Course Title: Introduction to Graduate Study

Course Number: COMM 5013-101

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: the nature and role of theory within the function and process of research.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: September 10-16, 2011
- Hours: Sat 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sun 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.;
- Last day to enroll d without penalty: August 12, 2011

Site Director:
Steve Watson. Assistant: Carrie Grabil Church. 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: 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
- Fax Number: (405) 325-7625
- 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 Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomauunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomauunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-1557 (outside the U.S.).

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.

1. 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 (30% of grade).

2. 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 Comm Theories Text. 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 submitted to the drop box on D2L no later than midnight September 9th. A handout on APA format is available on the course D2L site. 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. Together the paper and its discussion will account for 30% of the course grade.

3. 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 drop box on D2L no later than three weeks following the final class meeting—i.e., midnight October 7th (40% of grade).

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.

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. 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 Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your 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.

Copyright

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, PhD

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 Positions

- Associate Professor, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.
- Advanced Programs Professor since 2003
- Director of Advanced Programs, Department of Communication since 2006
- Vice Chair, Communication and Social Cognition Division, National Communication Association, 2011

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- COMM 5113 Nonverbal Communication
- COMM 5553 Persuasive Campaigns
- COMM 5213 Interpersonal Communication
- COMM 6433 Seminar in Intercultural Communication
- COMM 5253 Cross Cultural 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


**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