

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COM 121S-803-US: Introduction to Communication

Online Summer Eight-Week Term | 2026

Instructor Information

Professor William Loudermilk

M.A. in English, Wright State University, 1997
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Course Information

Course: COM 121S — Introduction to Communication
Section: 803
Format: Online Asynchronous
Term: Summer Eight-Week, 2026
Orientation: Monday, June 8–9, 2026
Week 1 Opens: Tuesday, June 10, 2026 — 8:00 a.m.
Final Deadline: Friday, August 1, 2026 — 11:59 p.m.

 **Attendance Notice:** Students who do not submit the Opening Letter by Thursday, June 12 at 11:59 p.m. will be removed from the course for non-attendance. Submitting the Opening Letter confirms your enrollment and intent to participate.

Course Description

COM 121S is an introduction to the theories, principles, and practices of human communication. The course combines public speaking skill development with a survey of human communication theories. Students will analyze communication events in their own lives, develop and present a series of speeches, and apply communication frameworks to interpersonal, professional, and public contexts.

Presentations in this course include:

- Self-Introduction Speech
- Significant Place Speech
- Persuasive Speech
- Mock Interview
- Relational Dialectics Final

The course also surveys:

- Communication models, theories, and principles
- The self, perception, and self-concept
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Listening and audience analysis
- Public speaking: structure, outlining, and delivery
- Research skills and credibility
- Interpersonal communication and relational development
- Conflict resolution and difficult conversations
- Relational Dialectics Theory

Course Goals

Students will:

- Define, explain, and apply the basic principles and theories of oral communication (Bloom's Level 3)
- Survey, explain, and apply introductory human communication theories, including interpersonal, intercultural, and media communication (Level 3)
- Present well-developed and organized informative and persuasive speeches (Level 5)
- Recognize and conduct audience analysis to adapt messages, style, and delivery for diverse audiences (Level 3)
- Conduct research to find credible supporting materials tailored to audience and context (Level 3)
- Gain confidence in public speaking and develop strategies to overcome communication apprehension (Level 3)
- Synthesize information from multiple sources to construct coherent arguments (Level 5)
- Distinguish among the purposes of different speech types (Level 4)
- Use effective verbal and nonverbal delivery methods to communicate consistent messages (Level 3)

Edison State Core Values

This course reinforces the following Edison State Community College core values:

Communication • Ethics • Critical Thinking • Human Diversity • Inquiry / Respect for Learning • Teamwork

Textbooks

All textbooks are optional for the summer term. Multiple copies are available on reserve in the Edison State Library at no cost.

Optional Textbooks:

- An Introduction to Communication — Lynn H. Turner & Richard West (Cambridge University Press) — Primary reference text
- Fundamentals of Communication — LOUIS: The Louisiana Library Network (free open educational resource)
- Communication Mosaics, 8th Edition — Julia T. Wood
- The Speaker's Handbook, 12th Edition — Bodary, Sprague & Stuart

 Course materials — lecture decks, handouts, assignment sheets, and readings — are provided directly in Blackboard. No textbook purchase is required to succeed in this course.

Weekly Schedule

This course runs on a Tuesday–Monday weekly schedule. Each week opens at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday and closes at 11:59 p.m. the following Monday. Week 8 is a shorter week ending Friday, August 1.

Week	Dates	Topic
Orientation	Mon–Tue, June 8–9	Access course shell, read syllabus, review Video Production Standards
1	Tue June 10 — Mon June 16	Introduction to Communication & Models
2	Tue June 17 — Mon June 23	The Self & Perception
3	Tue June 24 — Mon June 30	Public Speaking, Speech Form & Outlining + Verbal & Nonverbal Communication
4	Tue July 1 — Mon July 7	Listening
5	Tue July 8 — Mon July 14	Research Skills & Citation
6	Tue July 15 — Mon July 21	Interpersonal Communication
7	Tue July 22 — Mon July 28	Conflict & Difficult Conversations
8 🚩	Tue July 29 — Fri Aug 1	Relational Dialectics Course Wrap-Up All work due Fri Aug 1 at 11:59 p.m.

🚩 *Week 8 is a shorter week. All coursework must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, August 1, 2026.*

Assignments & Point Values

All assignments are listed below by week. Specific due dates are posted within each weekly Blackboard folder. Each speaking assignment has four components: (1) Outline → Dropbox, (2) Performance → graded by instructor, (3) Discussion Board post with video + self-evaluation + peer feedback, and (4) Reflection Quiz (TBD).

Assignment	Points	Due
WEEK 1 — Introduction to Communication & Models		
Opening Letter	50	Thu June 12 — 11:59 p.m. (non-attendance deadline)
I Prompt Video — Discussion Board post + peer responses	50	Video Sun; peer responses Mon
Response Activity — Week 1 Lecture	20	End of Week 1
WEEK 2 — The Self & Perception		
Self-Introduction Speech — Outline → Dropbox	25	Week 2
Self-Introduction Speech — Performance (graded by instructor)	50	Week 2
Self-Introduction Speech — Discussion Board (video + self-eval + 3 peer comments)	25	Week 2
Self-Introduction Speech — Reflection Quiz	TBD	Week 2
Response Activity — Week 2 Lecture	20	End of Week 2
WEEK 3 — Public Speaking & Outlining + Verbal & Nonverbal Communication		
Terminology Project	75	Week 3 — Dropbox

Response Activity — Public Speaking Lecture	20	End of Week 3
Response Activity — Verbal & Nonverbal Lecture	20	End of Week 3
WEEK 4 — Listening		
Significant Place Speech — Outline → Dropbox	50	Week 4
Significant Place Speech — Performance (graded by instructor)	125	Week 4
Significant Place Speech — Discussion Board (video + self-eval + 3 peer comments)	25	Week 4
Significant Place Speech — Reflection Quiz	TBD	Week 4
Response Activity — Week 4 Lecture	20	End of Week 4
WEEK 5 — Research Skills & Citation		
Midterm — Key Terms Reflection (video + written notes → Dropbox)	100	Week 5
Response Activity — Week 5 Lecture	20	End of Week 5
WEEK 6 — Interpersonal Communication		
Persuasive Speech — Outline → Dropbox	75	Week 6
Persuasive Speech — Performance (graded by instructor)	200	Week 6
Persuasive Speech — Discussion Board (video + self-eval + 3 peer comments)	25	Week 6
Persuasive Speech — Reflection Quiz	TBD	Week 6
Response Activity — Week 6 Lecture	20	End of Week 6
WEEK 7 — Conflict & Difficult Conversations		
Mock Interview — Outline → Dropbox	25	Week 7
Mock Interview — Performance (graded by instructor)	50	Week 7
Mock Interview — Discussion Board (video + self-eval + 3 peer comments)	25	Week 7
Mock Interview — Reflection Quiz	TBD	Week 7
Response Activity — Week 7 Conflict Lecture	20	End of Week 7
Response Activity — Relational Dialectics Lecture (read this week)	20	End of Week 7
WEEK 8 — Relational Dialectics Final Week		
Relational Dialectics Final — Outline → Dropbox	25	Week 8
Relational Dialectics Final — Performance (graded by instructor)	50	Week 8
Relational Dialectics Final — Discussion Board (video + self-eval + 3 peer comments)	25	Week 8
Relational Dialectics Final — Reflection Quiz	TBD	Week 8
Final Reflection Letter → Dropbox	100	By Fri Aug 1 — 11:59 p.m.

Response Activity — Week 8 Lecture	20	By Fri Aug 1 — 11:59 p.m.
TOTAL (excluding reflection quizzes)	1,505	

 **Reflection Quizzes:** Reflection quizzes are associated with each major speech. Point values are TBD. The instructor may waive reflection quizzes for the summer term and will communicate this decision in Blackboard.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90–100%
B	80–89%
C	70–79%
D	60–69%
F	Below 60%

Speech Completion Requirement

All five major speaking assignments must be completed to earn a B or an A in this course. Students who do not complete all five speeches are not eligible for a grade above C regardless of their overall point total.

The five required speeches are:

- Self-Introduction Speech
- Significant Place Speech
- Persuasive Speech
- Mock Interview
- Relational Dialectics Final

Each speaking assignment has four components: Outline (Dropbox), Performance (instructor-graded), Discussion Board post with video, self-evaluation, and peer feedback comments, and Reflection Quiz (TBD). All components must be submitted for the speech to count as complete.

Course Policies

Participation

Weekly participation is mandatory. This is a compressed eight-week summer course — missing a week is the equivalent of missing two weeks in a traditional semester. Students who do not participate in a given week may receive a 50-point deduction for that week.

Communication

Communicate through your Edison State email. Include your name, course title (COM 121S), section number, and assignment name in all messages. Emails and calls are typically answered within 24 hours — resend if you have not received a response. Text is acceptable for brief questions. Virtual meetings are available via Teams or Zoom by appointment.

Late Work

Late work may not be accepted. Two hard deadlines apply:

- All work from Weeks 1–4 must be completed by Monday, July 21 at 11:59 p.m.
- All work from Weeks 5–8 must be completed by the final deadline: Friday, August 1 at 11:59 p.m.

After each hard deadline, work from the corresponding weeks cannot be submitted or revised.

Revision Policy

Assignments earning below a B (excluding the final speech and Final Reflection Letter) may be revised once by agreement with the instructor. Contact the instructor within one week of receiving your grade to request a revision. Revisions must go beyond simply addressing instructor comments — they must demonstrate a genuine effort to meet the full grading criteria. Revisions will not be graded before the agreed-upon deadline.

Grading Timeline

Major assignments may take 7–10 business days to grade. Late submissions may take longer. Feedback will be provided in Blackboard.

Academic Integrity — Citations & Sources

Edison State Community College expects students to submit original work. Outside sources must be cited in MLA format. Turnitin and other plagiarism-detection tools will be used. If your originality score exceeds 20%, revisions may be required. Any assignment that is plagiarized — whether intentional or unintentional — or lacks appropriate citations will receive a failing grade. Intentional submission of someone else's work as your own will result in automatic failure for the course.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

You must disclose any use of AI writing tools. You must remain the primary author of your work. AI-assisted work above 20–30% may require revision. Work that is 100% AI-generated must be redone. Any use of AI must be disclosed by attaching the following statement to the bottom of the assignment:

"The author generated this text in part with [insert name/URL of AI platform]. Upon generating draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their own liking and takes ultimate responsibility for the content of this submission."

Any final submission exhibiting the use of AI without disclosure will be treated as academic dishonesty. The goal of this course is to develop your communication skills — AI cannot do that for you.

Video Submissions

All speech videos must remain accessible in Blackboard through the end of the term. Do not delete or make your videos private after submission. Videos that cannot be viewed will receive a zero.

Format Requirements

All written coursework must be word-processed and submitted as a Word document or PDF. Handwritten work will not be accepted.

Discussion Board Standards

Discussion Board posts must reflect thoughtful, substantive engagement with the content and with your classmates' work. Peer feedback comments should be specific, constructive, and respectful. Brief or generic comments such as "Great job!" will not receive full credit.

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus, course structure, assignments, or policies. All changes will be communicated via Blackboard or direct communication.

Important Dates

Date	Event
Monday, June 8	Classes Begin — Summer Semester Course orientation window opens
Tuesday, June 10	Week 1 Opens — 8:00 a.m.
Thursday, June 12	Opening Letter Due — 11:59 p.m. Non-attendance deadline
Sunday, June 15	Refund Deadline — Summer Early
Thursday, June 19	Juneteenth — No classes; buildings closed Asynchronous course unaffected; support services unavailable
Monday, June 22	Refund Deadline — Summer Semester
Monday, June 22	Payment Due — 1st installment of deferred payment
Tuesday, June 23	Pell Lock
Sunday, June 29	Last Day to Withdraw — Summer Early
Friday, July 3	Independence Day observed — No classes; buildings closed Support services unavailable
Monday, July 13	Last Day to Withdraw — Summer Semester
Monday, July 21	Hard Deadline — All Week 1–4 work due by 11:59 p.m.
Tuesday, July 29	Week 8 Opens — Final week of course
Friday, August 1	FINAL DEADLINE — All work due by 11:59 p.m. Classes End

Student Support Services

Edison State Community College offers a full range of support services. Do not hesitate to use them.

Advising Services

Career pathway advisors assist with academic planning. Log into MyESCC or call (937) 778-7850.

Library Services

(937) 778-7950 | library@edisonohio.edu

Mental Health Services

Student Wellness Center, Room 060.

Student Resource Center & Charger Station Food Pantries

Room 060, Piqua campus |

Tutoring Services

(937) 778-7959 | tutoringcenter@edisonohio.edu

Technical Support

For Blackboard assignment issues, contact the instructor first.

For login or technology issues during business hours (9–5 Mon–Thu, 9–4 Fri):

Email: support@edisonohio.edu | Call: (937) 778-8600

After hours: Visit

edisonohio.freshservice.com/support/home or call (937) 778-7957

Password reset: Log onto office.com with your Edison email and follow the 'forgot password' prompts.

ResourceCenter@edisonohio.edu

Bookstore — eCampus

Edison State's official bookstore for course materials and merchandise.

edisonohio.edu/services-support/student-resources/bookstore-information

Title IX / Non-Discrimination

Edison State maintains a learning environment free from bullying, discrimination, and harassment. See Title IX information in the Student Handbook.

Testing Your Faith Act

Students may be absent up to three days per semester for faith-based observances without academic penalty. Students must complete the Testing Your Faith Act Accommodations Form and provide a copy to the instructor within 14 days from the start of the course.

Policy: https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2025-06/Student_Handbook.pdf

Form: https://www.edisonohio.edu/sites/default/files/2024-05/Testing_Your_Faith_Absence_Notification.pdf

If you have questions about any policy, contact Professor Loudermilk at wloudermilk@edisonohio.edu.