INT W 188C: Transfer Explorations Seminar:  
Ways of Thinking and Practicing in Communication  
Online Course, Summer 2018

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Transferring to UCSB is a great achievement! But it is also a huge adjustment, and many transfer students don't realize the magnitude of this adjustment until they find themselves overwhelmed and struggling during the first quarter. We in the Communication Department want you to be ready to face the important new challenges that will arise as you begin studying communication with us! INT W188C is designed to help you make a successful transition.

Course Description: An introduction to the academic discipline of communication with emphasis on scientific theoretical and methodological issues relevant to the systematic inquiry and pursuit of knowledge about human communication.

What this means is that in this course, we give you some key "inside information" about studying comm at UCSB, including how our scientific approach and high expectations are likely to be different from what you have experienced elsewhere. We introduce you to our department and faculty, our major areas of research and teaching, and opportunities for you to get involved. We also give you some valuable advice and strategies for academic and career success, as well as hands-on practice at critical skills you will need to make it successfully into the major (if you are pre-comm) or to excel in the upper division courses (if you are full comm).

Course Goals: This course is designed to be a gateway to understanding what constitutes the academic study of human communication from a social scientific perspective. You will gain professional literacy by learning the types of professional activities of scholars in the academic discipline, especially those in the faculty at UCSB. Additionally, you will set curriculum-specific goals associated with your program of study.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon Completion of this course you should be able to:

- Describe the differences between a research university and other institutions of higher education
- Practice professional literacy and academic skills for success in studying communication at UCSB
- Appreciate the history of the field of communication, and locate UCSB's place and role in that history
- Identify topic areas of scholarly research and teaching in UCSB's Department of Communication
- Establish library literacy in the communication field by finding published empirical research articles
- Read published empirical research articles and practice summarizing key information from studies
- Create an annotated bibliography of research articles
- Identify a wide variety of personal and career goals that can be achieved by studying communication
- Prepare program-specific goals for your progress through the major
**Course Format: Online Course**

This course is offered entirely online with no face-to-face meetings. Note that an online course does not mean less work; it means the same amount of work as a face-to-face course that is worth the same number of units, but is produced and submitted through a variety of media. **Much of the work required can be done when it is most convenient for you, but each week’s work must be completely by the end of that week for full credit.** The emphasis on computer instruction serves to extend the learning environment, accommodate the variety of learning strategies among students, promote self-directed learning, provide a repository for all kinds of communication and assignments, and make possible group interaction and collaboration without requiring all persons to be in one location at one time.

Each week for 6 weeks, you will be asked to:

1. View one or more video lectures from a faculty member about the week’s material.
2. Read a textbook chapter, navigate a website, watch a video, or engage with some other online material that is assigned.
3. Do a written assignment or open-book quiz to gauge your learning of the material.
4. Post to a discussion forum and reply to other posts to give your thoughts on the lecture or materials.

**Course Grading: Pass or No Pass (P/NP)**

This course is taken on a P/NP basis (there is no option for a letter grade). To pass the class, you must complete the assignments in a timely manner and at a level that indicates you put thought and effort into your work. To determine this, each assignment is worth a certain number of points, and you will be given points for each assignment on the basis of whether your work on each assignment is graded as “excellent,” “satisfactory,” or “unsatisfactory.” See Gauchospace for the specific point values of each assignment.

**The total number of points possible for this course is 100. A passing grade means earning at least 70% of the total points by the end of the course.**

So, if you complete all of the assignments in a timely manner, you will easily pass the class. If you stumble or miss a few of them, you may still pass the class if you have enough points elsewhere to make up the difference. Of course, the point of this class is not the passing grade but the successful transition to UCSB, so the more effort you put into this class, the more likely you are also to be successful at UCSB!

**Assignments**

**Quizzes:** In certain weeks, there may be a quiz posted on Gauchospace. You can use your notes or readings while taking the quiz, but do not take a quiz with anyone else or allow anyone else to take the quiz for you. The point of a quiz is to test your learning of the class material.

**Discussion Forums:** Most weeks you will be asked to post discussion forum comments on Gauchospace. You will also be asked to respond to other students’ posts. Your discussion posts will be graded according to the quality of the response. These responses will be ranked on a three-point scale: 3 is excellent, 2 is satisfactory, and 1 is unsatisfactory. An “excellent” discussion-forum post will answer questions with thought or insight, raise useful provocations or compelling new questions, and/or bring in relevant ideas from outside our course.
Think of discussion board posts as an opportunity to organize your thoughts as you proceed through the course, to share ideas and questions with your peers, and to reflect on connections you are making between topics of the course. Posts should not be quick replies that you dash off at the last minute. They should be thoughtful answers that give a thorough examination of the question and demonstrate your knowledge of the material.

Online conduct in discussion boards should also be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. "Personal attacks" are defined as comments that reflect upon the person instead of their opinion and should be avoided. Profanity, strong vulgar language, crude, lewd or explicit sexual references and hate speech -- epithets directed against one's race, religion, ethnic origin, gender or sexual preference -- are not allowed even if disguised with asterisks or other text and characters. If a post is deemed to be offensive or contrary to the educational goals of our course, it will be removed and you will receive a grade of zero.

Written Assignments: Most weeks you will be required to submit a written assignment. You must upload your assignment to Gauchospace as a file in .docx format. Microsoft Word is the program that saves files automatically to .docx, but if you use another program you can convert your file to .docx before you upload it. See the instructions posted with the assignment to figure out how to do this.

Each assignment varies as to what you are asked to do, but they are all fairly short (about one page or two). Your assignments will be graded based on the quality and substance of what you write. Your writing should have an academic (rather than conversational) tone, with proper attention to grammar and paragraph structure (except where noted).

Written assignments include the following (see the detailed instructions for each on Gauchospace):

**Gauchospace Scavenger Hunt:** You will navigate an example course GS site to find answers to specific questions, ranging from simple course due dates to course policies to campus resources.

**Finding Published Studies:** You will choose a communication topic and use the UCSB Library's article databases to find three published empirical research articles about that topic. The articles must be from scholarly academic journals, with at least one whose authors include a professor from our department. You will create a properly ordered and formatted “References” list of the full citations for these articles using APA style. You will also provide notation for each citation of how you found the article.

**Annotated Bibliography:** An annotated bibliography is a list of source citations with brief, helpful descriptive information (“annotations”) included for each source. You will create a short version of an annotated bibliography for your communication topic. Using the list of references from your Finding Published Studies assignment as a starting point, you will add for each source citation an annotation describing the source’s relevance to your topic. More specifically, your annotation will be your own brief summary in just a few sentences that describes what the study was investigating, what kind of study it was (experiment, survey, etc.), some relevant key finding(s), and how the findings could contribute to your topic. In other words, your annotation should, in the simplest, clearest, shortest way, answer four questions: What was it about? What did they do? What did they find? How does that matter for your topic?

**My Goals and Study Plan:** Drawing from everything you have learned in this course, in this assignment you will explain what you hope to accomplish by studying communication at UCSB and how the information in this course has affected your interests or goals. You will also prepare a tentative plan of study for the next six quarters.
**Course Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES AND ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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| 1    | Intro to the Course<br>The Nature of a Research University | • Watch the lecture "Welcome to INT W 188C"
• Watch the lecture "UCSB as a Research University"
• Read "The Lincoln Project"
• Post a substantive comment on the Research Universities discussion forum
• After you have posted your comment, read the other students' comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other students' submission
• Find the information on the Comm Department website about the SONA system, set up a SONA account, and participate in a study on SONA |
| 2    | Professional Literacy Skills | • Watch the lecture "Stepping Up Your Game"
• Read "10 Habits of Highly Successful Students"
• Post a substantive comment on the Stepping Up Your Game discussion forum
• After you have posted your comment, read the other students' comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other student's submission
• Complete the assignment GauchoSpace Scavenger Hunt |
| 3    | History of the Comm Discipline | • Watch the lecture "History of Comm"
• Read several readings about the history of the Comm discipline and of the Comm Department at UCSB
• Complete the Quiz: History of Comm
• Post a substantive comment on the Why History? discussion forum
• After you have posted your comment, read the other students' comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other student's submission. |
| 4    | Areas of Research in the Comm Department | • Watch the lecture "Areas of Research at UCSB"
• Read the presentation "Using the Library Databases to Find Studies"
• Link to the UCSB Library to familiarize yourself with the website and begin searching
• Post a substantive comment on the Effective Searching discussion forum
• After you have posted your comment, read the other students' comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other student's submission
• Complete the assignment Finding Published Studies |
| 5    | Get to Know the Comm Department at UCSB | • Watch the video "Tour of the Comm Department"
• Watch the lecture "Communication Website Overview"
• Watch all of the videos for the "Individual Faculty Introductions"
• Post a substantive comment on the Comm Dept Opportunities discussion forum
• After posting your own comment, read the other students’ comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other student's submission
• Complete the assignment Annotated Bibliography |
| 6    | Your Own Plan of Study | • Watch the lecture "Planning Your Course of Study"
• Read "Some Thoughts About Studying Communication" by Rice (2015)
• Watch the video "Comm Alumni Offering Career Advice"
• Find the Career Day programs from past years on the Comm Dept website and read through the bios of many of our alumni
• Post a substantive comment on the Alumni Careers discussion forum
• After you have posted your comment, read the other students' comments and post a thoughtful reply to at least one other students' submission
• Complete the assignment My Goals and Study Plan |
INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty: All work must be the original work of the student and not turned in to any other course prior to this one. Here is the statement on Academic Honesty from the UCSB Campus regulations document online (http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/Regulations/student_conduct.aspx):

It is expected that students attending the University of California understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity, and are willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Any work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student’s original work. Any act of academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, will subject a person to University disciplinary action. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student’s examination, referring to unauthorized notes during an exam, providing answers, having another person take an exam for you, etc. Representing the words, ideas, or concepts of another person without appropriate attribution is plagiarism. Whenever another person’s written work is utilized, whether it be a single phrase or longer, quotation marks must be used and sources cited. Paraphrasing another’s work, i.e., borrowing the ideas or concepts and putting them into one’s “own” words, must also be acknowledged. Although a person’s state of mind and intention will be considered in determining the University response to an act of academic dishonesty, this in no way lessens the responsibility of the student.

Policy on selling my course materials: All course materials (class lectures and discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law, the California Civil Code. The UC Policy 102.23 expressly prohibits anyone from recording lectures or discussions and from distributing or selling lectures notes and all other course materials without the prior written permission of the instructor (see http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710530/PACAO5-100). Students are permitted to take and keep notes solely for their own private educational use. Exceptions to accommodate students with disabilities may be granted with appropriate documentation. To be clear, in this class students are forbidden from making/completing study guides and selling them to any person or organization.

Policy on late assignments or missed exams: Late assignments will be accepted, but will be penalized heavily with a substantial deduction of points (the amount of points deducted will be decided at the discretion of the instructor). Make-up quizzes or discussion forum posts are an option only when documented circumstances beyond the student’s control make taking the assignment at the scheduled time impossible. Except for illness, participation in officially recognized University activities, or other documented emergencies, incompletes for the course will not be given.

Students with Disabilities: Appropriate arrangements will be made for students who have documented and verified disabilities, in accordance with UCSB’s Disabled Student Program (DSP - located at 2120 Student Resource Bldg.). In order to ensure these accommodations, it is your responsibility to ensure that your official status and eligibility information appear on the DSP website.