

*****DRAFT*****
COMM200: Communication and Social Science
Spring 2013 (20327R)

Instructor: Young Ji Kim (call me Young Ji, which is pronounced as young-gee)

Email: youngji@usc.edu

* Please allow two business days for a response. If you have not received a response after 48 hours, please try again, or see me in person.

Section: 20327R T/TH 8:00 – 9:20 am, ASCJ 228

Office: ASCJ G6 ((located at the G level of the west wing)

Office Hours: By Appointment (Please email me at least 24 hours prior to meeting)

Course Description

This course is a survey of fundamental content in communication. It introduces you to the nature of social scientific scholarship; major social scientific perspectives on the communication process; basic issues in the philosophy of science; the role of theory in research; beginning research methods; core theories of message production and reception; and major contextual theories of interpersonal, group, and organizational dynamics.

Course Objectives

- To have you describe and explain the nature, usefulness, methods and issues connected with a social scientific approach to the study of communication.
- To have you describe and explain the major perspectives, issues, and theories of communication.
- To have you demonstrate your ability to use concepts from theories of communication to explain actual communication behavior.

Course Texts

- Dainton, M. & Zelle, E.D. (2011) *Applying communication theory for professional life*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (**Required**)

Evaluation

Examination 1	100 points (25%)
Examination 2	100 points (25%)
*Final Examination	100 points (25%)
Paper Assignments	60 points (15%)
Attendance (30) & Participation (10)	40 points (10%)
Total	400 points
(*The Final Examination will <u>not</u> be cumulative.)	

Grading

Standards for letter grades:

A = 90-100 points

B = 80-89 points

C = 70-79 points

D = 60-69 points

F = Below 60 points

I give plusses and minuses. For example, B grades are assigned as follows:

B- = 80-82

B = 83-86

B+ = 87-89

I do not grade on a curve. I will give as many As, Bs, etc. as are earned. Your course grade will be an average of all of your grades.

Examinations and Religious Holy Days

You may arrange to take an exam on an alternative date if the exam falls on a religious Holy Day.

Notify me at least one week in advance of the holy day. Do not expect to be excused from taking the exam on the assigned date if you fail to provide notification.

Obtaining Your Examination Grades

Your exam will be passed back for you to examine approximately one week after the exam is given. If you are absent when the exams are returned, it is your responsibility to ask me to see your exam. If you have any questions or concerns about a grade, they should be addressed in a timely manner. There is a 24-hour “wait period” after receiving a grade, but then you should address questions within the next 10 days. After this period no changes will be made to the given grades. When requesting that I review your test you must provide a written justification. Acceptable reasons to review tests include: the lecture and the text providing conflicting information, I have made an error, the questions has more than one correct answer, etc. After your review, grades will be posted on the course Blackboard. It is your responsibility to keep track of your grades.

Make-up Exams

You may take the make-up exam **within one week** after the exam is given without penalty if you have a valid, verifiable excuse. If you do not have a valid excuse, you may still take the make-up exam, but you will be penalized 10 points. Notify me if you have to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams taken after the one-week period will be penalized 10 points per week.

Paper Assignments

Topics TBD.

You will have to submit all paper assignments to Turnitin.com via Blackboard. Turnitin.com will check your paper for plagiarism against their database of sources from past COMM200 papers and from the web. NOTE: All prior submitted COMM200 term papers are in the Turnitin.com database.

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance and participation will be noted. You are allowed three absences during the semester without penalty. Thereafter, each unexcused absence costs 2 points. Arriving past five minutes late to class will incur a penalty (1 point). Students who are instant messaging, web surfing, or involved in other similar activities during class will be marked as absent. Participation grade (10 points total) will be determined based on my evaluation of your constructive inputs during the class discussion.

Extra Credit

You may earn a possible 12 bonus points, which will be added to the total number of points you earn on the three exams, paper and attendance. There are two options for obtaining extra credit. Option (1): You may earn points for participating as a subject in communication research studies conducted by School of Communication faculty, graduate students, and advanced undergraduate students *outside of class*. You must also write a one-page reaction paper. The first half of the paper should describe the study; the last half should note connections you see between your research experience and any content you are learning in class. Each research study you participate in and write a report on will be worth 4 points. You may participate in a maximum of three research studies. You will not receive bonus points for studies conducted during lecture. Opportunities to sign-up for research studies will be announced in class. I cannot guarantee that there will be as many as three opportunities for research participation this semester.

Option (2): You may participate in the Joint Educational Project (JEP)

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/joint-educational-project/> As a participant in JEP, you will serve as a mentor or tutor at a local K-12 school classroom or as a volunteer at a local non-profit or social justice organization. JEP participation requires two-hour involvement per week for eight weeks, two training sessions, weekly reflective response papers (for eight weeks), and a final analytical paper. By participating in and completing all JEP requirements successfully, you may earn all 12 bonus points at once.

Academic Integrity Policy of Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

The Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism is committed to upholding the University's academic integrity code as detailed in the Campus Guide. It is the policy of the School of Communication to report all violations of the code. Any serious violation or patterns of violations of the academic integrity code will result in the student's expulsion from the Communication major or minor.

Special Needs

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located at STU 301, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday, and can be reached at (213) 740-0776 or ability@usc.edu.

Respectful Behavior

- Thoughtful preparation, punctual attendance and active participation are expected from everyone.
- Significantly late arrival or early departure from class distracts from everyone's learning, and thus is highly discouraged.
- Distractions including side conversations, use of electronics/communication devices, reading and writing off-topic, etc., work against your own and others' learning, and so are not permitted.
- All participation should contribute to everyone's increased understanding of the course materials. Therefore, contributions should be timed and worded thoughtfully, respectfully and in a manner that engages others, not monopolizes, or silences others.

Tentative Class Schedule

Jan.	15	Orientation
	17	Ch. 1 Introduction to Communication Theory
	22	Continued
	24	Ch. 2 Theory Development
	29	Continued
	31	Continued
Feb.	5	Ch. 3 Cognition and Intrapersonal Communication
	7	Continued
	12	Continued
	14	Exam 1
	19	Ch. 7 Persuasion
	21	Continued
	26	Continued
	28	Continued
Mar.	5	Continued

	7	Ch. 4 Interpersonal Communication
	12	Continued
	14	Continued
	19	Spring Recess
	21	Spring Recess
	26	Ch. 5 Group Communication
	28	Continued
Apr.	2	Exam 2
	4	Continued
	9	Continued
	11	Ch. 6 Organizational Communication
	16	Continued
	18	Continued
	23	Continued
	25	Ch. 9 Mediated Communication
	30	Continued
May	2	Continued
May	15	Final Examination 8:00-10:00AM

Note: Changes to the schedule may have to be made.