



# TRUE BLUE CORE

COMM 2100

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION

3 credit hours

## Instructor Information

**Professor Name:**

**Office Location:**

**Office Phone**

**Email:**

**Office Hours:**

## Course Information

### Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to Communication Studies as an academic discipline by facilitating understanding of the basic concepts, vocabulary, theories, and processes relevant to the study of communication. An equally important goal of this course is the development of non-written (i.e., oral) communication skills through an introduction to public speaking. This course includes in-class group and individual speaking activities covering a variety of human communication techniques, formats, and contexts. This class will examine the critical role communication plays in our everyday lives.

### Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students should be able to

- Identify communication concepts, theories, and/or processes in various contexts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the variety of contexts in which communication occurs.
- Apply communication concepts, theories, and/or processes in specific personal and professional contexts.
- Demonstrate understanding of the core elements of the communication process.
- Demonstrate understanding of how rhetorical situations require different communication strategies.
- Communicate effectively through oral presentation, considering organization, language, delivery, supporting material, a cogent central message, and audience.

### **Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

There are no prerequisites or co-requisites for this course.

### **Course Topics:**

- What is communication?
- Communication as Culture and Social Influence (interpersonal, rhetoric, intercultural)
- Impromptu or introductory speech
- Organizational Communication
- Health Communication
- Small group and public speaking contexts and choosing topics
- Researching and audience analysis
- Organization and outlining
- Language and delivery
- Informative or persuasive speech

### **True Blue Core Category and Student Learning Outcomes**

True Blue Core foundational skill – Non-Written Communication: Non-written communication is the development and expression of ideas through oral, embodied, or other mediated formats. It is designed to increase knowledge, to foster understanding, or to promote change in the audiences' attitudes, values, beliefs, or behaviors.

True Blue Core Outcome: Students will communicate effectively through oral, embodied, or other mediated formats, considering organization, language (or other forms of expression), delivery, supporting material, a cogent central message, and audience.

### **Specific Course Requirements:**

Students should be familiar with D2L technology and word processing software such as Microsoft Word to submit your paper.

### **Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Software Requirements**

#### **Required Textbooks:**

*Adler, R. B., Rodman, G., & du Pré, A. (2020). Understanding Human Communication (14th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press. (May be ordered online or at the campus bookstore)*

[Principles of Public Speaking – MTSU Pressbook Pub \(pressbooks.pub\)](#) (Open Education Resource)

## Software/Apps needed:

- Regular access to a computer with Internet services, including:
  - Access to MTSU email – check [MTMail](#)
  - Access to D2L (*not* through Pipeline) – <http://elearn.mtsu.edu>
  - To read a PDF file download the latest version of [Adobe Reader here](#) .
  - Don't have Microsoft Word? Explore an alternative [OpenOffice here](#) .

## Participation, Assignments, & Grading

### *Participation*

**In-class Discussion & Activities:** You are expected to complete course readings and come to class having already read the day's assigned subject material [on the Course Schedule as Homework]. The discussions and activities in class compose this portion of your participation grade. To earn full credit for each of these class days, you must not only be in class, but participating in the class discussion and activities. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to workshop and/or comment on your classmates' work to help them improve.

**Impromptu speech:** You will be required to deliver – take a deep breath here – a completely spontaneous speech within the first two weeks of the semester. This is NOT noted on the schedule. You will be given a prompt and no more than 5 minutes in class to prepare your speech and deliver your speech during the same class period. We are learning by doing!

*Activities and assignments completed in-class (such as the above) are not eligible for make-up.*

### *Quizzes*

There will be five unit quizzes throughout the course. The quizzes will cover concepts from each of the following broad topics:

- Unit One: Culture and Social Influence
- Unit Two: Organizational Communication
- Unit Three: Health Communication
- Unit Four: Public Speaking Content
- Unit Five: Public Speaking Delivery

### *“Ponder and Present” Writing Assignments*

Throughout the first half of the course, you will learn about the various sub-fields in the Communication Studies discipline. You will be asked to **ponder** how the different communication concepts, theories, and/or processes are connected to your personal and professional life. Once you have reflected on the connections between communication studies and “the real world” you will be expected to write a short reflection paper (less than one page) and **present** your ideas to a small group in a clear, concise, and organized manner to facilitate discussion.

### *Informative Group Speech*

You will gain experience working together in a small group and speaking as a group in front of an audience, incorporating conversation skills, extemporaneous delivery style (chapter 12) and principles of ethical speaking (chapter 2). Your group of ~5 students will choose one of the five major sub-fields of the Communication Studies discipline (i.e., interpersonal, intercultural, rhetorical, organizational, and health). The goal of this presentation will be to inform your audience of the concepts, theories, and processes that can be applied within various workplace contexts. Your group will submit one typed outline of the presentation, following the standard outline format (chapter 11). An annotated references page must be included with the final outline on the day of your group presentation. A slide deck will be required to increase clarity and support your message.

### *Persuasive Individual Speech*

You will have the opportunity to deliver a 5-7 minute extemporaneous persuasive speech in which you attempt to persuade your audience, identifying a problem to solve or a pitch to make within your career field or industry, using appeals such as credibility, reasoning, and emotion (chapters 16 & 17). As this is a persuasive speech, remember to remain sensitive to your audience (chapter 6). You will submit a typed outline of your speech, following the standard outline format (chapter 11). An annotated references page must be included with the final outline on the day of your speech. A slide deck will be required to increase clarity, support your message, and further illustrate the significance of the issue and practicality of your solution.

### Grading Scale:

Assignment	Point Value	Percentage of Total
Informative Group Speech	100 pts	25%
Persuasive Individual Speech	100 pts	25%
Ponder and Present (4)	100 pts	25%
Unit Quizzes (5)	50 pts	12.5%
Participation	50 pts	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 pts</b>	<b>100%</b>

To determine your grade, divide your number of points by the total number possible (i.e., 400). This percentage is applied to the following scale:

Final Grading Scale	Points
90% - 100% = A	360 – 400

87% - 89.9% = B+	348 – 359
80% - 86.9% = B	320 – 347
77% - 79.9% = C+	308 – 319
70% - 76.9% = C	280 – 307
67% - 69.9% = D+	268 – 279
60% - 66.9% = D	240 – 267
0% - 59.9% = F	0 – 239

## Academic Misconduct

You should be familiar with the [Student Handbook](#) that outlines academic misconduct, which is defined as plagiarism, cheating, fabrication or facilitating any such act, “a statement of community standards of civil behavior and code of computer use.”

The plagiarism monitoring website turnitin.com through D2L is utilized to ensure proper citation and originality of student work. An electronic copy of each assignment is to be uploaded into the D2L dropbox, which will compare the document to both websites and other student papers. Please make sure you understand how to upload your assignment to the D2L dropbox PRIOR to the day your assignment is due. Failure to understand how to use this site on the day your assignment is due will not be viewed as a legitimate excuse.

Should you be caught engaging in academic misconduct of any kind, including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, misrepresenting facts, etc., you will automatically receive a zero for the assignment and possibly an F for the course and you may be reported to Judicial Affairs.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offense. Using the words and ideas of others is borrowing something from those individuals. It is always necessary to identify the original source of supporting information; you must cite the source of any material, quoted or paraphrased, in both written work and oral presentations. The absence of this documentation constitutes *plagiarism*, which is a serious academic and professional offense. Proper documentation requires a bibliography of any outside texts you have consulted including both traditional sources and on-line sources.

Putting your name on a piece of work indicates that the work is *yours* and that the praise or criticism is due to *you* and no one else. Putting your name on a piece of work in which any part is not yours, is *plagiarism* unless the borrowed thought or wording is clearly marked and the work

is fully identified. Keep in mind that plagiarism is a form of theft. Taking words, phrasing, or sentence structure, or any other element of another person's ideas, and using them as if they were your own, is stealing. Simply paraphrasing the work of another without acknowledging the information source is also plagiarism. Merely restating another individual's ideas in different words does not make the ideas yours.

Sometimes writers are uncertain about what to cite. Here are two firm guidelines:

1. If you write word for word what appears in another source, put quotation marks around it and cite the source (author last name, year, page number).
2. If you borrow and summarize ideas, arguments, data, or other information from another source, cite the source even if you put the material in your own words (author, year).

Keep in mind that agreeing with the material does not make it your own; if it originated with someone else, give that person credit by citing him/her. I will accept APA citation style. If you are unsure how to do this, please see me, visit the library or the University Writing Center. Your textbook discusses citation styles and provides examples; another helpful APA resource is [The Owl at Purdue](#) website.

## Library

[James E. Walker Library, MTSU](#)

[Library Research Guides](#)

[Library Tutorials](#)

## University Writing Center

The Margaret H. Ordoubadian University Writing Center (UWC) is open for the summer session and offers **free writing assistance** for any writing assignment in any class. The UWC staff, comprised of English graduate assistants, are available for both face-to-face and online sessions. Writing tutors work with students to develop the skills necessary to become confident, competent writers by providing one-on-one consultations and helpful handouts. The UWC offers many online services as well, including a Grammar hotline for quick questions, a learning environment system (LES) email dropbox and chat room, and a website filled with helpful

handouts, exercises, and resource links for individual work. Check the Center website for hours. Summer hours are Monday-Friday, 10 am-4:30 pm. Access to online services is available 24/7.

The Writing Center is located in Walker Library Room 362. They can be reached via phone at 615-904-8237 or via email at [uwcenter@mtsu.edu](mailto:uwcenter@mtsu.edu). You can visit their website <http://www.mtsu.edu/writing-center/> to schedule a face-to-face or online appointment and learn more about their services.

### Students with Disabilities

Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\) website](#) and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 [or dacemail@mtsu.edu](mailto:dacemail@mtsu.edu).

### Title IX Information

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against or been the victim of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking should contact a Title IX/Deputy Coordinator at 615-898-2185 or 615-898-2750 for assistance or review MTSU's Title IX website for resources. <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>

MTSU faculty are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are legally obligated to share reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with the University's Title IX coordinator to help ensure student's safety and welfare. Please refer to MTSU's Title IX site for contact information and details. <http://www.mtsu.edu/titleix/>

### Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you will not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Coordinator](#).

### [Gender Neutral Bathroom Access](#)

MTSU seeks to be an inclusive community. To find out where the closest gender neutral or family restroom is, please click the following

link: [http://www.mtsu.edu/lgbt/campus\\_resources.php#trans-facilities](http://www.mtsu.edu/lgbt/campus_resources.php#trans-facilities)

### [Help for Students](#)

College can be time for new challenges and new stresses. If you need help dealing with these issues, MTSU's Counseling and Testing services is there for you. **Counseling Services** offers personal counseling, assisting students in their emotional, intellectual and social growth. They see the whole of the university as an educational opportunity, and although their work primarily involves non-classroom activities, they are equally concerned with students' academic achievement. They provide students with assistance in making life decisions. Services are provided in a non-judgmental and confidential environment. To contact them, you can visit the [Counseling Services](#) website or you can contact them via phone at 615-898-2670. They are located in the KUC 326-S.

### **Student Resources:**

Get familiar with the [Resources and Commonly Used Forms](#).

[Academic Advising](#)

[Adaptive Technology Center](#)

[D2L Support](#)

[Disability and Access Center](#)

[Disruptive Behavior Policy](#)

[Information Technology Help Desk](#)

[June Anderson Women's Center](#)

[Library Services for Distance Learners](#)

[Student - Academic Misconduct](#)