Course Title:
Organizational Communication

Course Number:
COMM 5333-102

Course Description:
This advanced survey course is designed to expose students to the field of organizational communication (its theories, research, and practice). Students will be introduced to foundational areas of organizational communication, namely, history of the field, communicating identity and identification, leadership communication, organizational culture, organizational socialization, networks in organizations, communication and non-profit organizations (NPOs), inter-organizational collaboration, NPOs and public health, and globalization and organizational communication. Our survey of each area will include both foundational works as well as contemporary advances.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: April 13-19, 2015
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 or drop without penalty: March 15, 2015

Site Director:
Christopher Della Valle. Assistant: Sasha Ramdeen. 2189 Crystal Plaza Arcade, Arlington, VA, 22202.
Phone: 703-418-4800; Fax: 703-418-2730; E-mail: apwashington@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: James O. Olufowote, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: University of Oklahoma
Department of Communication
Burton Hall, #227
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: 405-325-5946
Fax Number: 405-325-7625
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.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Course Readings Posted on D2L:

History of the Field
Communicating Identity and Identification


Leadership Communication


Organizational Culture


Organizational Socialization


Communication and Social Networks


Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)


Inter-organizational Collaboration


NPOs and Public Health


Globalization and Organizational Communication


Course Objectives:
1. To introduce students to important topics in organizational communication
2. To introduce students to foundational works in organizational communication
3. To introduce students to contemporary advances in organizational communication
4. To introduce students to important theories/ models of organizational communication
5. To facilitate reflection on practice and to improve students’ practice of communication
6. To facilitate students’ ability to communicate (orally and in writing) about organizational communication (topics, theories, practice).

Course Outline:
1. History of the Field
2. Communicating Identity and Identification
3. Leadership Communication
4. Organizational Culture
5. Organizational Socialization
6. Communication and Social Networks
7. Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)
8. Interorganizational Collaboration
9. NPOs and Public Health
10. Globalization and Organizational Communication

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Article critiques:
This is a 1-2 page, single-spaced critique of one of the assigned readings in an organizational communication topic (e.g., communicating identity and identification). Your critiques will be due at the beginning of 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, organizational communication theories or models, research questions or hypotheses, methodology, main findings, article strengths, article weaknesses, etc.

Five page evaluation of an organizational communication theory:
As we survey organizational communication topics, we will consider several organizational communication theories. You are to identify one theory, find an additional article on the theory, and write
a five page (double-spaced) explanation and evaluation of the theory. We will learn about criteria for evaluating theory in class such as heuristic value, logical consistency, and scope.

**Five page reflection on organization communication practice:**

Our explorations can assist us in reflecting on and improving our organizational communication practice. You are to identify one organizational communication topic (e.g., organizational culture), find an additional article on that topic, and write a 5 page reflection on (a) your previous understanding(s) and/or practice(s) of that topic, and (b) ideas for improving your workplace practice.

**Discussion leader:**

You will lead discussions on the assigned readings for an organizational communication topic. To effectively lead discussions, you should be familiar with the assigned readings. Come prepared with questions that facilitate critical thinking about each reading (main points, interesting points, strengths, weaknesses, etc.) and the readings as a whole (comparisons, points of debate and contention, recurring ideas and themes, central concerns, etc.).

**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>Assignments</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 written article critique (1-2 pp single-spaced) for each of the <strong>five</strong> organizational communication topics</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 13-19 (in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion leader on one organizational communication topic (class size will determine if this will be done in pairs or groups)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>April 13-19 (in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in class discussions</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>April 13-19 (in class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 page evaluation of a theory or model covered in an organizational communication topic (find 1 additional study on theory)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 19 (D2L)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 page reflection on improving organizational communication practice within a topic of organizational communication (find 1 additional study on topic)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>May 10 (D2L)</td>
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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](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/](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.

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, Organizational Communication, Purdue University (2005)
- MA, Communication-Urban Studies (concentration in org comm), Michigan State University (2000)
- BS, Corporate Communication, Ithaca College (1998)

Current Positions

- Assistant Professor of Communication, the University of Oklahoma
- Adjunct, International and Area Studies, the University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

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

Research:
- Physician preparation in and practice of health care ethics in health organizations.
- Communication by community organizations (i.e., faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations) during public health crises.
- Interorganizational collaboration by non-profit organizations

Representative Publications and Presentations


Representative Honors and Awards Received

Editorial Board Member, Management Communication Quarterly

Major Professional Affiliations

- International Communication Association
- National Communication Association
- American Academy on Communication in Healthcare