

Course Syllabus

 Edit

COMMUNICATION 4240— Rhetoric and Popular Culture- Summer 2026 5WK2- June 22 to July 24

Instructor: Brian Lain, PhD

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Office Hours:

Tuesday 11am-12:30pm and Wednesday 2-3:30pm and by appointment

Instructor's Office: GAB 320D

Overview to the Course:

Experience Japanese culture and explore the importance of communication through visits to popular cultural sites, temples, museums, historical structures in Japan. This program allows students to take COMM 4240 while abroad to focus on intercultural and popular communication in Japan. The program will take place in Tokyo and Osaka. Students will apply communication theory to cross cultural experiences and gain insight from diverse perspectives. Additionally, students will gain a historical and cultural perspective on Japan.

This course examines the interaction between rhetoric, popular culture, and communication in Japan in the contemporary era. The course will be conducted partially in the United States and partially in Japan during summer 2025. Students will be exposed to communication theories and principles, observe the ways in which popular culture attracts subjects in different parts of Tokyo and Osaka, Japan, analyze messages for their rhetorical impact, and study fandom in Japanese popular culture. Over the course of the day trip, field trips and excursions will allow student to witness different fandom locations first-hand. Lectures and group discussions involving communication studies faculty in Japan will be included.

Course Goals:

1. Employ Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts
2. Engage in Communication inquiry
3. Critically analyze messages
4. Utilize communication to embrace difference
5. Create messages appropriate to the audience, purpose, and context

Texts:

Freedman, A., & Slade, T. (Eds.). (2023). *Introducing Japanese popular culture*. New York: Routledge.

Additional materials available on Canvas

Teaching Philosophy:

A full statement of my teaching philosophy can be found [here](https://presentation.foliotek.com/portfolio/view/7b7c1013-5595-4643-91ba-69f568f2afce?page=4e7463f3-ca92-415e-9c22-3682171e4d8e)  (<https://presentation.foliotek.com/portfolio/view/7b7c1013-5595-4643-91ba-69f568f2afce?page=4e7463f3-ca92-415e-9c22-3682171e4d8e>). For this course I support transparency and accountability. I will never ask you to do anything I have not done myself. Every activity and assignment attempts to learn or practice a particular skill toward the course goals.

Course Requirements:

Found Images I and II (2 x 10% of final grade):

This is an opportunity to practice analysis of everyday items. I will post an image/ video or other object for you to think about and consider. Then you should identify some theory, term, or method from our reading and "use" it to write some exegesis of the image. These involve (1) summarizing a part of our existing readings, (2) writing a short description and analysis of the image its content, its context, its rhetoric, or (perhaps) its placement in a cultural logic (2-3 pages total no need for a works cited unless you use sources outside the syllabus).

Travel Diary/Journal: (Grading 40%)

You are expected to note down your thoughts for the day in a travel journal. You may begin journaling the minute you step on the plane at DFW International Airport till the moment you return. The purpose of this assignment is firstly to illustrate your knowledge and changing perspectives of the cultures and people of Japan and secondly to demonstrate your understanding of the communication theories and principles we are studying. You will do this successfully by reading all articles listed and making comparisons between what you know about popular culture in the US and what you read and see in Japan.

Record your thoughts "as you go" or you may find that you cannot keep all the information as clearly delineated as you would like. You can use something as simple as MS Word or even Voice recording, but there are several apps that will assist in this process such as Day One Diarium, Grid Diary, or Evernote. Many of these are free to use and charge premium only for advanced features. Be sure to take a photograph or two at each site visit and cultural visit but seek permission before doing so. Try to ensure that these photographs are not staged if possible. Include these photographs when you type up the journal for final submission.

Each day's journaling should include the following subheadings:

1. **Appointments/ site visits:** Entries should include, but are not limited to names, titles, organizational mission, date, speaker details, a brief narrative relating to your learning experience on communication and rhetoric.
2. **Cultural experiences:** Give a brief description including the date, where, what you saw at various venues, on the bus or train, walking on the streets, bargaining for gifts, buying food at a local stall etc. Differentiate between cultural activities in the different areas. Take every opportunity to engage people in conversations, have your photograph taken with the local people. Include photographs that exemplify the culture: food, colors, ancient monuments, and the overall rhythm of the nation. Enter your favorite photograph and a caption in the Study Abroad Photography Contest and make us proud by being a winner!
3. **Course Concepts:** In your reflection, be sure to identify a course concept or theory that helps explain what you observed during the experience. As you develop your analysis, incorporate references to at least one course reading every two to three journal entries to ground your reflections in the academic material. Where appropriate, draw comparisons between your observations and communication norms or cultural practices in the United States to highlight differences, similarities, or moments of cultural insight.

Discussion Leader (Grading 10%)

Every evening, one of you will serve as a discussion leader. As a discussion leader you will

1. begin with an icebreaker related to what we did that day.
2. guide class discussion
3. Ask the rest of the class to apply concepts included in the readings to what we saw and experienced that day.

Be sure to share the primary emotion that you came away with that day, be it empathy, joy, sorrow, pleasure, anger, surprise etc. and explaining why that was so. Be sure to read the suggested articles so that you can formulate questions and arguments, backed up by research and your personal observations. Ask your classmates questions, draw out comparisons between what is known about these issues in the US and what you saw, what changes could be made, what lessons can be learned on either side, what policies are transferrable and what are not, what are the challenges etc. Remember, you are not lecturing, you are guiding discussion.

For GRADUATE STUDENTS: This assignment will include an additional component. You will research the area assigned to you ahead of time and present answers to the following questions prior to our group visit to the location:

1. Site history
2. Importance in Japanese popular culture
3. Primary audience
4. Interesting tidbits of information
5. Other relevant information that you think would be vital to know before visiting the site.
6. Questions you want to ask at the site during the visit.

Rhetorical Analysis Essay (Grading 30%)

Rhetorical Analysis Essay – Japan Study Abroad

Length: 5–7 pages (double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman)

Weight: 30% of final grade

Overview

This assignment asks you to conduct a rhetorical analysis of an artifact encountered during our study abroad experience in Japan. Your goal is to select a rhetorical artifact—this might include a public memorial, advertisement, political poster, religious object, digital media piece, piece of architecture, or public speech—and analyze its rhetorical strategies, cultural significance, and communicative function.

Your analysis should:

- Describe the artifact and the context in which you encountered it.
- Interpret its rhetorical features using relevant theoretical and analytical tools we have studied.
- Evaluate its effectiveness and significance.
- Include a brief literature review that contextualizes your analysis using academic sources (e.g., studies of similar artifacts, Japanese media, visual rhetoric, public memory, or other relevant scholarship).

You are encouraged to conduct follow-up research after our return to deepen your analysis and clarify cultural context. You should use at least 5 academic sources (peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or scholarly books).

Assignment Objectives

- Apply rhetorical analysis methods to a real-world cultural artifact.
- Demonstrate cultural awareness through analysis of Japanese rhetorical practices.
- Engage with scholarly research relevant to your chosen artifact.
- Develop a well-supported argument about the artifact's rhetorical function and impact.

Academic Integrity Statement & Expectations

This assignment is designed to be grounded in your personal, direct engagement with Japan. While you are welcome to use tools to help organize your writing or clarify grammar, the analysis must originate from your own thinking and experiences. Essays that appear to be overly generic, lack specific details from our trip, or show signs of AI-generated patterns will be flagged for review.

Grading The graded assignments are designed to allow the student to demonstrate proficiency in these areas. The following scale will be used:

A	90-100	Clearly Outstanding and exceptional work
B	80-89	Above Average Work
C	70-79	Average Work; Meets all the criteria for an assignment
D	60-69	Below Average Work
F	Below 60	Fails to Meet Minimal Expectations

Tentative Schedule

schedule

We establish a Foundation for learning/Studying		
Date	Topic/reading	Readings
June 22 Monday	What is this Class? What is Popular Culture?	What is Popular Culture and Why Study it? In Sellnow, D. D., & Endres, T. G. (2024). <i>The rhetorical power of popular culture: Considering mediated texts</i> . Sage Publications. Freedman, A., & Slade, T. (2023). Introducing Japanese Popular Culture: Serious Approaches to Playful Trends. In <i>Introducing Japanese Popular Culture</i> (pp. 1-10). Routledge. Occhi, D. J. (2023). Kumamon: Japan's surprisingly cheeky mascot. In <i>Introducing Japanese popular culture</i> (pp. 13-22). Routledge
June 23 Tuesday	What is Rhetoric?	Expanding the rhetorical tradition in Sellnow, D. D., & Endres, T. G. (2024). <i>The rhetorical power of popular culture: Considering mediated texts</i> . Sage Publications. <u>Montgomery, F. (2020). Rogue One: A US imperialism story. Journal of Popular Film and Television, 48(1), 27-37.</u> https://libproxy.library.unt.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=lfh&AN=142313486&scope=site retrieve.pdf (https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/files/38912845?wrap=1)
June 24 Wednesday	What is Public Memory?	Blair, C., Dickinson, G., & Ott, B. L. (2010). Introduction: Rhetoric/memory/place. In <i>Places of public memory: The rhetoric of museums and memorials</i> (pp. 1-54). The University of Alabama Press. Bennett, Tony. (1988). "The Exhibitionary Complex' <i>new formations</i> . 73-102. (PDF online) Slade, T. (2023). Cute fashion: the social strategies and aesthetics of kawaii. In <i>Introducing Japanese Popular Culture</i> (pp. 415-425). Routledge.

June 25 Thursday	Where is Japan? What is Japan?	Yano, C. R. (2018). Hello Kitty Is Not a Cat?!?: Tracking Japanese Cute Culture at Home and Abroad 1. In <i>Introducing Japanese popular culture</i> (pp. 24-34). Routledge. Andressen, C. (2002). <i>A Short History of Japan: From Samurai to Sony</i>. Allen & Unwin  (https://web-p-eb-scohost-com.libproxy.library.unt.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=915619ff-60f9-4177-a469-a11997082877%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtbGl2ZSZyY29wZT1zaXRI#db=nlebk&AN=87649) .
June 26 Friday	What is Cultural Heritage Tourism?	Prough, Jennifer S. (2022) A Brand of History Heritage and Hospitality in Kyoto City Tourism. In <i>Kyoto Revisited: Heritage Tourism in Contemporary Japan</i> , University of Hawaii Press, 2022. <i>ProQuest Ebook Central</i> , (pp. 90-120) http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/unt/detail.action?docID=6913323  (http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/unt/detail.action?docID=6913323).
June 29 Monday	Japan Tourism 101 and expectations	Kuroishi, I. (2023). Shibuya: Reflective Identity in Transforming Urban Space 1. In <i>Introducing Japanese Popular Culture</i> (pp. 377-388). Routledge.
June 30- July 1	Preparing for Departure	Download readings for days ahead on Canvas- No Class

We explore Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto

Date	Itinerary	Discussion Leader
July 2-Th	Travel to Osaka- Arrival Day	
July 3-F	Osaka Castle & Umeda Sky Building, Namba Parks, Dotonbori District	1. Felipe Mora 2. Damaris Garcia
July 4-S	Ikutama, Shitenno-Ji Osama Tezuka Museum in Osaka	3. Michael Lara 4. Nikki Powell
July 5-Su	Full Day Kyoto City Tour	5. Sergio Martinez
July 6-M	Osaka Train and Harajuku, S + Meiji	6. Elizabeth Lara 7. Helena Smith

	Shrine, Shibuya, and Yoyogi Park	
July 7-Tu	Visit Asakusa, Senso-ji Temple, Akihabara	8. Alexis Rodrigues 9. Dylan Bess
July 8-W	Ueno and National Museum	10. Zoe Sansom
July 9 -Th	Yanaka Area & Nezu Shrine/ Class with Meiji University	11. Deven Phares
July 10-F	Free Day- No Class	
July 11-Sa	Suginami Animation Museum, Nakano Broadway	12. Rebecca Lopez
July 12-Su	Shinjuku Gyoen National Park, Shinjuku area, Tokyo Metropolitan Bldg	13. Camila Salcedo
July 13-M	Free Day	
July 14-Tu	Taiko, Tokyo Skytree	14. Khadija Mohamed
July 15-W	Imperial Gardens, Tea Ceremony and Farwell	
July 16-Th	Departure for DFW	
We Return and Complete		
Date	Topic/Activity	Reading
July 20-M	Debrief in class	APPENDIX: WRITING A POPULAR CULTURE RHETORICAL ESSAY In Sellnow, D. D., & Endres, T. G. (2024). <i>The rhetorical power of popular culture: Considering mediated texts</i> . Sage Publications.
July 21-Tu	Workshopping Final analysis	

July 22-W	Individual Meetings	
July 23-Th	Last Class.	

Course Policies:

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn> 
(<https://online.unt.edu/learn>)

Class Participation

Students are expected to attend each class session, to have read and synthesized the material to be covered that day, and to be prepared to participate actively and intelligently in class discussions. It is impossible to participate intelligently if one has not completed the reading assignment for the day. Class participation is an important part of your grade. Class participation includes attending class regularly, being on time, doing all assigned work outside of class as directed, and being prepared to take part in all in-class activities. These will include informal writing and speaking exercises, as well as large and small group discussions. Note that it is important to balance speaking and listening, to direct comments constructively to the subject at hand, and to show respect to all speakers.

Attendance

Much of your success in this course depends on your active participation in the daily class discussions. Not only is the material covered in class important to your success, but also your participation as an audience member and a participant in the daily activities of the class is crucial to achieving the course objectives. Consequently, you are expected to attend every class session and to be on time.

If you accumulate more than three class absences over the course of the semester your grade will be adversely affected. Beginning with the fourth absence a student's final grade will be lowered by 5% on the final grade (the equivalent of one-half letter grade). Upon the fifth absence, the equivalent of 10% or a letter grades will be deducted from your final average. If you miss six classes, the equivalent of two full weeks of class, you will automatically fail the course. Attendance is counted beginning with the first day of class in the semester.

Attendance is taken every class through the iClicker. If you encounter technical difficulty, you must let the instructor know within 48 hours.

The term *absence* used in this policy does not apply to "authorized absences" as defined by the university. It is not the responsibility of the instructors to keep you apprised of the number of absences you have accumulated. University policies about excused absences can be found [here](https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf). 
(<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.039%20Student%20Attendance%20and%20Authorized%20Absences.pdf>)

Tardiness

Many times in this class, you will be making presentations. Entering during a speech or performance is a rude distraction to the performer and the class. If you arrive after the roll has been taken it is your responsibility to inform us at the end of that class period. Absences will not be removed otherwise.

Assignments and Requirements

All assignments are due on the date specified. Late assignments are not accepted, and, excepting authorized absences, make-up assignments will not be scheduled. If you miss a presentation, workshop, or other schedules or informal class activities and you have a University Authorized Absence (i.e. an excused absence from the Dean of Students), we will try to reschedule you at our earliest convenience. You should be prepared to perform whenever you are called upon, certainly the next time you come to class. When a reading assignment is listed in the syllabus for a given day, you should complete the reading assignment by that day.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Intellectual honesty is vital to an academic community and for my fair evaluation of your work. All work submitted in this course must be your own. Contributions from anyone or anything else- including AI sources, **must be properly quoted and cited every time they are used** (including any AI generated material). Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and I will follow UNT's policy in those instances. AI tools such as ChatGPT, QuillBot, Grammarly Premium have their place in helping to make our lives easier; these tools can also hurt your capacity to engage in critical thinking. Please talk with me before using any of these tools for this class to ensure that we're in agreement as to how they will affect your work.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the

event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 [insert administration dates] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Basic Needs Security

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their academic performance is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support (940-565-2648). UNT has both a Food Pantry and a "Seeking Options & Solutions" (SOS) team who work to help students navigate diverse concerns, including identifying resources for personal, academic, financial, and social issues.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) [Links to an external site.](http://www.ecfr.gov/) [\(http://www.ecfr.gov/\)](http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu (<mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu>)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) [Links to an external site.](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) [\(https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002\)](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Download the UNT System Permission, Waiver and Release Form

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

1. No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery.
2. In the event an instructor records student presentations, he or she must obtain permission from the student using a signed release in order to use the recording for future classes in accordance with the Use of Student-Created Work guidelines above.
3. Instructors who video-record their class lectures with the intention of re-using some or all of recordings for future class offerings must notify students on the course syllabus if students' images may appear on video. Instructors are also advised to provide accommodation for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings.

Example: This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings.

No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Class Recordings & Student Likenesses

Synchronous (live) sessions in this course will be recorded for students enrolled in this class section to refer to throughout the semester. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- **Student Health and Wellness Center**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- **Counseling and Testing Services**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)  (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)

- **UNT Care Team**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)  [_ \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- **UNT Psychiatric Services**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)  [_ \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- **Individual Counseling**[Links to an external site.](https://itsservices.cas.unt.edu/services/email/request/change-your-email-address-because-your-name-changed)  [_ \(https://itsservices.cas.unt.edu/services/email/request/change-your-email-address-because-your-name-changed\)](https://itsservices.cas.unt.edu/services/email/request/change-your-email-address-because-your-name-changed) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Additional Student Support Services

- Registrar (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- **Financial Aid**[Links to an external site.](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)  [_ \(https://financialaid.unt.edu/\)](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- **Student Legal Services**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)  [_ \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- **Career Center**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)  [_ \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- **Multicultural Center**[Links to an external site.](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)  [_ \(https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center\)](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- **Counseling and Testing Services**[Links to an external site.](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)  [_ \(https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services\)](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- **Pride Alliance**[Links to an external site.](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)  [_ \(https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance\)](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- **UNT Food Pantry**[Links to an external site.](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)  [_ \(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- **Academic Resource Center**[Links to an external site.](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)  [_ \(https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources\)](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- **Academic Success Center**[Links to an external site.](https://success.unt.edu/asc)  [_ \(https://success.unt.edu/asc\)](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- **UNT Libraries**[Links to an external site.](https://library.unt.edu/)  [_ \(https://library.unt.edu/\)](https://library.unt.edu/) (https://library.unt.edu/)
- **Writing Lab** <http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>[Links to an external site.](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)  [_ \(http://writingcenter.unt.edu/\)](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)

Emergency Situations:

In case of university closure due to emergency situations, such as inclement weather or a widespread infections disease (e.g., swine flu), I will communicate with you via the email you get through Canvas.

Completing the Course

Students are expected to complete all assignments for this course during the semester. Assigning a grade of “incomplete” is rare, and in order to request an “I,” the student must meet these requirements: a) The student must have completed at least 75% of the course assignments; b) The student must be passing the course; c) There must be an unforeseen and compelling reason why the course cannot be completed on time; and d) The student must present a plan for completing the assignments within the time period specified in the catalog.

Course Evaluations:

Course evaluations are conducted online through the university’s program. Log onto my.unt.edu to access and complete the course evaluation.

Academic Dishonesty.

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy at: <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>[Links to an external site.](#)  (<https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>)

Access

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>[Links to an external site.](#)  (https://webmail.unt.edu/OWA/redir.aspx?C=2-p95jp_-EWwoilbfsvlphc0yxEpdtAI_GDGEHVXx4kQVv_shUsY-8lvuU2tlikQaYuZ0Dy51Oc.&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.unt.edu%2foda). You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

COMM Library Copier Use Policy

Students conducting research in the Communication Studies Library associated with departmental coursework have access to a printer/photocopier located in the office adjacent to the library. We encourage students to make use of this resource to print research accessed online in the library or to copy essays from any of the department's holdings. Students may not use this resource for other purposes, such as printing courses assignments, class notes, scripts, etc. Students who use the copier for uses other than those outlined above will lose copying privileges.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Please contact Brian Lain before submitting any other event as extra credit. You can add up to 4 points to your final grade for the course by doing any combination of the following activities: Attend a debate tournament or other public performance and write a one-page summary of the event and how it related to the content of the class (2 points per review). Participate in one of the studies going on in the Department of Communication Studies. Write a brief summary of the study and what aspect of communication it is intended to investigate (1 point per study). Other speaking and argument events may also qualify for extra credit with short writing summaries. The number of points will be awarded based on the quality of your work. Completing an assignment does not automatically guarantee that you will receive all of the available points. If 80% of the course participants complete the course evaluation system on my.unt.edu, the entire class will gain 1 point of extra credit.

AI Use and Attribution

Portions of course assignments were developed with the assistance of ChatGPT, an AI language model created by OpenAI. The tool was used to support the drafting of instructional language, prompts, and rubrics. All content has been reviewed and adapted by the instructor to align with course goals and academic integrity standards.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 22, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216799&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
Tue Jun 23, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216800&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
Wed Jun 24, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216801&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
Thu Jun 25, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216802&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
	 Found Images I https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045014	due by 11:59pm
Mon Jun 29, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216803&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
	 Found Images II https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045015	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jun 30, 2026	 COMM 4240 Section(s) 888 and COMM 5900 Section(s) 888 (Summer 2025 5W2) https://unt.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=1216804&include_contexts=course_145741	8pm to 10pm
Sun Jul 19, 2026	 Travel Diary/Journal https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045017	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jul 24, 2026	 Extra Credit https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045013	due by 11:59pm
	 Rhetorical Analysis (Grading 30%) https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045016	due by 11:59pm
	 Class Discussion Leader https://unt.instructure.com/courses/145741/assignments/3045012	