



# EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL  
and CONTINUING STUDIES

## COMM 5013-103 - 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, Format, Location and Hours:

Dates: September 20-26, 2021  
Format: On-site  
Location: 2451 Crystal Drive, Suite 627 Arlington, VA 22202  
Hours: Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Last day to enroll without penalty: August 22, 2021

### Site Director:

Name: Ms. Frances Wolf  
E-mail: [apwashington@ou.edu](mailto:apwashington@ou.edu)  
Phone: TBA

### 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](mailto: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 Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact [apsyllabi@ou.edu](mailto:apsyllabi@ou.edu). Text prices are available online.

1. Miller, K. (2005). *Communication theories: Perspectives, processes, and contexts*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Columbus, OH: McGraw Hill. ISBN 9780072937947. (as low as \$7.00 used from various sources)

2. Materials posted on the OU Canvas system <https://canvas.ou.edu>; enter your OU Net ID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

### **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 midnight **October 16, 2021**.

### **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% of the course grade.

**Grading:**

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percent of Grade</b>
Attendance and Participation	All class sessions	30%
Paper 1 and discussion	First day of class and following	30%
Paper 2	<b>October 16, 2021</b>	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.

OU faculty will submit grades online through ONE not later than 30 days after the course end date. Course end dates are approximately one calendar month after the final seminar date on this syllabus and are provided on the official scheduling website for reference.

### **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](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 the Professor 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](mailto: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**

Extended Campus (also and formerly known as 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 e/mailed to the professor for the course. Neither duplicating services nor office supplies are provided.

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 OU Extended Campus, 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

### Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman, 2002 - Present

- Professor, Director of Graduate Studies 2017 - present
- Advanced Programs Professor, 2003 - present

### Frequently Taught Extended Campus (Advanced Programs) Courses

- COMM 5013 Introduction to Graduate Studies
- COMM 5113 Nonverbal Communication
- COMM 5213 Interpersonal Communication
- COMM 5353 Conflict Management
- COMM 5453 Social Influence
- COMM 6970 Seminar in Relational Communication
- COMM 6970 Seminar in Social Influence

### Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

Current program of research includes human affective responses to influences messages in various contexts applying emotion, motivation, and social influence theories to topics within health, crisis, and disaster-related contexts.

### Representative Publications and Presentations

- Miller, C. H., & Ma, H. (2021). How existential anxiety shapes communication in coping with the coronavirus pandemic: A terror management theory perspective. In H. D. O'Hair and M. J. O'Hair (Eds.), *Communication Science in Times of Crisis*. Wiley (pp. 54-80).
- Ma, H., & Miller, C. H. (2020). Trapped in a double bind: Chinese overseas student anxiety during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Health Communication*.
- Miller, C. H., & Massey, Z. B. Terror management theory perspectives on interpersonal and social influence. (2020) In H. D. O'Hair & M. J. O'Hair (Eds.), *Handbook of applied communication research*. NY: Wiley
- Miller, C. H., Massey, Z. B., & Ma, H. Psychological reactance and persuasive message design. (2020) In H. D. O'Hair & M. J. O'Hair (Eds.), *Handbook of applied communication research*. NY: Wiley
- Miller, C. H., & Massey, Z. B. (2019). Meaning-making, communication, and terror management processes. In C. Routledge & M. Vess (Eds.), *Handbook of terror management theory*. San Diego: Elsevier (pp. 577-611).
- Miller, C. H., Dunbar, N. E., Jensen, M. L., Massey, Z., Lee, Y.-H., Nicholls, S. B., Anderson, C., Adams, A. S., Elizondo Cecena, F. J., Thompson, W., & Wilson, S. N. (2019). Training law enforcement officers to identify reliable deception cues with an interactive digital game. *International Journal of Game-Based Learning*, 9, (3), 1-23.
- Adame, B., & Miller, C. H. (2018). Risk perception and earthquake preparedness motivation: Predicting responses to a Cascadia Subduction Zone catastrophic event. In V. Fletcher & J. Lovejoy (Eds.), *The really big one: Risk, health, and environmental communication*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield (pp. 49-86).
- Massey, Z. & Miller, C. H. (2018). Case studies on interethnic conflict: A theoretical integration. *International Journal of International Relations*, 66, 130-147.

### Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2001 *Gerald R. Miller Outstanding Dissertation Award*, NCA
- 2004 *Top Three Paper*, Communication & Social Cognition Division, NCA
- 2013 *Adaptive Force Award*, Office of the Secretary of Defense, for Serious Game MACBETH
- 2016 *Kinney-Sugg Outstanding Professor Award*, OU College of Arts and Sciences