



# 2024. J-TERM COURSE SYLLABUS



**COM 100.0004/Communication  
Fundamentals/Global Responsibility  
Harrington School of Communication  
and Media of the College of Arts and  
Sciences, URI**

401.269.9658

Office Hours: Tue 10 - 11.30am;  
or by appt.

Office location: Davis 404

Text: Communication Matters Ed. 4. Floyd. McGraw Hill. Secure your textbook access code (available for purchase at the URI Bookstore) Then, click in the Course website tab entitled: A link to the e-textbook will be provided through the course website. Begin reading right away. There are 18 chapters.

To get going, read the syllabus carefully and make note of all course requirements and deadlines. Click on this [JAM BOARD](#) and add your sticky note. This is our initial brainstorming session. Place your name on the sticky note and tell us what makes an effective communicator – (Think about who you consider the MOST effective communicator in your life – a public figure, celebrity, musician, or a coach, relative, or child in your life – and write down what makes them an effective communicator).

All Due Dates for Reading Assignments, Speeches, The MidTerm Exam and The Written Analysis are clearly specified on the [2024 J Term Course Schedule](#). Enter them into your planner!

You do not want to be in the position of telling me you were surprised. There are no surprises.

Much of your success will depend on the choices you make. I suggest you work out a schedule for these next three weeks that will include time for reading, practicing skills, participating in discussions during mandatory office hours, completing two speech assignments and one written assignment, and studying for our midterm exam..

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

**Course Description:** The purpose of this course is to provide students with theoretical background and practical experience in communicating interpersonally, in groups and teams, and in public presentations. Competent communication is based on the ability to create and share meaning effectively and appropriately in a variety of contexts. In this course, we will take an approach that combines conceptual understanding of the theories and research regarding communication, intercultural communication and global communication with the development of practical skills. As audience adaptation is a basic component of competent communication, understanding differences among people will be integrated with an examination of these contexts of communication. We will explore ways in which differences shape identities and communication styles, to recognize the range of ways in which people communicate, and to improve our practical skills in communication with a variety of people. A primary focus in this course is on the integrated skills of speaking effectively, using qualitative data effectively, and examining and understanding human differences to make a difference in society.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- (1) Recognize core concepts and theories of effective communication and Civic Responsibility. This includes public speaking, interpersonal communication, small group communication, ethics and advocacy for change.
- (2) Understand and apply the theory and skills necessary to be a competent communicator in diverse contexts and with diverse audiences.
- (3) Understand various styles of communicating and analyze the role of human differences in shaping communicative practices.
- (4) Analyze and evaluate the oral and written messages of others.
- (5) Develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values

- (6) Construct effective arguments and communicate those arguments to diverse audiences in oral and written forms.
- (7) Demonstrate the highest standards of communication ethics and academic integrity to construct arguments, interpret messages and communicate with others.

### **Five Over-arching Objectives:**

The work is designed to advance the following, more over-arching career learning objectives to support each student to meet their highest level of professional proficiency and global citizenship:

- Acquire skills in working with others as a member of a team
- Gain broader understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures around the world
- Develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in this discipline
- Learn how to find and use resources for answering problems and solving problems
- Acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers

### **General Course Guidelines**

- (1) Practice Questions for EACH chapter are available through the e-text and are required and due on the week they are assigned. These will count toward your final grade (10%). This is a three –step process.
- (2) Submitting Assignments – Assignments must be turned in to me directly via email, or uploaded to the Assignments tab on BrightSpace course site the day they are due.
- (3) Presentations – The schedule for presentations will be assigned in advance and cannot be changed. If you miss a scheduled presentation, you will receive 0% . Confirm your assigned speech day in advance.
- (4) Exams – The Midterm Exam will be administered on the predetermined day according to the syllabus. There will be no make-up exams.
- (5) Timeliness – Arrive on time to the office hours with cameras ON! We will begin at the scheduled start time. Three times late will count as an absence. If you are late on the day of your scheduled presentation, one letter grade will be deducted.

### **Attendance, Preparation, and Participation**

Regular attendance and punctuality are critical elements of this course. Successful completion of this course requires practice in the various contexts of communication and accurate peer review skills (observation of the efforts of others), as well as understanding and applying conceptual material. Participation includes attentive listening and observation, active involvement in group activities, and contributions to group discussion. If circumstances arise that require you to miss an activity by its due date, make it up with the following penalties:

<u>Penalty</u>	<u>Missed Office Hour</u>
No penalty	1
Grade penalty	2
Warning of being in danger of failing course	3

### **Make-Up and Late Work**

There will be no make-up exams unless a student has a major, documentable medical and/or family emergency. Submitting work late carries penalties in this course. With regard to required presentations and written work, late assignments get zero credit.

### **Civility Policy**

URI has adopted a civility policy regarding disruptive/harmful words and behaviors—defined as words or behaviors that interfere with the learning and/or teaching process and those that would be received as harmful. Disruptive behaviors and words include inappropriate interference with other students' ability to have a quality learning experience. Students who engage in disruptive behavior or share harmful words, will receive one warning without penalty. Continued incidents of disrupting the learning process will result in the initiation of removal procedures or the loss of a letter grade. Common sense and courtesy should govern civility in the learning environment..

### **Academic Enhancement Center**

The work in this course is complex and can be difficult. It is a good idea to seek help at the Academic Enhancement Center (AEC). AEC tutors can answer questions, clarify concepts, check your understanding, and help you to study. You can make an appointment online here [www.uri.edu/aec](http://www.uri.edu/aec) or Call (401) 874-2367.

### **Career Advice/Resume Support**

If you would like to be considered for a Mentorship or Internship, contact the Center for Career and Experiential Education [CCEE](http://CCEE) or by calling a career counselor at 401.874.2311. The Center staff will work with you to define the kind of opportunity that would suit your career path.

### **Academic Honesty/Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Every student will be held accountable for knowing and adhering to university policies regarding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Basic Course Director and Department Chair.

**Accommodations for Students with a Documented Disability** If any student requires special accommodation, please let me know at the beginning of the semester so that we can make the appropriate plans to meet your needs and the requirements of the course.

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Textbook: [Communication M@tters](#) by Kory Floyd (ed. 4) Topics by chapter:

Ch 1:Intro; Ch 2:Cultures; Ch 3:Perception; 4:Language;5:Nonverbal;6:Listening;7:Professional;8:Interpersonal;9:Small Groups;10:Leadership;11-15 Speech Development and Delivery;16:Organizational;17:Media;18 Public Health example of Strategic Comm.

*All grades to be posted to e-campus by 5 pm SUN JAN 21, 2024.*

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Speeches (two assignments)	40%
Participation (includes reading)	10%
Analytical Writing	10%
Midterm Exam	40%

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Final course grade	100%
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### **Speeches – Two Speech assignments listed below (40% combined total):**

*a) Individual Introductory Speech* – Students will introduce themselves to the rest of the class in a casual informative manner. Guidelines will be provided by prompts. This J-Term Online course requires a recorded introduction. (13.3%)

*b) Individual Informative Speech* – Each student will present a 5-7 minute informative speech about a topic of interest. Guidelines for speech development will be reviewed (and covered in Chapters 11 - 14) (13.4%).

*c) Group Presentation* - Students will not have the luxury of time to work together to try out Small Group Roles/Skills, but will be graded for group participation during office hour activities, which will include reporting on a Civic Responsibility Project that advances the Sustainable Development Goals. (13.3%).

**Analytical Writing** – One analytical paper will be completed. Written guidelines will be provided in Assignments >BrightSpace. (10%)

**Midterm Exam** - The exam will be composed of multiple-choice, T/F, Fill-in-the blank, and Essay questions. This Midterm Exam will cover material from the readings, activities, guest lectures and discussions. There will be no make-up exams. (40%).

**Participation – 10%** Includes your **constructive engagement in the course learning process** as well as your completion of all practice questions from the required chapter readings.

### **URI Grade Scale.**

<b>A+</b>	100%
<b>A</b>	95.0-99.9%
<b>A-</b>	90.0-94.9%
<b>B+</b>	87.0-89.9%
<b>B</b>	84.0-86.9%
<b>B-</b>	80.0-83.9%
<b>C+</b>	77.0-79.0%
<b>C</b>	74.0-76.9%
<b>C-</b>	70.0-73.9%
<b>D+</b>	67.0-69.9%
<b>D</b>	64.0-66.9%
<b>D-</b>	60.0-63.9%
<b>F</b>	below 60.0

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL WINTER, EVERYONE! 