



Nipawin Bible College
Course: CM211 - Communications
Instructor: Jeremy Loseth
Fall 2018
3 Credit Hours
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Whether we think of it or not, we spend our entire lives communicating. As a result, we often think that any additional training is unreasonable and unwarranted. However, to what degree and effectiveness we communicate is another issue altogether. When we fail to communicate in a clear and intentional manner, misunderstanding and pain can abound.

This course will seek to arm the student with a foundational basis of communication theory, the biblical case for it, and the obstacles that one faces while trying to effectively communicate. Whether the individual is speaking to one person or a large group, this course will aim to train the student to communicate more clearly and precisely.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Kerry Patterson, et al. *Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High*, 2nd Ed. (New York, NY: McGraw Hill, 2012), **230 pages**.

Ryan N.S. Topping. *The Elements of Rhetoric*. (Kettering, OH: Angelico Press, 2016), **93 pages**.

THE BIG QUESTION

How do I communicate in a clear, precise, and effective manner?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1) The student will understand and articulate the theological foundation and divine nature of communication
- 2) The student will understand and be able to draw a simple diagram explaining the basics of communication principles and theory
- 3) The student will become aware and be exposed to a variety of communication methods and techniques, thereby becoming more aware of when and how they are communicating
- 4) The student will feel more confident in their ability to communicate clearly within themselves and with others, whether one-one-one or in a larger group

- 5) The student will hone their skills in one-on-one, small group, and large group settings

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Textbook Reading – 25%

- Each student will read each book in their entirety by the due date. No interaction is required, but they will be required to write a **1 page** book critique **for each text**. Look to address the strengths and weaknesses of each book, along with the recommendation of whether the book was relevant to the class.

Due - Oct. 5th

“Tell Me Your Story” – 35%

- Stories are foundational to understanding not only the experience of others, but also our own experience. Therefore, effective story telling is a vital instrument to engaging audiences and communicating the gospel effectively. As a demonstration of integrating the principles of interpersonal communication with Christ’s ongoing work in your life, you will:
 - Write a rendition of your “story” (personal testimony). This will be about **10 pages** in length. Do not feel pressure to include your entire life story in this, as you can instead go with a particularly significant part of your testimony.
 - You will then tell your story to the class in no less than 10 minutes. During the course of your presentation, a prop must be used to increase the effect of the story.
 - You will be required to hand in the written story after your presentation date
- You will primarily be graded on your presentation (25%). Your clarity, ability to incorporate the prop, and other principles of the class will be the primary points of focus in regard to marking. The written aspect (10%) will be marked primarily on spelling, grammar, and formatting.

Due - Oct. 4th

Communication in the Church Analysis – 30%

- As the class covers the various models of communication, as well as the various aspects of effective communication, it will become clear that the actual words themselves constitute only a small part of over message the

- audience gets. On September 30th, you will attend a church service and write a **5 page** paper that analyzes and explains the various aspects of communication that you observed throughout the service.
- Pay attention to not only verbal communication, but also the non-verbal communication. For example, in what manner of dress is the pastor and worship team? Which translation is being used? What kind of songs were sung? Did the church use hymnals or a powerpoint? How loud is the music? How was the lighting? What is the focal point of the sanctuary? Most importantly, what do all of these things communicate to the congregant?

Due - Oct. 5th

Class Participation – 10%

- Each individual will be expected to engage in a meaningful manner throughout the class. This does not mean you are off the hook once you finish your presentation! You will be expected to critically engage yourself with the course material and assigned textbooks, as well as participate in class discussions and exercises. The effectiveness of this class literally hinges on your ability to engage with others throughout the duration of the course.

Due - Ongoing Throughout Course

All written assignments are to be typed in accordance with the NBC Study Guide for papers. Assignments will be graded on the basis of content, clarity, grammar, and spelling. Assignments will be due **no later than 5:00 pm** on the day that they are assigned.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

LATE ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- Refer to the NBC Handbook 2018/2019

Reading: 323 pages

Writing: 17 pages

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Guinness, Os. *Fools Talk: The Art of Christian Persuasion*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Gula, Robert J. *Nonsense: Red Herrings, Straw Men and Sacred Cows: How We Abuse Logic in Our Everyday Language*. Mount Jackson, VA: Axios Press, 2007.
- Koukle, Gregory. *Tactics*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Kreeft, Peter. *Socratic Logic, 3rd Ed*. South Bend, IN: St. Augustine's Press, 2010.
- Strunk Jr., William and E.B. White. *The Elements of Style, 4th Ed*. New Jersey, NY: Pearson Education Inc., 2000.
- Young, Kathryn Sue and Howard Paul Travis. *Oral Communication*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc., 2012.