion board on various topics throughout the semester. Those will all be due mid-week then students will respond to each other and engage in a discussion regarding the content – those posts are due at the end of the week. Students who post too late in the week will lose points on their initial post. Make sure your posts are thoughtful and offer collegiate level responses. Also the edit ability will be disabled for discussion boards so that students will need to make sure their post is ready to be graded when they post their first response to the prompt. There will be one discussion board where you will be assigned a particular student to respond to other than that students are encouraged to engage with all classmates.

"Per Title V Regulation 58170(e), students must be referred to academic support services by counselors or instructors. With this statement on my course syllabus, I am referring any students in my class in need of academic support to tutorial services. Tutorial services may include: the tutorial center, writing center or the communication lab. Referral reason: Mastering the content, study skills, and basic skills of this course is aided by the use of trained peer tutors."