

COMM 421 Communication in Nonprofit Organizations
Summer Session 2 11:30-1:20 M,T,W,Th Liberal Arts 302

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Office Hours: M, 1:30-2:30; W, 8-9:30 am; & By appointment on these and other weekdays.
I am on email many days, but not constantly, and not evenings typically.

Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of issues and topics in nonprofit organizational communication, at micro and macro levels. Our method of study will be a combination of reading, discussion, lecture, research, and analysis with a goal of coming to a broad understanding of the role of communication in the nonprofit sector. We will develop a broad understanding of the current opportunities and challenges in the nonprofit sector, central communication issues for nonprofit organizations as well as engage in the local nonprofit community. During the semester, you will engage in an interview with a nonprofit organizational leader, write a literature review on an important topic in nonprofit organizational communication, discuss and of course celebrate the knowledge we have gained in written form. You will also be asked to complete two examinations and two shorter papers.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce you to a range of topics involved in the study and practice of organizational communication in nonprofit organizations.
2. To facilitate your critical understanding of issues and politics involved in nonprofit organizational communication.
3. To develop your ability to analyze and significantly address nonprofit organizational problems.
4. To increase your ability to write analytical papers.
5. To foster an open mind so that we may fully comprehend the complex social constructs that influence nonprofit organizations and communication
6. To create a safe space for discussion and learning.

Required Texts

That is old terminology for a pre-digital age. We will instead have required readings, but those will be distributed in electronic form. Hooray for Web CT!!

Course Requirements

Celebrations of Knowledge: There will be two events similar to what you know as examinations over the, articles, class lectures, case studies, and discussions. The format of the exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. A review sheet will be distributed in class. The exams will cover material from the text, class discussion and lecture, and the articles.

Papers: There will be two papers for this class. The first paper will be the result of your research about a nonprofit and an interview with a member of that nonprofit organization. Students will focus on questions generated from early readings in the course. The second paper will be a research or review of literature paper. More details to come on each as is needed.

Grading

My Grading Philosophy: An assignment that meets, but does not exceed the basic requirements will receive a grade somewhere in the "C" range. So, for example, if a written assignment requires you to

answer a series of four (4) questions and you only answer three (3) questions, the MOST you can expect to receive on that assignment is 75%--regardless of how well you answered the other three questions. Assignments are developed to achieve a variety of academic and assessment goals and I have attempted to be very specific in the assignments about exactly what is required. So, if you have a question about the assignment—its content, format, etc., just ask. I welcome the opportunity to work with you on any of your projects. I will offer suggestions and review drafts. Please, if there is any doubt, do not hesitate to ask.

To earn an “A” on an assignment, you will need to be extremely proficient at explaining, applying, evaluating, and synthesizing the concepts, models, and theories covered in this class. An “A” goes to truly excellent work. I hope you will approach this grading philosophy as a challenge.

Basis of the Course Grade

Celebration One	_____	10,000 points
Paper One	_____	8,000 points
Paper Two	_____	10,000 points
Celebration Two	_____	10,000 points
Participation/Daily	_____	2,000 points
Total	_____	30k points

Grading Scale: Grades in this class will not be curved, and will be assigned on the following scale:

- A 30,000 to 27,000
- B 26,999 to 24,000
- C 23,999 to 21,000
- D 20,999 to 18,000
- F 17,999 or less

Remember that grades are earned, not given. Grades do not define who you are, but do reflect on the outcome or product you turn in. I cannot evaluate effort, but effort does tend to result in a better outcome. I work to fairly evaluate the work on the criteria we set forth. If you feel I have made an error in evaluation, write down that objection to my evaluation of the content and then schedule an appointment. I am happy to correct mistakes I have made. I do not change grades because someone wants or thinks they should get a different grade. I evaluate the outcome.

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.

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.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: If you require accommodation for a disability, please contact me during the first week or so of class so that I may make arrangements for you.

Tentative Schedule for Summer 2009 COMM 421

June 29	Introduction, Communicating Communication	Notes
30 July 1	What are Nonprofit organizations/sectors? More Sector stuff	Nonprofit Nation (Reading 1) Readings 2, 3
2	Civil Society and Communication	Readings 4, 5
6	Mission	Readings 6, 7
7	Strategy	Readings 8, 9
8,9	Governance and Leadership	Reading 10,11
13	Celebration of Knowledge 1	
14,15	Identity and Volunteers Paper #1 Due	Readings 12,13
16	Volunteers and empowerment	Reading 14
20,21	Accountability and Stakeholders	Readings 15,16
22,23	Global Issues Paper 2 rough draft due	Readings 17,18
27	Faith, Spirituality and Values	Reading 19, 20
28,29,30	Celebration of Knowledge 2/Presentations	

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Students are responsible for reviewing and complying with all TAMU policies including the Aggie code of conduct.

"The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in Room B-116 of Cain Hall, call 845-1637, or e-mail ssd@tamu.edu"

A NOTE OF CAUTION: Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty will not be committed in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the University's penalty for these offenses.

Please see <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal or tolerate those who do."

If you have any questions about these rules, course assignments, or course readings, please ask! I am happy to talk with you about any difficulties you may be having in the course, but I can't be of assistance unless you ask.

