COMM 6423-102: Communication in Health Organizations

Course Description:
This course examines topics at the intersections of health communication and organizational communication. We will conduct in-depth examinations of exciting topics such as coping with stress and burnout in the health professions, health activism, and risk and crisis communication. For each topic, our explorations will take us to foundational works as well as more recent and promising work. The course is designed to benefit students with interests in communication careers, health professions, and/or research.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: March 20 – 22 & March 27 – 29, 2020
- Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
- Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: February 20, 2020

Site Director:
Email: apoke@ou.edu. Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: James O. Olufowote, PhD
- Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma, Department of Communication, Burton Hall, #227, Norman, OK 73019
- Telephone Number: 405-325-5946
- E-mail Address: olu@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.

Instructional Materials:
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.

History and Outline of The Field
**Physician/Health Professional Assimilation**

**Healthcare Ethics**

**Healthcare Teams**

**Coping with Stress and Burnout**

**Communication in Emergency Medicine**

**Workplace Health Promotion**

**Risk and Crisis Communication**
Community-Based Organizations and Public Health

Communication and Health Activism

Course Objectives:
1. To introduce students to important topics at the intersections of health communication and organizational communication.
2. To familiarize students with the thought leaders and pioneering scholars/researchers in the area.
3. To introduce students to foundational works as well as contemporary advances in the area.
4. To facilitate student ability to deeply analyze and understand research articles in the area.
5. To facilitate student ability to communicate (orally and in writing) about research in the area.

Course Outline:

March 20:
- History and Outline of the Field

March 21:
- Physician/Health Professional Assimilation
- Healthcare Ethics
- Healthcare Teams

March 22:
- Coping with Stress and Burnout in the Health Professions

March 27:
- Communication in Emergency Medicine

March 28:
- Workplace Health Promotion
- Risk and Crisis Communication
- Community-Based Organizations and Public Health

March 29:
- Communication and Health Activism
Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

**Article critiques:**
This is a **1-2-page single-spaced critique** of one of the assigned readings on a topic (e.g., healthcare teams). Your critiques will be due on the day we will be covering the article in class. You are required to complete **five** article critiques for the class. Your critiques can cover any of the following: main points or arguments, primary contributions, communication theories or models, research questions or hypotheses, methodology, main findings, article strengths, article weaknesses, etc.

**Five-page research report on one of the topics covered in class:**
This course considers a variety of topics. For this assignment, you will be expected to write a **five-page** (double-spaced) report that requires you to delve into any one of these topics. Details of this assignment will be discussed in class. At minimum, you will be expected to find three additional peer-reviewed articles on the topic. Your report should summarize across these works (e.g., Who are important thought leaders and researchers/scholars in the area? What key perspectives, theories, or models are receiving attention? What seem to be shared concerns and priorities? Are there any important debates and/or disagreements? What important contributions to our knowledge are these works making?)

**Five-page biography of a leading researcher/scholar:**
This is a 5-page double-spaced APA-formatted assignment. You are to investigate any leading scholar/researcher of your choice and write a **biography** that includes your scholar’s educational history and background, dissertation topic and major advisor, employment history and background, primary research areas, major research contributions, important/major publications, a short summary of one of the major publications, teaching areas, and anything else that is interesting or unique about your chosen researcher. You are expected to submit **TWO additional academic articles or book chapters written by your chosen scholar/researcher.**

**Discussion leader:**
You will lead discussions on the assigned readings for specific topics. To effectively lead discussions, you should be familiar with the assigned readings. Come prepared with questions that facilitate critical thinking and discussion about **each reading** (main points, interesting points, strengths, weaknesses, etc) and the **readings as a whole** (comparisons, points of contention, recurring ideas, central concerns).

**Participation in Class Discussions:**
Your participation in and contributions to class discussions matter. You can earn points for consistent, meaningful, and respectful participation.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Critiques</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Report on a Topic Covered in Class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 20, 2020 (Canvas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biography of a Leading Researcher/Scholar</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 20, 2020 (Canvas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Leader</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
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</tbody>
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**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 make 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](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/](http://www.goou.ou.edu/)
INSTRUCTOR VITA
James O. Olufowote, PhD

Education
- PhD, Communication, Purdue University (2005)
- BS, Corporate Communication, Ithaca College (1998)

Current Positions
- Associate Professor of Communication, the University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- COMM 5333 Organizational Communication
- COMM 5263 Health Communication

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Teaching:
- Organizational Communication
- Communication in Health Organizations
- Health Communication
- Communication and Public Health

Research:
- Physician preparation and practice of ethical communication.
- Communication by community-based organizations (i.e., faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations) during public health crises.

Representative Publications and Presentations

Representative Honors and Awards Received
- Editorial Board Member, *Management Communication Quarterly*
- Editorial Board Member, *Frontiers in Health Communication*
- Editorial Board Member, *Health Communication*

Major Professional Affiliations
- International Communication Association, National Communication Association, American Academy on Communication in Healthcare