Administrative Unit: Humanities

Course Prefix and Number: COMM 230

Course Title: Introduction to Communication Theory and Research

Number of: Credit Hours: 3   Lecture Hours: 3   Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: An introduction to communication theory, methodology, analysis, and criticism. Offered even fall and odd fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): Sophomore standing or consent of Speech Communication Faculty; C average in Speech Communication courses.


Griffin, Em. Communication Theory. Wadsworth.


Course Objectives:

• To enhance the student awareness of communication theory and research.
• To introduce the student to the foundations proposing communication research questions and methods to answer these questions.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

• Identify different perspectives on communication theory.
• Identify the theories of communication processes.
• Identify the theories of communication contexts.
• Demonstrate intermediate level organizational and analytical skills when discussing communication research.
• Demonstrate critical writing skills which support an understanding of basic critical and theoretical concerns in the discipline.
• Demonstrate initial mastery of proper research techniques.

Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):

• All students in this class MUST complete the following assessment devices: a departmental comprehensive subject test, a major research project (10-15 pages) and a formal presentation of that research (10-15 mins.). These devices will be used by the department to measure the effectiveness of the program.
• The nature of inquiry and theory.
• Topics in communication theory.
• Contextual issues in communication.
• Writing in a scholarly manner.
Recommended maximum class size for this course: 15

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Amy L. Darnell

Date: November 17, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course's subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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