

"Words are, in my not so humble opinion, an inexhaustible source of magic, with the power of both inflicting pain, and remedying it."
Albus Percival Wolfric Brian Dumbledore

COMM 1010: Introduction to Human Communication
A UNT NextGen Course

Instructor: Your Name Here ☺
Office Location: GAB 322
Office Hours: & By Appointment
E-mail:

Course Director: Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain
Office Location: GAB 302
Office Hours: Monday 11am-12:30pm & Wed. 1-2:30pm and By Appointment
E-mail: Karen.Anderson-Lain@unt.edu

Required Texts and Materials

Warren, J. T., & Fassett, D. L. (2013). *Communication: A critical/cultural introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Anderson-Lain, K., & Gordon, C. K. (Eds.) (2014). *COMM 1010: Communication in Action*. Plymouth, MI: Hayden McNeil.

Next Generation Learning Approach

This course is designated as a NextGen (N-Gen) course, a University of North Texas initiative to provide a learning platform for self-directed, student-engaged inquiry consistent with university goals. This is a **blended course** – a mix of face-to-face class meetings, Web-based course content delivery; and hands-on, self-managed learning. In keeping with the university N-Gen course design, this course incorporates significant experiential learning opportunities to allow you to practice the concepts you are exploring.

COMM 1010 fulfills the University's core requirement for the Institutional option. In addition to meeting twice a week, you will be utilizing Blackboard to view lectures and complete other various assignments and activities. The course is designed for you to apply the principles you learn in both the online lectures and your textbook readings to your in-class discussions and activities. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO LOG-IN TO THE COURSE VIA BLACKBOARD AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.** Please note that all activity is recorded by the Blackboard system.

During the course of the semester your **Instructor** is your primary source for information about the course. Instructors are responsible for grading all assignments. Please direct your questions regarding Blackboard, exams, and course assignments to your Instructor. Please address problems with grading or your instructor as soon as they occur, do not wait until the end of the semester to discuss any possible problems. If you have a problem with

your Instructor, please set up a confidential meeting with Dr. Anderson-Lain, the course director. You can contact Dr. Karen Anderson-Lain at Karen.anderson-lain@unt.edu.

Course Goals and Objectives

The goal of this course is to provide students with a strong foundation of communication skills necessary for a successful future in our highly communicative world. We will complete a basic study of the elements contributing to effective human communication and together we will perform critical exploration of communication messages in multiple contexts.

Thus, the following course goals:

- Develop oral and written skills for multiple communication contexts
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills
- Understand the power of communication in creating social reality
- Understand the critical approach to human communication
- Explore and understand the significance of communication behaviors in shaping cultural life and addressing issues of diversity.
- Recognize the power of public advocacy in society

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In-Class Participation

Attendance and participation in class is crucial. Attendance will be taken in class each day. If you are absent more than three (3) class periods over the course of the semester, your grade will be reduced. **For each absence beyond three (3), 20 points will be deducted from your final grade total.** So if you are absent 4 class periods, your final grade will be reduced by 20 points. **A student who misses 10 or more class periods will receive a failing grade. For classes meeting once a week, attendance will be taken after break and each "day" is counted as two class periods.** You are responsible for obtaining notes from missed classes. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to inform you of what you missed in class.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO LOG-IN TO THE COURSE VIA BLACKBOARD AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

Crisis Contingency. In the event of the university closing for weather-related reasons or illness outbreak, e.g. flu, please visit the course website on Blackboard. I will provide instructions on how to turn in assignments and how the class will proceed utilizing Blackboard's Announcements function.

Absences during Exams, Presentations, or Major Assignments

Failure to follow this policy will result in a Zero for the missed assignment/exam.

If you are absent for an exam, presentation, or major assignment, you can request to make up the assignment. The only absences that will be considered excused are death in the family, severe documentable personal illness, religious holidays, and participation in University sponsored activities (e.g., intercollegiate sports). Any student wishing to have an absence excused must fill out an excuse form and attach requested documentation. **An absence WILL NOT be excused if you do not contact your instructor within 24 hours of the missed class.** All doctors' notes

must be signed by the doctor on official letter-head/prescription pad. **Notes that are not dated, signed, or verifiable will not be accepted. The excused absence form is located on Blackboard. All excuses will be approved or denied by the course director.**

Late Work

Late work is not accepted in this class. If you miss a quiz, presentation, exam, or activity in class you will not be allowed to make this work up unless you have an excused absence. Please see the excused absence policy above. If your absence is excused it is your responsibility to follow-up with your instructor to turn in your work in a timely manner.

Blackboard

The Blackboard course site includes: syllabus, announcements, supplemental reading, quizzes, supplemental video lectures, exam reviews, and APA style guidelines. Additionally, grades will be posted online during the course of the semester. Please check Blackboard regularly. **If you cannot sign onto Blackboard, it is your responsibility to contact Blackboard and request help during the first week of the semester.**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO LOG-IN TO THE COURSE VIA BLACKBOARD AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

Technical difficulties with Blackboard Learn are the responsibility of the student. If you encounter technical difficulties during the semester, you need to contact the Blackboard Technical Support Desk:

Email: Helpdesk@unt.edu
Phone: 940.565.2324
In person: ISB Room 119

Additional support is located on the Blackboard Course Login Page: <https://learn.unt.edu>. **Should you request additional time for an online assignment from your instructor due to technical difficulties, you MUST have a Ticket number from Blackboard as a reference.**

Access Policy

We will cooperate fully with the University's Office of Disability Accommodation to provide reasonable accommodation to students who require help. **Students who wish to self-identify should register with the ODA no later than the second day of class.**

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>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.

Firearms Policy

It is unlawful to bring firearms on the campus of the University—**even if you hold a permit.**

Extra Credit

A number of extra credit opportunities may be offered during the semester (e.g., participate in research, attend performances, and participate in departmentally sponsored events and organizations). Each opportunity is worth 10 points. You may complete up to 2 options for a total of 20 points total on the 1,000 point scale. All extra credit opportunities will be provided by the Course Director. Notifications of extra credit opportunities will be provided via Blackboard Announcements. See also Next Gen course surveys and Research Study Participation under assignments for two additional extra credit options.

Handing in Work

All written assignments must be **typed** and **double-spaced** unless otherwise specified.

Assignments, which do not follow these guidelines, will not be graded. Page length guidelines are based on 12 point Times New Roman Font 1 inch margins expectation (So if you want to use Courier New add a few pages to the requirements). You must use APA format for references for papers and presentations.

General Classroom Guidelines

Please turn off all cell phones, etc. Sometimes special circumstances require you to leave your cell phone on vibrate during class. Please see me BEFORE class starts to discuss your situation and I will make every effort to work with you. **If you are texting during class, I reserve the right to mark you as absent.**

Disrespectful behavior aimed toward a classmate will NOT be tolerated and may warrant removal from the class.

Collaborative Learning Groups:

During the course of the semester you will be working in a Collaborative Learning Group (CLG). These groups will be formed early in the semester and remain stable during the semester. You will be doing in-class activities and homework assignments, which you will share and discuss in your group. Participation in your CLG will be evaluated as a portion of your participation grade. You will be completing one graded assignment in your CLG (Game Board Assignment). If a CLG shrinks significantly in number before this assignment, groups will be combined together.

Student Success Program

COMM 1010 is participating in a student success program that helps keep students on track. This program is aimed at introductory level courses and tries to help students stay on track with the course. This section will be using an Intervention Service provided by the Program for Academic Readiness. You may be contacted during the semester by a student interventionist if you fail to complete required assignments. Your personal information will be protected by FERPA guidelines.

Code of Student Conduct

All persons shall adhere to the Code of Student Conduct regarding academic dishonesty, including acts of cheating and plagiarism.

Cheating. The willful giving or receiving of information in an unauthorized manner during an examination, illicitly obtaining examination questions in advance, using someone else's work or written assignments as if they were your own, or any other dishonest means of attempting to fulfill a requirement of this course.

Plagiarism. The use of an author's words or ideas as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source, including but not limited to failure to acknowledge a direct quotation. Exact wording from a source must be identified by quotation marks and citation of the author. Concepts and ideas from sources should also be identified by citation of the author. Rules for citing quotes and ideas can be found in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th edition. **Please note:** *Intentionality is not an issue with regard to plagiarism. Even if a student plagiarizes without intending to do so, it is still considered plagiarism and will result in the appropriate consequences.* Students are urged to review the parameters and provisions of plagiarism to avoid any potential plagiarism issues.

Punishments for cheating or plagiarism range from a grade of ZERO points on the assignment in question to failure of the course. You can find additional information on the University policy regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty at <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm> and <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/development/integrity.html>

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 www.unt.edu/csrr

Policy on Incompletes

An "Incomplete" will be awarded only in cases where 75% of the coursework has been completed AND the grade is warranted by an excuse (e.g., medical, military). Inability to complete coursework in a timely fashion does not constitute an acceptable reason for requesting or receiving an incomplete. To request an incomplete please set up a meeting with the Course Director AND your Instructor prior to the Final Exam period.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus should not be construed as a binding contract between the instructor and the students. The instructor reserves the right to change any aspect of the course without notice.

SETE EVALUATIONS

The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. Student feedback is important in order that the classroom environment can continue to evolve to meet the needs of students at UNT. Thus, the SETE is an important part of your participation in this class.

Students may access the online SETE evaluation through their my.unt.edu page.

Assignments

Exams (20% of your grade)

There will be two online exams during the semester. Each exam will consist of objective (i.e., multiple choice, true-false, matching, etc.) questions. A review sheet will be provided on Blackboard for each exam. Exam are open book/open note, but should **NOT** be completed in groups. **Each exam is worth 100 points. Each exam will have a set open & close date & time. No exceptions or extensions will be provided. Any technical difficulties must be reported directly to the Blackboard Technical Support. Remember to get a ticket number from Technical Support. You must complete an excused absence form to request a make-up exam.**

Individual Presentations (25% of your grade)

You will present two individual presentations during the semester.

- **Introductory Presentation Assignment.** You will prepare a brief speech 2-3 sharing a song or object that describes an important aspect of your life. Detailed description and grading rubrics are available in your Communication in Action text (p. 63-64; 69). Worth 50 points.
- **Persuasive Presentation Assignment.** This presentation will be completed as an individual. You will prepare and present a persuasive speech about a particular social issue. You will advocate for a particular cause by informing your audience about a specific social issue facing a community and provides possible solutions for that community. Detailed description and grading rubrics are available in your Communication in Action text (p. 73-76). **This assignment is your final exam! Worth 200 points.**

You must turn in all of the following on the day of each of your presentations:

- (1) a typed full sentence outline, (2) a typed reference page using APA style, and (3) a PowerPoint slide handout.

Peer Teach (Group Video/Presentation Project- 15% of your grade)

The goals of this course include learning how to communicate in various contexts. Throughout the semester we will explore and utilize many communication concepts in various contexts. The purpose of this assignment is to provide you with an opportunity to utilize the group communication skills you have learned; conduct research on relevant communication concepts; demonstrate a thorough understanding of at least one specific concept; and, use critical thinking skills to create an education presentation for your peers, and perhaps future Communication Studies students. The assignment is worth 150 points with 125 points for the project produced and 25 points peer evaluation.

ePortfolio/Participation (25% of your grade)

Participation is crucial in this course. Communication is a dynamic, interactive process and thus this course is designed to engage students in discussions and activities on a regular basis. It is the student's responsibility to come to class prepared and ready to engage in dialogue and actively participate in class.

Class activities are designed to apply course concepts from the online learning materials during class. Some assignments may be assigned as homework, while others will be completed in-class. Activities and discussions are graded and your participation alone does not guarantee full credit. Your work must show comprehension of the material and active engagement in class. A variety of activities such as group activities, reflective informal writing, class discussion, and performance activities may be included. Your reflections related to these activities will be collected in an ePortfolio. You **CANNOT** make up in-class activities unless you have a University authorized absence or proof of a medical issue that prevents you from attending class. The Instructor will be keeping a detailed tracking form for participation. ePortfolio reflections will be typed and submitted via blackboard. You will turn in your ePortfolio twice during the semester once for a Midterm grade (125 points) and once for a Final grade (125 points). See the Midterm and Final Portfolio Checklist for further directions.

Rhetorical Analysis Paper (15% of your grade)

You will complete a 3-5 page paper (typed; double-spaced) critically evaluating a rhetorical artifact using the I CARE analysis system presented in class (see CIA page 125-126). The paper is worth a total of 150 points.

NextGen Course Surveys (EXTRA CREDIT)

As a participant in a UNT NextGen course, you have the opportunity to participate in various surveys related to the NextGen design. A link to the surveys will be provided on Blackboard in the Course Surveys folder as they become available. If you complete the survey, you will receive extra credit (10 points). Your instructor will notify you when the surveys are available. The due date for the survey cannot be changed. If you do not wish to participate in the survey, you may complete a one page research summary of a journal article, which will then be graded. **It is your responsibility to notify the instructor by the end of Week 2 if you would prefer to write the research paper. In order to receive the extra credit, you MUST print out a survey completion sheet and return it to your instructor by the due date(s). The course survey extra credit is in addition to the two general extra credit opportunities you can earn.**

Semester Long Research Study Participation (EXTRA CREDIT)

This semester you have the opportunity to earn 20 points extra credit by participating in a semester long research study. A link to the study will be provided on Blackboard in the Extra Credit Research Project folder as they become available. If you complete all of the modules in the study, you will receive extra credit (20 points). Your instructor will notify you when the surveys are available. The due date for the survey cannot be changed. If you do not wish to participate in the survey, you may complete a two page research summary of a journal article, which will then be graded. **It is your responsibility to notify the instructor by the end of Week 2 if you would prefer to write the research paper. In order to receive the extra credit, you MUST print out a survey completion sheet and return it to your instructor by the due date(s). The semester long research study participation extra credit is in addition to the two general extra credit opportunities you can earn.**

Please see your *Communication in Action* text for further details on Assignments.
Please bring your *Communication in Action* text to each in-class meeting.
CIA = *Communication in Action* Text

Overall Grading Summary

Assignment	Point Value	Your Score
Exams (20% of grade):		
Exam #1	100	
Exam #2	100	
Individual Presentations (25% of grade):		
Introductory Presentation	50	
Persuasive Presentation Assignment – Advocating for Action on a Social Issue	200	
Peer Teach- Group Project Video/Presentation (15% of your grade)		
Group Video/Presentation	125	
Peer Evaluation	25	
Rhetorical Analysis Paper (15% of grade)	150	
ePortfolio/ Participation (25% of grade)		
Midterm	125	
Final	125	
Total	1000	
Extra Credit Option (2 at 10 points each)		
NextGen Course Survey Extra Credit (10 points)		
Semester Long Research Study Extra Credit (20 points)		
FINAL TOTAL		

Final Grade Calculations:

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
599 & below	F

Please note that 50 points of extra credit are offered during the semester. Thus, no grades will be rounded. If you earn 899 points you will have earned a B.

COMM 1010- Tentative Course Schedule

Exam questions will come from classroom discussions, activities, online lectures, & textbook readings. We will not cover each concept covered in the textbook during recitation. Thus, reading and watching online videos are critical components for success in this course.

- **Online** – Please watch the videos or read the posting indicated prior to attending class for the week. The assumption is that you have watched the material and will be ready to engage in discussion of the material.
- **Day 1** is your **first** day in class that week; **Day 2** is your **second** day in the class that week
- **Readings** should be completed **BEFORE** attending class on the day they are listed.
CIA= Communication In Action workbook

UNIT 1: Foundations of Communication

Week 1 Jan 20- 23rd	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Welcome to the Course Video		
Day 1 & 2	Intro to course <i>How to Succeed in This Course</i>		Portfolio Activity (PA): Communication Goals (CIA pp. 5-6)

Week 2 Jan 26-30	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Communication Models Video		
Day 1	Defining Communication	Chapter 1	
Day 2	Communication Apprehension	Communication Apprehension Reading (on BB)	PA: Communication Apprehension (CIA pp. 7-9)

UNIT 2: Communication Processes & Skills

Week 3 Feb 2-6	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Speech Development Process Overview Video		
Day 1	Speech Development Process Overview (Audience, Thesis Development & Organization) <i>Assign Introductory Speeches (Day 1)</i>	Textbook (pp. 33-37) Speech Development Process Readings (on BB) Review Introductory Presentation Assignment (CIA p. 63-64)	PA: Thesis Develop (CIA pp. 65-66) or Narrowing a Topic (CIA pp. 67-68)
Day 2	Cultural History	Chapter 2	

Week 4 Feb 9-13	Topics	Reading	Assignment
Day 1 & 2	Introductory Presentations		Introductory Presentations (CIA p. 69 grading form- bring to class!)

UNIT 3: Perception, Identity, and Performance of Self

Week 5 Feb 16-20	Topics	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Identity & Perception Video		
Day 1 & 2	Identity & Perception <i>Assign Peer Teach Group Assignment</i>	Chapter 6 Review Peer Teach Group Assignment on BB	PA: Visual Identity Collage (CIA p. 25)

Week 6 Feb 23-27 (Day 1)	Topics	Reading	Assignment
Online			Exam 1: Covers Units 1, 2, and 3: (Ch. 1-2; Ch. 6; CA, Speech Process, Performance Studies Readings (Exam will open Thurs. Feb. 26 th at 6am and close on Monday March 2 nd at 11:59pm)
Day 1	Performance	Performance Studies Reading (on BB)	PA: Everyday Life Performance (CIA pp. 33-34) or Personal Narrative (pp. CIA 35-36)

UNIT 4: Rhetoric & Media

Week 6 Feb 23-27 (Day 2)	Topics	Reading	Assignment
Day 2	I CARE Approach to Rhetorical Analysis <i>Assign Rhetorical Analysis Paper & Persuasive Presentation Assignment</i>	I CARE Reading on BB Review Persuasive Presentation Assignment (CIA pp. 73-74) and Rhetorical Analysis Paper (CIA pp. 125-126)	

Week 7 March 2-6	Topics	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Public Advocacy Video		Midterm ePortfolio Due Sunday March 8th via BB Turnitin.com (see Midterm ePortfolio Assignment)
Day 1	Public Advocacy & Listening	Chapter 3 & 4	PA: Public Advocacy Inventory (CIA p. 11)
Day 2	Rhetoric & Media	Chapter 11 & 12	PA: Rhetoric & Media (CIA p. 51-52 or 53-54) PA: Media Agenda Setting (CIA p. 57-58)

Week 8 March 9-13	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Rhetoric & Media video		Rhetorical Analysis Paper March 13th on BB Turnitin.com
Day 1	Rhetoric & Media (Cont).		Topic Planning Form (Due Day 1 - CIA p. 81-82)
Day 2	Researching & Documenting your Research (APA Style)	Research & Support Material Handout (on BB)	

Week 9 March 16-20	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Have a Safe Spring Break!			

Week 10 March 23-27	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Day 1 & 2	Persuasive Speaking- Monroe's Motivated Sequence and Argumentation Persuasive Speaking Workshop	Chapter 3 (pp. 54-58) & Reading on BB	Persuasive Research Assignment (Due Day 1- CIA pp. 83-86)

Week 11 March 30- April 3	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Day 1 & 2	Advocating for Action- Persuasive Presentations		Persuasive Presentations (CIA pp. 75-76 grading form; pp. 103-114 Peer Evaluation Forms; pp. 117-118 Self Evaluation Form)

Week 12 April 6-10	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Day 1 & 2	Persuasive Presentations (cont.)		Persuasive Presentations (CIA pp. 75-76 grading form; pp. 103-114 Peer Evaluation Forms; pp. 117-118 Self Evaluation Form)

Week 13 April 13-17	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Group & Leadership Video		
Day 1	Persuasive Presentations		Persuasive Presentations (CIA pp. 75-76 grading form; pp. 103-114 Peer Evaluation Forms; pp. 117-118 Self Evaluation Form)
Day 2	Group <i>Peer Teach Group Work Time</i>	Chapter 5	

UNIT 5: Language, Culture, and Power

Week 14 April 20-24	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Language & Culture and Nonverbal Videos		
Day 1	Language & Culture	Chapter 7	PA: Language & Culture (CIA pp. 39-40; 41-42; or 43-44)
Day 2	Embodied Knowledge & Nonverbal <i>Peer Teach Group Work Time</i>	Chapter 8	

Week 15 April 27-May 1st	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Online	Watch Language & Power Video		
Day 1 & 2	Language & Power <i>Peer Teach Group Work Time</i>	Chapter 9	

Week 16 May 4-8	Topic	Reading	Assignment
Day 1 & 2	Peer Teach Presentations/ Videos		Peer Teach Videos/Presentations Due Final ePortfolio Due (see Final ePortfolio Assignment checklist)

Week 17 - Finals Week
Exam will open at Thurs. May 7th at 6am and close Monday May 11th at 11:59pm.
Exam 2 Covers Unit 3 and 4 (Ch. 3-5, 7-9; 11-12; Persuasive Speaking and Research Readings)
COMPLETED ONLINE! NOT COMPREHENSIVE! See BB for Review