

COMM 5013 – 101: Introduction to Graduate Study

Course Description:

This course functions as an introduction to graduate study in communication at the University of Oklahoma. It is designed to introduce incoming graduate students to the nature of advanced professional study. The focus will be on the major social science theories and theoretical perspectives of the communication discipline. In addition, the course will introduce students to current trends in communication theory and research as well as many of the major theoretical and research issues facing communication researchers today. This course concerns the essence of scholarship, including reading and writing for science research, and the nature and role of theory within the function and process of research.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: September 18 – 24, 2017
Location: Washington, D.C. Liaison Office - 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.
Hours: Monday - Friday 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll without penalty: August 20, 2017

Site Director:

Email: apwashington@ou.edu. Phone: 703-418-4800.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Claude H. Miller, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Dept. of Communication
Burton Hall, Room 101
University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019-2081
Telephone Number: (405) 325-0861
E-mail Address: chmiller@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Miller, K. (2005). *Communication theories: Perspectives, processes, and contexts* (2nd ed.) Columbus, OH: McGraw Hill. ISBN 9780072937947. The professor has approved the use of the first edition.
2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If

you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student will have a broad understanding of communication theory and theory development, and become familiar with most of the current issues generating research within the communication discipline.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Before class, the student is expected to have read all of the chapters in the text: Students should come to the first class session with a list of concepts and/or problem areas that pose difficulties for them.

Attendance and Participation:

You are expected to attend all class session and to participate actively in the discussions. Because this is an accelerated course, attendance during the week of in-classes meetings is critical.

Paper 1 Status of Extant Theory:

This assignment involves a summary and assessment of the major theories in the student's broad content area of communication interest (e.g., international, interpersonal political, health social influence, mass media). Although descriptive in nature, your paper should clearly go well beyond the content presented in the *Communications Theories* Text (use the text to find other references, and seek updated references, as well). This paper will be due on the first day of class, and it may be utilized for class discussion over the following days. Students should write a double-spaced, typewritten essay of 8-10 pages of text (in APA format with separate title page, abstract page, and reference section). Each student should come to class prepared to lead a discussion of his or her paper with the rest of the class. This paper should be printed out and submitted the first day of class, and posted to the Canvas course website. A handout on APA format is available on Canvas. Students should read each other's papers so as to facilitate the discussion. At least 30 minutes will be dedicated to the discussion of each paper.

Paper 2 Post Seminar Writing Assignment:

There are two options for this assignment:

- **Option A:** This assignment involves a comparative critique (10-15 pages in APA format as above) of two comm theories that have generated research published in a comm journal during the last five years—both of which focus on the same context of comm (e.g. interpersonal, small group, organizational, mass communication, etc.). The paper should describe the studies, and point out the comparative strengths and weaknesses of each theory (criteria for evaluating theories will be discussed at length in this course). You will need to attach a copy of each study to your paper.
- **Option B:** This assignment will focus on a particular theory in your content niche. You should seek to learn everything you can about the theory in question, and the resulting paper should describe and assess in detail the empirical support for the theory, its strengths and weaknesses, and specify future directions for scholarship (10-15 pages in APA format as above).

Option A or B is due in the Canvas course assignment folder no later than three weeks following the final class meeting—i.e., midnight **October 15, 2017**.

Exam Option:

Depending on the nature and livelihood of the class discussions, there may be a final multiple-choice exam administered during the last class session, covering the material in the book and in class. If this

option is taken, the above two writing assignments will be reduced by 10% each (i.e., to 20% and 30% respectively), and the exam will account for 20% if the course grade.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Attendance and Participation	All class sessions	30%
Paper 1 and discussion	First day of class and following	30%
Paper 2	October 15, 2017	40%
Exam Option	Last class session	20%*

*If the exam option is taken, the two writing assignments will be reduced by 10% each (i.e., to 20% and 30% respectively), and the exam will account for 20% if the course grade.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Claude H. Miller, Ph.D.

Education

- 2000 Ph.D. The University of Arizona, Major: Communication; Minor: Psychology
- 1986 M.A. American University, Major: Film & Video
- 1978 B.A. The University of Florida, Major: Photography

Current Position

- Associate Professor, Dept. of Communication, University of Oklahoma, 2010 - present
Director of Graduate Studies (June 1, 2017)
- Advanced Programs Professor, 2003 - present
- Director of Advanced Programs, Department of Communication, 2006 - 2013

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- COMM 5113 Nonverbal Communication
- COMM 5553 Persuasive Campaigns
- COMM 5213 Interpersonal Communication
- COMM 6970 Seminar in Relational Communication
- COMM 5353 Conflict Management
- COMM 6970 Seminar in Social Influence
- COMM 5453 Social Influence
- COMM 6970 Seminar in Affective Processes

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Current Program of Research includes investigative collaborations focusing primarily on emotion, motivation, and social influence theories as they apply to a wide range of health communication settings, including mass media campaigns targeting the counter-initiation of drug, tobacco, and alcohol behaviors among adolescent and minority populations.

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Adame, B., & Miller, C. H. (2016). Vested interest: Developing scales for assessing flooding preparedness. *Disaster Prevention and Management: An International Journal*, 25, 282–297. 10.1108/dpm-08-2015-0196.
- Bessarabova, E., & Miller, C. H., Russell, J. (2017) A further exploration of the effects of restoration postscripts on reactance, *Western Journal of Communication*, 81, 385-403.
- Miller, C. H., & Cortes Quantip, R. J. (in press). Anger in health and risk messaging. In R. Perrott (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of health and risk message design and processing*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Miller, C. H., (2016). Hedonic relevance and outcome relevant involvement. In D. K. Kim & J. Dearing (Eds.) *Health Communication Measures*. New York: Peter Lang. pp. 99-106.
- Miller, C. H., (2016). Sensation seeking scales for adolescents and emerging adults. In D. K. Kim & J. Dearing (Eds.) *Health Communication Measures*. New York: Peter Lang. pp. 213-222.
- Miller, C. H., & Adame, B.J. (2016). Scales for measuring the dimensions of vested interest. In D. K. Kim & J. Dearing (Eds.) *Health Communication Measures*. New York: Peter Lang. pp. 265-278
- Miller, C. H., (2015). Persuasion and psychological reactance: The effects of explicit, high-controlling language. In R. Shulze & H. Pishwa (Eds), *The exercise of power in communication: Devices, reception and reaction*. London: Palgrave McMillan. pp 269-286.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 1999 Top Three Paper Award, Health Communication Division, NCA
- 2000 Top Student Paper, Information Systems Division, ICA

- 2001 Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Dissertation Award, NCA
- 2004 Top Three Paper, Communication & Social Cognition Division, NCA
- 2016 Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor Award, OU College of Arts and Sciences