Health Communication
COM4930 | 3 credits

Instructor: Diana Nagy | dnagy@ufl.edu | 352.273.1870 | 412 Rolfs Hall

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 6th Period, (12:50-1:40 p.m.), Thursday 5th period (11:45-12:35 pm); and by appointment.

Class meets: Monday 5th & 6th period (11:45-1:30) Rolfs Hall 314; Thursday 6th period (12:50-1:40) Rolfs Hall 314

Course website: http://lss.at.ufl.edu

Course description: COM4022—Health Communication is a three-credit course. This course is primarily for those students with a strong interest in health related issues. We will cover such topics as the history and current issues in health communication. We will then examine the roles of patients and caregivers, social and cultural issues, communication in health organizations and issues in public health (media, crisis, policy reform and health promotion).

Course Texts


These texts are available at most bookstores serving the UF Community. You are responsible for having access to these texts by Monday, August 26th, 2013 in order to complete assignments and quizzes. There will be NO extensions on quizzes or assignments if you do not have your text by this date.

Course requirements
Internet Access and your Gatorlink Email Address that you should check on a regular basis. (For any questions on this policy, please see the Computer Requirements as discussed under the General Requirements in the University catalog or UF Computer and Software Requirements on the web.), access to the Internet, and MS Word (or other word processing software that is compatible with MS Word).

Course Objectives
- As a student, you can expect to increase the range of options available to you in gender communication. In the personal effectiveness approach, this is referred to as the development of the communication repertoire. The more options you have, the more likely you are to make effective choices.
- You can also expect to increase your ability to analyze communication situations. Enhanced personal effectiveness is dependent upon understanding situations and what is needed for successful interaction in those situations.
• As odd as it may sound, you can also expect to be able to make more reasoned and reasonable choices regarding gender communication.
• Last, in addition to learning new information, you can expect to acquire new and/or improved communication skills

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE Students are responsible for signing roll sheets in order to receive credit for attending class meetings. A student learns from listening, participating, discussing and observing. Therefore attendance is expected for all class meeting days. To encourage uninterrupted participation in class, it is expected that cell phones and audio devices be turned off prior to entering the classroom. Please silence your cell phone and do not text or surf the web during class, unless it is required for class work that day. This may result in your phone or computer being taken away for the remainder of the class period.

More than three unexcused absences of any kind will result in a grade penalty of 20 points of your final grade for each absence. Two tardies equal one unexcused absence.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS Late assignments or make-up exams will not be permitted without a University-approved absence.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION Unless otherwise indicated, assignments should be submitted through the course website by 11:45PM on the due date. Do not wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment because of the possibility of technical difficulties.

UF POLICIES

ACCOMMODATIONS University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Undergraduate Catalog (http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html). Please become familiar with the policies of the Honor Code
(http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php) as all violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Research misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, will result in an automatic failing grade for the assignment.

**NETIQUETTE** All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. All members are expected to follow these guidelines: [http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf](http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf).

**IN-CLASS BEHAVIOR** Eating and drinking are prohibited in class (except for water or similar beverages). Avoid stepping out of the class momentarily. You are expected to be professional and actively engaged in the discussions, activities, and presentations throughout the class.

**Getting Help**

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:
- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- [https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml](https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml)

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at [http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help](http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help) such as:
- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Any questions regarding the planning, administering and teaching of COM 4930 should be discussed with me individually. As needed, questions can be discussed further with Kellie W. Roberts, Director, Dial Center for Written & Oral Communication.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

The course will be part lecture, part class discussion format. There will be presentations, chapter quizzes, in-class learning activities, a film analysis, a book analysis and an Infosearch. There are no exams. Details regarding individual assignments will be discussed in class, and will be posted on the class website that is located at [http://lss.at.ufl.edu/](http://lss.at.ufl.edu/).

Readings: Students are responsible for the entire text book as well as any other assigned readings. See the course calendar for reading due dates.
COURSE GRADING

Medical Article Presentation 10%
In-class learning activities 15%
Chapter Quizzes 15%
Film Analysis 10%
Book Analysis 10%
Attendance 10%
Current Events (4 at 25 points each) 10%
InfoSearch 20%

Final Grades
Grading Scale (for letter grades)

93-100 % A
90-92 % A-
87-89 % B+
83-86 % B
80-82 % B-
77-79 % C+
73-76 % C
70-72 % C-
67-69 % D+
63-66 % D
60-62 % D-
> 600 % E
E1*

There will be no curving of final grades.
* Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class

For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit:
http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

This can be found on Sakai (e-Learning).
This syllabus and the weekly schedule are subject to change.