Edison State Community College Arts, Humanities and Communication

Communication 121: Introduction to Communication

(3 Credits)

Fall **2026**

Sect 805: Online

Jeff Heinle, PhD

Communication B.A., University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 1987

Cinema Studies M.A., City University of New York- Staten Island, 1991

Curriculum and Instruction PhD, University of Wisconsin- Madison, 1998

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Office Hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory course is a combination of public speaking and communication theories—ranging from interpersonal to mass/social media. The course will focus on developing public speaking skills and on providing students with the knowledge necessary to better identify the processes involved communicative exchanges in their own lives. This includes how to analyze the various processes and choices people make when encoding/decoding messages—how we, not only interpret meanings, but respond in appropriate and effective ways.

Students will practice developing and organizing outlines, researching and assess credible sources, and performing their own crafted speeches. Public speaking presentations will include an introduction, interview, informative and persuasive speeches. Students will also practice assess public speeches and offer peer reviews of colleague's presentations. By assessing other speeches and speaker's, it will help us to better identify and become more familiar with the various elements of speaking making. This, in turn, can help us improve upon our own public presentations.

In addition, students will survey several communication theories, such as, rhetoric, intrapersonal and interpersonal communication, nonverbal communication, intercultural communication, small group communication, and mass/social media. How communication practices contribute to the construction of meaning, relationships, culture, and society will also be explored.

Required Textbooks:

Engleberg, Daily & Ward, *Field Guide to Speaking*, W.W. Norton, 2025.

Sampson, Cynthia, *Fundamentals of Communication*, Louisiana Library Network, 2022.

Testing Your Faith Act Policy

Edison State Community College is committed to providing an environment respectful of students' beliefs. Students are permitted to be absent for up to 3 days each semester based on their faith, religion, or spiritual belief system with no academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form, https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/registration-records, located in "Forms" and provide a copy to their individual faculty within 14 days from the start of the course. The entire policy can be found in the student handbook at https://www.edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources.

Assignments/Assessments

Evaluation Activity- Speeches	Points Available
4 Speeches- ▪ Introduction Speech ▪ Elder Interview Speech ▪ Informative Speech ▪ Persuasive Speech	400
Speech Outlines (4 @ 25 each)	100
Research and Source Credibility Check (2 @ 15)	30

Individual Ted Talk Speech Analysis (3 @ 20 each)	60
Peer Review Speech Assessments (4 @ 20)	80
7 Quizzes Field Guide to Speaking	70
Evaluation Activity – Communication Theory	
10 Comm Theory Posts/Group Discussions (20pts each)	200
6 Quizzes (Required Chapter Readings)	60
Total	**1000**

Grading Scale

A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	599 and Below

Late Work

All deadlines must be observed (exceptions may be made on an individual basis but should be arranged prior to the deadline).

- All late work, except excused late work arranged prior to the deadline with the instructor, must be submitted within one-week of the due date; however, it can only receive up to 50% of the assignment points.
- Speech outlines, source credibility assignments and Speeches cannot be submitted late and cannot earn any points if submitted late (except with prior approval)

Introduction to Communication Schedule
Fall 2026 Online

Dates	Topics	Readings*	Assignments
W 1 8/24	Syllabus, Course Overview, Intro Communication Process	Fundamentals of Comm Foundations Ch 1	• Discussion: Hello, I am • Chapter Quiz • Linear/Transactional assignment
W 2 8/31	Speechmaking Process	Field Guide to Speechmaking (FGTS) CH/PT 1	• Chapter Quiz • Ted Talk #1 • Ted Talk #2 (possibly)
W 3 9/7	Fundamentals-Occasion, Speaker, Audience, Purpose	FGTS PT2	• Chapter Quiz • **Introduction Speech with Outline** • Peer Reviews
W 4 9/14	Speech Content	FGTS PT 3	• Chapter Quiz • God & Devil Terms • Ted Talk #3
W 5 9/21	Speech Delivery	FGTS PT 4	• Chapter Quiz • **Elder Interview Speech** • Peer Reviews
W 6 9/28	Audience	FGTS PT 5 Verbal Citations Video	• Chapter Quiz • Source Credibility
W 7 10/5	Informative Speeches	FGTS PT 6	• Chapter Quiz • **Information Speech** • Peer Review

W 8 10/12	Persuasion & Rhetoric	FGTS PT 7	• Chapter Quiz Rhetoric – • Prioritizing Arguments • Symbolic Power
W 9 10/19	Historical / Cultural Frameworks that proceed Speeches (Social Context)	See Environmental Folder for readings	• Environmental -Frameworks • Environmental- Greenwashing
W 10 10/26	Persuasive Speech		• Source Credibility Assignment • **Persuasion Speech** • **Peer Review**
W 11 11/2	Fundamentals of Comm Perceiving	Ch 1 & 2	• Presentation of Self • Chapter Quiz
W 12 11/9	Fundamentals of Comm Climates	Ch 7	• Chapter Quiz
W 13 11/16	Fundamentals of Comm Interpersonal	Ch 8	• Chapter Quiz • Self-Disclosure
W 14 11/23	Fundamentals of Comm Cultural Identity	Ch 9	• Chapter Quiz
W 15 11/30	Fundamentals of Comm Intercultural	Ch 10	• Chapter Quiz • Intercultural Conversations
W 16 12/7	Fundamentals of Comm Mass Comm	CH 11	• Chapter Quiz • Social Media

This course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary to accomplish the course objectives.