

COMM 495 Communicating Community
Fall 2008 1:10 to 2:00 PM MWF Lib Arts 302

Instructor: Dr. Joel Iverson
Office: L.A. 359

Phone: 406.243.4426
E-mail: joel.iverson@umontana.edu

Office Hours: M, 10-11 am; W, 8-9 am; & By appointment on these and other weekdays.
I am on email many days, but not constantly, and not evenings typically.

Required Text: Textbooks are so 20th Century. We will electronically gather readings that are available from the library through ereserve.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce the concept of community related to communication.
2. To examine a range of perspectives, theories and issues to explore the ways in which varied perspectives can shape, expand, or limit our understanding of communicating and community.
3. To apply theoretical knowledge to an understanding of real world processes through class discussion, research, and application essays.
4. To develop and enhance your analytical communication skills.
5. To connect theory and research to your own lived experiences in communities. Therefore your experiences, insights, questions and concerns will be a key part of the course.

Policies

1. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.
2. All students must be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321.
3. All celebrations of knowledge will be taken on the assigned date
4. Papers will be typed and proofread and turned in on the date assigned.
5. Electronics: When you come into class, please, be sure your cell phone, fax, or any other electronic device is turned off as it may interfere with the navigation of this classroom. If your phone, etc. rings do not answer, just turn it off. If you are anticipating an emergency call, let me know prior to class and we will work that out.
6. Respectful Environment: You will be expected to act respectfully towards others in class and assist in maintaining a civil and professional atmosphere in class. This includes respecting differing opinions, not using vulgar language, appropriate dress, and creating a supportive environment.

Final 1:10-3:10 Thursday December 11 Celebration #2 Not cumulative, just the second one.

Exams(2 @ 1000 points)	2000	Exam1 _____/1000
		Exam2 _____/1000
Paper 1	500	Paper 1 _____/ 500
Project	1000	Project _____/1000
Presentation	300	Present _____/ 300
Participation	<u>200</u>	Part. _____/ 200
Total	4000Points	Total _____/4000

Grading Policy: A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 59% or below

Keep in mind the following criteria when completing, and later receiving evaluation on your work:

A=Superior Work. Greatly exceeds requirements by demonstrating high levels of creativity, skill, ability, initiative, and effort. Technically superior. The "A" evaluation reflects achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.

B=Solid Work. Exceeds requirements by showing above average levels of creativity, skill, ability, initiative, and effort. May have some technical difficulties which impair readability. The "B" evaluation reflects achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.

C=Average work. Meets basic requirements, but does not demonstrate any extra commitment to the assignment. The "C" evaluation reflects achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect.

D=Below average work. Meets some, but not all requirements, is likely deficient. The "D" evaluation reflects achievement that is worthy of credit even though it does not fully meet the basic course requirement in every respect.

F=Poor work. Deficient in most or all requirements. The "F" evaluation reflects performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements.

Grades will be returned to students at the end of a class period when evaluation has been completed. I will let you know at the beginning of a class period if grades will be returned. Your patience in waiting for evaluations is most appreciated.

Questions/Appeals: If you have questions feel free to talk with me. If you have an appeal or complaint, we will discuss the matter in a respectful manner, but not during class. If you have questions about your grades or you feel something was graded incorrectly, I will not meet with you immediately after the material is handed back unless it is regarding a mathematical (adding) error. Otherwise, submit your appeal *in writing* within one week after the day the material was returned to the class. Offer a cogent and well-supported argument. We will not discuss the matter in class. This policy is designed to ensure fairness to all and provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate mastery over the topics covered. I am happy to correct errors, but remember that “feeling you put more into this paper” or “wanting a better grade” does not change the output we received and thus will not result in a changed grade.

Celebration of Knowledge: The exams will consist of a wide variety of matching, multiple guess, short answer and essay. Exams must be taken on the assigned date unless PRIOR arrangements have been made for a university sponsored event or you require the use of testing services.

Paper #1: This is a paper about your community or a community of which you are a part. The reaction will include some minor data gathering, reflection, and utilization of course materials.

Major Project: You will be asked to complete a larger project that encapsulates community concepts and processes through either a research paper or large project. Details about this assignment will be given later in the semester.

Presentation: You will present one article or your project to the rest of the class in a group. The presentation will take no more than 25 minutes (as a group) and provide the class with a highlighting, analysis and executive summary of the article.

Tentative Schedule

<u>DATE</u>			<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Aug	25	Introduction to Course/Defining Communication & Organization	
	27	Organizations and Community	Reading 1 (definition)
	29	Community Continued	Reading 2 (def. #2)
Sept	3	Community Continued	
	5	Organizations Communicatively Constituted	Reading 3 (McPhee/Zaug)
	8,10,12	Communication and Community Structuration Theory	Reading 4 (Felkins)
	15,17,19	Belonging and Basho,	Reading 5,6
	22,24,26	Narrative, Story and Identity	Reading 7
	29	Boundaries, inclusion, exclusion	Reading 8
Oct	1,3,6	More boundaries, etc.	
	8	Celebration #1	
	10, 13,15	Knowledge and Communities of Practice	Reading A,B
	17,20,22	Control and Identification	Reading C,D
	27,29,31	Accountability, business	Reading E,F
Nov	3,5,7	Community Development	Reading G
	10,12,14	Disaster response	Reading H,I
	17,19	Community Development	Reading J
	21	NCA	
	24	Catch up day/NCA?	
	26,28	Thanksgiving	
Dec	1,3,5	Presentations	

Final Thursday Check your local listings for a time and place.