

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Communication 130 – Fundamentals of Human Communication

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

A survey of the theory, basic principles, and methods of human communication. The course emphasizes improving speaking and listening in public speaking, interpersonal and group contexts, while demonstrating sensitivity and responsiveness to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Foundations and theories of human communication, including rhetorical theory.
- 2) History of communication as a scholarly discipline.
- 3) Ethical communication practices, including truthfulness, accuracy, honesty, and reason.
- 4) Methods of research, including finding supporting materials from primary and secondary sources and critically examining them for credibility, accuracy, and relevance for use in presentations.
- 5) Basic processes of public speaking, such as:
 - a. Reduction of communication apprehension
 - b. Listening critically
 - c. Topic selection
 - d. Analysis of diverse audiences
 - e. Organization
 - f. Use of supporting materials
 - g. Delivery
 - h. Use of presentation aids
- 6) Evaluation and criticism of live and/or recorded presentations.
- 7) Basic processes of interpersonal communication, such as:
 - a. Verbal and nonverbal communication in various contexts, including personal and professional.
 - b. The effects of communication on perceptions and personal identities.
 - c. Conflict management and resolution in interpersonal relationships.
 - d. The effects of communication on perceptions and personal identities.
 - e. The psychological, social, cultural, and linguistic factors which affect communication.
- 8) Basic processes of group communication, such as:
 - a. Decision making methods and use of evidence
 - b. Group roles
 - c. Group dynamics
 - d. Group planning, including agendas and minutes

Course Objectives

The student will:

- 1) Identify and apply the principles of communication and rhetorical theory including the canons of rhetoric and the Aristotelian proofs of ethos, pathos, and logos.
- 2) Compose and present public presentations, including informative and persuasive speeches, while:

- a. demonstrating rhetorical sensitivity to diversity, equity, and inclusion;
 - b. adhering to ethical communication practices;
 - c. employing effective verbal and nonverbal practices;
 - d. effectively using compelling arguments in support of guiding thesis and organizational pattern appropriate for the audience, occasion, and across a variety of contexts; and
 - e. accurately using credible and relevant supporting materials from primary and secondary sources
- 3) Apply rhetorical principles to analyze historical and contemporary discourse.
- 4) Describe and analyze ways that communication creates, develops, and changes personal identities.
- 5) Analyze the psychological, social, cultural, and linguistic factors which affect human communication.
- 6) Evaluate ethical perspectives in human communication.
- 7) Describe and utilize specific skills within the following areas of the human communication process: perception, empathy, and listening.
- 8) Listen critically to provide constructive criticism to peers.
- 9) Assess relationships and apply appropriate conflict management skills.
- 10) Identify and apply factors influencing group discussion (e.g., group roles, culture, decision-making, leadership, uses of power, and conflict management).

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration, or where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Written assignments and exams (essay and/or objective).
- 2) Faculty supervised, faculty evaluated speeches delivered to a live audience (one to many) demonstrating appropriate rhetorical strategies of invention, arrangement, style, and delivery.
- 3) Instructor assessment of in-class participation via presentations, interaction in pairs and/or in small groups. An example would be student participation in a group in which students are exploring listening habits and how to improve listening.
- 4) Performance final or written exam.

Special Materials Required of Student

- 1) Digital media storage (optional).
- 2) Note cards

Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Demonstration
- 3) Group activities
- 4) Multimedia instruction
- 5) Collaborative learning

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) **Reading:** Reading assignments such as textbook chapters and written speeches.
- 2) **Writing:** Written exercises on topics such as student assessment of their own communication competence, submission of topic ideas for speeches, and agendas for meetings. Research for presentation projects on topics such as artificial intelligence literacy, social media education in K-12, gender identity, and birthright citizenship.

- 3) **Other:** Presentation/speech/group discussion preparation and rehearsal on topics such as electoral reform, the affordability crisis, and the impact of social media on society. Participation in outside speech or community events (optional). Film viewing and analysis.

Texts and References

- 1) Required: (representative examples):
 - a. DeVito, J.A. *Essentials of Human Communication: The Basic Course*. Pearson. 2020.
 - b. Young, K.S., Travis, H.P., & Bernum, B. *Oral Communication: Skills, Choice, and Consequences*. Waveland. 2025.
 - c. Anonymous. *Communication in the Real World*. Libre Texts. 2025.
https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Communication/Introduction_to_Communication/Communication_in_the_Real_World_-_An_Introduction_to_Communication_Studies
- 2) Supplemental: None

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- 1) Construct a speech using effective research and appropriate organizational patterns.
- 2) Exhibit active listening in public, interpersonal, and group settings.
- 3) Demonstrate effective use of voice and body in public speaking, interpersonal, and group settings.