

COM1000 Introduction to Communication Studies Syllabus Spring 2026

Instructor: Michael Harmon

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Phone: 352-392-5421

Office location: 412 Rolfs Hall

Office Hours: Mon/Wed from 1-2:30pm, and by appointment: [click here to make an appointment](#).

If you can't find the Zoom link on Calendly, here it is:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95417234727?pwd=ITer04qMBbjDNqFVj0FByslasm4KSM.1>

Please be sure to make an appointment first so that I can be better prepared to assist you.

Course meetings: Asynchronous (no mandatory meetings)

Teaching Assistant: Abdulqayyum Akindele

Office Hours: TBA

Zoom link: TBA

Email: akindele.ao@ufl.edu

Teaching Assistant: Raj Adhikary

Office Hours: TBA

Zoom link: TBA

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Course Website: <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>

Credits: 3

Gen Ed: *Satisfies Social Science General Education requirement.*

Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Course Catalogue Description

Introduces various theoretical perspectives for understanding human communication. This course affords students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.

Course Description

Communication is a fascinating subject that we can all relate to in almost every aspect of our lives. It is impossible to avoid communicating in the world we live in. So, how do we communicate and why do we need to? This course will cover all sorts of communication theories from different academic areas of focus such as interpersonal, organizational, intercultural, rhetorical, verbal, non-verbal, mediated, small-group, and mass communication theories. (S)

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor(s). The instructor(s) is only responsible for these instructional materials

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate personal benefits of studying communication.
Assessed through Packback Discussions and Journal Submissions.
2. Explain how perceptions impact behaviors and communication.
Assessed through Packback Discussions, Journal Submissions, Quizzes, and Exams.
3. Describe the general conceptions and categorizations of communication.
Assessed through Packback Discussions, Journal Submissions, Quizzes, Exams, and Theory Depiction.
4. Apply individual theories to real-world situations.
Assessed through Packback Discussions, Journal Submissions, Quizzes, and Exams.

Course Texts

O-Hair, D., Wiemann, M., Mullin, D., & Teven, J. (2021). Real Communication (5th ed.) Macmillan Learning. You can find the textbook here:

<https://www.macmillanlearning.com/college/us/product/Real-Communication/p/1319201741> or you can look it up on Amazon and other book stores where you can find it.

Required Subscription and Technology:

Materials and Supplies Fees: Required subscription to Packback. [Click here to sign up and pay for a subscription](#) (it should cost no more the \$39.99). Make sure to click Student before proceeding! You will need this subscription for engaging in the discussion board posts for this course.

You will also require internet Access and you need to check your Gatorlink Email on a regular basis. (For any questions on this policy, please see the Computer Requirements as discussed under the General Requirements in the University catalog or UF Computer and Software Requirements on the web.), and MS Word (or other word processing software that is compatible with MS Word).

Course Assignments:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Assignment	Description	SLOs	Total Pts
Journals	5 Journal submissions on Canvas (28 pts each).	1-4	140 pts
Packback Discussions	7 weekly discussion posts and peer responses on Packback (40 pts each).	1-4	280 pts
Quizzes	6 Module quizzes on Canvas.	2-4	310pts
Exams	2 Exams (noncumulative) on Canvas.	2-4	200pts
Theory Depiction	1 Visual depiction of a theory and example on Canvas.	3	70pts
Extra Credit Opportunities	2 extra credit exam question opportunities and an example of a theory or concept on Canvas.	1-4	25pts

Journal

You will partake in 5 journal submissions (modules 1-4 and 6) involving writing 200 words minimum in each submission where you will be engaging with several prompts and reflecting upon some aspect of communication studies. Each submission is worth 28 pts to add to a total of 140 points.

Packback Discussions Board Posts:

You will partake in 7 discussion board posts (1 per module) with 2 responses to peers in each discussions. These discussions will be posted on Packback. Each initial discussion board post is worth 30 pts (Packback refers to these as question posts) and each of your 2 responses to other posts is worth 10 pts to add to a total of 280pts.

Make sure you look at the guidepost under each Packback post question to see which prompts you need to answer to get full credit for your Packback discussion posts. If you ignore the prompts in the guidepost for each Packback discussion assignment, you will receive deductions.

Also, keep in mind that initial posts are due on Friday nights while the two responses are due on Sunday nights. So, if you see that there aren't many posts for a particular discussion, wait until after the due date of the initial post and you'll have more posts to respond to.

Initial posts should have 300 words minimum in each post, responses should have 100 words minimum for each response.

Note: Packback will give late submissions an automatic 0 pts so if you submit an initial post a day or two late, please give your grader time to correct the submissions grade when they get around to viewing your submission and giving feedback. Also, if you attempt to submit an initial Packback post over 2 days after it is due, you will need to reach out to your specific grader for an extension, otherwise you won't be able to submit it.

Quizzes:

There will be 5 module quizzes on Canvas based on each of the modules in this course including an additional course orientation quiz that is worth 10 pts due in the first module, and then each quiz after that will be worth 60pts from modules 1-6.

Exams:

There are 2 exams in this course that are non-cumulative. Exam 1 occurs in module 3 and Exam 2 occurs in module 7.

Theory Depiction:

You will create one visual artwork depicting a theory or concept of your choice covered in this course (from modules 1-5) in module 5 and respond to 2 other students' submissions.

Extra Credit Opportunities:Exam EC (up to 20 pts)

I may end up using some of the questions for the exams based on questions you create. For extra credit, write 5 questions & answers for each exam. Use a mixture of multiple choice and T/F types of questions ONLY. Indicate the answers directly below each question and make sure multiple-choice questions have 4 possible answers each. (Note: Separate & label questions by Chapter, you need to cite the reading each question is based on and use reading from multiple modules, otherwise you will receive a deduction here). Each set of questions is worth up to 10 points added to your total point score (out of 1000) for the course.

Pop culture EC (5 pts)

Additionally, I am always looking for real-world examples in articles, video clips, etc. to use in class to demonstrate a particular concept we are covering. You may submit an example on Canvas that you think will be interesting and relevant to the rest of the class, and if I like it, you will receive 5 extra credit points.

Course Grading**Grading Scale (for letter grades).**

There will be no curving of final grades or rounding up point totals.

930-1000 pts	A	730-769 pts	C
900-929 pts	A-	700-729 pts	C-
870-899 pts	B+	670-699 pts	D+
830-869 pts	B	630-669 pts	D
800-829 pts	B-	600-629 pts	D-
770-799 pts	C+	< 600 pts	E

E1*

- *Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class.

Grade expectations:

Assigned grades	Quality of work
A	Excellent work; clearly exceeds requirements and upper-division

	student work
A-	Very good; clearly and substantially meets requirements
B+	Good performance; meets the standards of the requirements
B	Meets the standards of the requirements
B-	For the most part, meets the standards of the requirements
C+	Barely meets the standards of the requirements
C	Poor performance; does not meet the standards of the requirements
C-	Very poor performance; clearly and substantially below the standards of the requirements

Note: A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit. For more information on UF's Grading Policy, please visit: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grade Disputes:

You have seven days after grades are posted or returned to dispute a grade. After 7 days, your grade for that assignment will not be reassessed. To dispute a grade, submit by Canvas Inbox or gatormail a clear and reasoned explanation (with evidence) why your grade should be higher. Dr. Harmon will consider and respond to that dispute within 7 days with one of three outcomes: your grade remains unchanged, your grade is raised, or your grade is lowered.

Course Policies

Late Assignments: Late work is accepted on a case-by-case basis and only with a valid explanation that typically includes some form of acceptable documentation to excuse you for missing the due date. The online and Module based nature of this course mean that students are able to work around most University activities with advanced planning. Forgetting about an assignment or having course work in other classes are not reasons for an extension. If you have an unexpected event that impacts your ability to submit your work on time, please contact your TA through Canvas Inbox to request an extension.

There is **no grace period nor is there any make-up policy for Quizzes or Exams**. If you miss a Quiz or Exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment if you don't have any sort of official documentation to excuse you.

For late journal submissions, I will take off 3pts per day that your journal is late by. Since each journal is worth 20pts, ***you won't be able to receive credit for a journal submission that is more than 7 days late.***

As for late Packback discussion assignments, I will take off 5pts per day that your discussion is late by. Since each Packback discussion/2 responses are worth 40pts, ***you won't be able to receive credit for a discussion posted more than 7 days late so keep that in mind.***

For the theory depiction assignment, you will receive a 4 pt deduction for submitting 1-2 days late and a 10 pt deduction for submitting it later. **However, if it is submitted more than 7 days late, it will receive a 0 for the assignment just like the other assignments previously mentioned.**

Requirements for make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog page on attendance policies.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

AI Usage Policy

I want to clarify how you can use AI in this course to assist your writing below:

1. Do not use AI to proofread your writing in Packback posts, you should manually proofread your own submissions here and write them yourselves. Otherwise, the Packback system may flag a post or reply of yours as AI generated and you might receive a 0 for a submission in Packback. If you really need to use Grammarly, do not use its on-demand generative features such as rephrasing or rewriting sentences. Instead use Grammarly only for core spelling and grammar suggestions. **Using the more advanced tools can make your post become flagged by AI detectors. When in doubt, proofread manually!**
2. You will not be allowed to use any form of AI to generate the writing portions of journal submissions and Packback posts unless explicitly mentioned in a particular assignment description.
3. Do not use AI to generate all of the visuals in your Theory Depiction assignment. If you don't do any sort of work to manually edit your visuals in your submission somehow you will receive a deduction or even possibly fail this assignment. **If you use any form of AI in your visual depiction you need to cite it!**

Again, be sure to limit your AI usage to proofreading grammar in journal submissions if necessary and if explicitly mentioned in an assignment description. Otherwise, your writing should be typed by your own hands and not created through an AI prompt! You can receive a major deduction, a 0 for that assignment, and/or fail the course depending on how severe you violate this policy in your submission.

For further information, this is taken straight from the UF honor code website:

Entity: This includes but is not limited to generative artificial intelligence, large language models, content generation bots, or other non-human intelligence or digital tools.

(a) Cheating. A Student shall not use or attempt to use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another person or Entity without the other person or Entity's express Consent or without proper attribution to the other person or Entity.
2. Using any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to a Student.
3. Using additional time, or failing to stop working when instructed, on any time-bound academic activity.
4. Failing to follow the directions of a proctor of any academic activity, when such conduct could lead to an academic advantage or benefit.
5. Collaborating with another person or Entity, through any medium, on any academic activity, when Faculty has expressly prohibited collaboration.
6. Commissioning or seeking to commission another person or Entity, with or without compensation, to produce or complete academic work or to impersonate a student in any academic activity.
7. Impersonating another person in any academic activity or providing an unfair academic advantage to another person by producing or completing academic work or activities on behalf of another person, with or without compensation.

UF Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#)

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP
- UF Helpdesk

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

SUBJECT AREA	CONTENT	COMMUNICATION	CRITICAL THINKING	CONNECTION
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES				
Social & Behavioral Sciences	<p>Identify, describe, and explain key themes, principles, and terminology; the history, theory, and/or methodologies used; and social institutions, structures, and processes.</p>	<p>Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively.</p>	<p>Apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions. Assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.</p>	
This course's SLOs	<p>Identify, describe, and explain the general conceptions and categorizations of communication.</p> <p>Identify, describe, and explain how perceptions impact behaviors and communication.</p>	<p>Develop and present in writing qualitative analyses of how the concepts of communication apply to real-world situations.</p> <p>Develop and present in writing how communication studies contribute to our understanding of everyday interactions in various relationships and contexts.</p>	<p>Critically analyze how communication theories, concepts, and areas apply to their personal relationships both in interpersonal and group contexts by applying individual theories to real-world situations.</p>	<p>Reflect on personal benefits of studying communication.</p> <p>Describe how they might apply the communication concepts they learned about in class to their own lives.</p>

Assessment of SLOs	Quizzes 1-5 Exams 1-2 Journals 1-5 Packback Discussion Board (DB) Posts 1-7 Theory Depiction	Journals 1-5 Packback Discussion Board (DB) Posts 1-7 Theory Depiction	Journals 1-5 Packback Discussion Board (DB) Posts 1-7 Theory Depiction	Journals 1-5 Packback Discussion Board (DB) Posts 1-7 Theory Depiction
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Annotated Weekly Schedule

(Note that revisions may occur during the semester. I'll notify you of any changes).

**Unless otherwise stated, all assignments are due on Canvas before midnight*

Week/Date	Module	Readings	Lecture Videos	Homework
Week 1 1/12-1/18	Module 0: Welcome & Syllabus	View materials on Canvas	Introduction to the Course (length: 6:56) How to Use Packback (length: 9:40)	Course Orientation Quiz due by 1/18
Week 2-3 1/19-2/1	Module 1: Communication: Essential Human Behavior	Chapter 1: Essential Human Behavior. O'Hair et al. (2021, pp. 2-24). Chapter 2: Communicating in a Digital Age. O'Hair et al. (2021, pp. 27-45). Chapter 3: Perceiving the Self and Others. O'Hair et al. (2021, pp. 48-70).	Lecture 1: Essentials of Communication (length: 15:58) Lecture 2: Digital Mediated Communication (length: 15:50) Lecture 3: FOMO and Social Media (length: 9:17) Lecture 4: The Impact of Perceptions (length: 18:30)	Journal 1 due by 1/23 Packback DB initial post 1 due by 1/30 & 2 responses due by 2/1 Quiz #1 due by 2/1
Week 4-5 2/2-2/15	Module 2: Research approaches and Non/Verbal	Chapter 4: Verbal Communication. O'Hair et al. (2021, pp. 74-97). Chapter 5: Nonverbal Communication. O'Hair et al. (2021, pp. 100-123).	Lecture 1: The Nature of Language (length: 08:39) Lecture 2: Emailing Your Professor or Boss (length: 14:50) Video 1: Nonverbal Communication The	Journal 2 due by 2/6 Packback DB initial post 2 due by 2/13 & 2 responses due by 2/15 Quiz #2 due by 2/15

			Motion Picture (length: 16:11) Video 2: How Language Shapes the Way We Think (length: 14:12)	
Week 6-7 2/16-3/1	Module 3: Cultural Diversity and Listening	Chapter 6: Communication and Culture. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 126-147). Chapter 7: Listening. O-Hair O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 150-171).	Lecture 1: Categories of Cultures (length: 23:42) Lecture 2: Listening (length: 9:42)	Journal 3 due by 2/20 Packback DB initial post 3 due by 2/27 & 2 responses due by 3/1 Exam 1 due by 3/1
Week 8-9 3/2-3/15	Module 4: Interpersonal and Conflict	Chapter 8: Developing and Maintaining Relationships. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 174-201). Chapter 9: Managing Conflict in Relationships. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 204-225).	Lecture 1: Developing Relationships (length: 23:39) Lecture 2: Conflict Management (length: 24:06) Lecture 3: Self-Deception (length: 15:38)	Journal 4 due by 3/6 Packback DB initial post 4 due by 3/13 & 2 responses due by 3/15 Quiz #3 due by 3/15
SPRING BREAK: NO CLASSES 3/16-3/22				
Week 10-11 3/23-4/5	Module 5: Leading, Groups and Organizations	Chapter 10: Communication in Groups. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 228-249). Chapter 11: Leadership and Decision-Making in Groups. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 252-274). Chapter 12: Communicating in Organizations. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 276-293).	Lecture 1: Group Decision Making (length: 13:35) Lecture 2: The Importance of Key Messages in Organizational Communication (length: 14:23) Video 1: Small Groups and Teams (Choice of Linked Videos) (length: from 2-9min depending on video selected)	Packback DB initial post 5 due by 3/27 & 2 responses due by 3/29 Quiz #4 due by 4/5 Theory Depiction due by 4/3 and 2 responses due by 4/5
Weeks 12-13 4/6-4/19	Module 6: Public Communication	Chapter 13: Preparing and Researching Presentations. O-Hair (2021, pp. 293-323).	Lecture 1: Processes of Persuading (length: 22:05)	Journal 5 due by 4/10 Packback DB initial post 6 due by 4/17 & 2 responses due by 4/19

		<p>Chapter 14: Organizing, Writing, and Outlining Presentations. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 327-354).</p> <p>Chapter 15: Delivering Presentations. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 358-381).</p> <p>Chapter 16: Informative Speaking. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 384-409).</p> <p>Chapter 17: Persuasive Speaking. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 412-438).</p> <p>Appendix A: Competent Interviewing. O’Hair et al. (2021, pp. 442-468).</p>	<p>Lecture 2: Essentials of PowerPoint (length: 13:29)</p> <p>Lecture 3: Rasa: Connecting Public-Speaking Delivery and Indian Aesthetics (length: 15:30)</p>	<p>Quiz #5 due on 4/19</p>
<p>Week 14 4/20-4/26</p>	<p>Module 7: Communication in Contexts</p>	<p>Tracy et al. (2006, pp. 148-185).</p> <p>Find at least 2 different research articles that you are interested in reading about and use them to guide your final Packback post. Remember to choose articles that relate to an area you are interested in!</p>	<p>Lecture 1: Research Methods in Communication (length: 23:04)</p> <p>Lecture 2: Functional Theory of Political Campaign Discourse (length: 9:56)</p> <p>Lecture 3: Coming Out Narratives as Interpersonal Disclosure (length: 8:04)</p> <p>Lecture 4: Look Back on COM1000 (length: 7:29)</p>	<p>Packback DB initial post 7 due by 4/24 & 2 responses due by 4/26</p> <p>Exam 2 due on 4/26</p>