

**CMN2020  
COMMUNICATION RESEARCH  
SPRING 2013**

<b>Section:</b>	002	004
<b>CRN:</b>	31008	31010
<b>Location:</b>	1110 Coleman	1771 Coleman
<b>Days:</b>	Monday, Wednesday, and Friday	Tuesday and Thursday
<b>Time:</b>	11-11:50 am	11 am-12:15 pm
<b>Instructor:</b>	<a href="#">Andrew Robinson, PhD</a>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:warobinson@eiu.edu">warobinson@eiu.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	1248 McAfee	MWF 8-9 am, 10-10:50 am
<b>Phone:</b>	217-581-6946 office	217-549-5433 cell

**Required Texts:**

Merrigan, G., & Huston, C. (2009). *Communication Research Methods* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Bourhis, J., Adams, C., & Titsworth, S. (2009). *Style Manual for Communication Studies* (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the communication discipline through encountering its publications and resources. The course is *writing intensive* and consists of lectures, discussions, and activities. The primary goal of the course is designed to assist students in understanding the nature and methods of research within the field of communication, the importance of critical and reflective thinking, and the elements of effective writing using APA style.

**Course Objectives:**

After taking this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the nature of communication research
- Read and understand scholarly research reports
- Describe qualitative and quantitative research methods
- Critically evaluate communication research
- Write a review of scholarly literature
- Plan and develop a research project
- Write a research report using APA style
- Understand and appreciate the ethics of research

**Course Assignments (NOTE: Most assignments are time sensitive and occur in sequence. Students must complete assignments in the order they are assigned).**

1. Three Exams: Exams will be given to evaluate student understanding and application of selected concepts and terminology introduced in the text and during lecture/discussions.
2. Topic Proposal Paper- Towards the beginning of the semester, students will write a 1-2 page paper outlining their planned topic of study for the course. Details TBA.
3. Annotated Bibliography: Students will create an annotated bibliography using a minimum of

ten research articles focusing on a communication topic of their choice. The annotated bibliography is designed to assist students in gathering research material for the literature review and final course project.

4. Literature Review- Students will write a 10-12 page review of literature on a topic of their choice. This review is designed to prepare students for the method paper/final research project for the class. A minimum of ten communication (empirical/conceptual) research articles are required for the literature review. Students will also be required to identify a theory most suited in framing their research project for the class. More details to follow.
5. Methods Paper- Students will write a 3-5 page paper outlining the research method they believe will be most appropriate for the communication topic/phenomenon they have chosen to study. Students will be required to provide a rationale for why this method is most appropriate, along with a discussion of how this method will be used to answer the stated research question(s). Students must also cite a minimum of two scholarly sources that support their claims regarding the chosen method.
6. IRB Testing- Students will be required to complete the human subjects training certification as part of the requirements of the course (details TBA).
7. Final Paper and Presentation- The final paper will be an approx. 15-18 page research report. The paper should include an introduction to the communication topic being examined (to include a discussion of the author's investment in the topic), a review of literature (using a minimum of ten scholarly articles), stated research question(s), explanation and justification for the method and data collection, analysis of results, and conclusion (to include a discussion of implication, limitations, and future research). A reference page will accompany the final paper and will be in APA format. Each student will deliver a 10 minute presentation of their research report during the last two weeks of class. Details outlining the final paper/presentation TBA.
8. Attendance/Participation: Attendance and Participation are an important part of your responsibility as a member of this class. You will be expected to participate in several written and/or oral assignments during class time. If you are not present, you cannot be evaluated in these areas.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

1. CMN2020 is a core course and is required for all Communication Studies majors. Students must receive a "C" or better to pass the course. Writing assignments for the course may also be used for EWP submissions. The final paper/project is the only acceptable (instructor approved) assignment eligible for EWP submission.
2. We will be using **GRAMMARLY**, a web-based grammar checking software program, for this course. All students will be required to check ALL written assignments with Grammarly and turn in a printed report for each assignment. Assignments without the Grammarly report will not be accepted and/or will not be given credit. To set up your grammarly account go to [www.grammarly.com/edu](http://www.grammarly.com/edu), click on "Sign-up" to set up a new account (It's free)! Type in your name, EIU email address, and password. Remember your password for future log-ins

## Grading Policies

Assignment	Points	Percent %
Exams 3 @ 100.	300	38%
Library Worksheet	25	3%
Topic Proposal	25	3%
Annotated Bibliography	50	6%
Literature Review	100	13%
Methods Paper	100	13%
IRB Testing	25	3%
Final Paper/Oral Presentation	75	8%
Attendance/Participation	100	13%
<hr/> Total Points	<hr/> 800	<hr/> 100%

### Grading Criteria for Papers:

- A** An *exceptional* paper/assignment-- Content is original and form/style is executed according to guidelines taught in class. Technical excellence includes proper format, organization, and language usage; proper sentence structure; no spelling errors or improper words; and adherence to APA style. All elements of the assignment are addressed thoroughly--content goes beyond the basics.
- B** A *good* paper/assignment-- Content is technically well developed. There are few problems with format and grammar; however, format is not followed "to the letter." Some editing is required to correct errors in grammar or punctuation. Two or more elements of the assignment were weak--not developed beyond basic detail.
- C** An *acceptable* paper/assignment-- Grammar and punctuation errors draw reader's attention away from the purpose of the paper. Organization is awkward (e.g., transitions between ideas are unclear or abrupt). There are frequent misspellings or other style errors. There are serious problems with one or more elements of the assignment. At least one element of the assignment is missing.
- D** An *unacceptable* paper/assignment. Student does not demonstrate a full grasp of the purpose of the assignment. Organization is weak and ideas are hard to follow and understand. Assignment is filled with errors in grammar and punctuation. More than one element of the assignment is completely missing.

**Disability Policy:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583.

**Make-up Policy:** You are expected to complete all work on time. Copies of all homework assignments and handouts will be made available to you on Desire 2 Learn. If there are *university-approved* circumstances that prevent you from completing the work on time, you will be allowed a reasonable opportunity to make up the work. You should make every effort to contact me *in advance* or as soon as possible after an absence has occurred. Work that is late without a university accepted excuse will be accepted AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR and, if accepted, will be penalized **one letter grade**. ALL make-up work must be turned in within one week of the assigned due

date. Any work turned in after the one-week deadline WILL NOT be accepted. In general, in-class quizzes/engagements MAY NOT be made up. These are in-class activities that require active participation. In addition, oral reports that are missed due to an unexcused absence may or may not be made up, depending on the time available in class. You should make every effort possible to present your report on the assigned speaking day.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a minimum expectation. Any academic dishonesty will result in an appropriate penalty. Penalties may range from failure on an assignment to expulsion from the university. It is also expected that you will treat others, as well as yourself, with courtesy and respect.

**Classroom Standards and Evaluation:**

All faculty in the Department of Communication Studies uphold the standards of good scholarship and expect our students to do the same. We expect that students earning a degree in Communication Studies will develop superior reasoning/critical thinking, argumentation, writing, and presentational skills while also building comprehensive knowledge of their content area. Students in Communication Studies classes will be expected to read all assigned materials, write extensively, complete their own work, and engage in respectful classroom interactions. For full listing of departmental student standards see:

<http://www.eiu.edu/commstudies/documents/Student%20Expectations%20and%20Standards.pdf>

**Other Class Rules:**

1. Read assigned material BEFORE coming to class
2. Be on time—you will be marked absent even if you show up late to class
3. Be respectful of the instructor's and classmates time; we will not revisit information you have missed should you decide to show up late to class or skip class
4. Turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices
5. No texting or playing on Facebook or other web sites during class
6. Type all assignments
7. Check Desire 2 Learn periodically for class announcements and assignments
8. Be supportive and respectful of yourself and others
9. Participate actively in class discussion
10. Familiarize yourself with the course calendar and assignment due dates; Extra credit is not offered in this course

PLEASE NOTE: Your performance on assignments is directly proportionate to the amount of time you are in class. Students who attend class regularly tend to perform better on assignments and receive higher overall grades in the class. Please feel free to visit with me during office hours if you have questions about your grades and/or performance in class.

Date:	Readings/Course Content	Assignments/Projects Due
<b>Week 1:</b> Jan. 7-13	Introduction to Course/"Syllabus" Day	
	Introduction to Communication Research Processes	
	Ch 1: Scientific Inquiry & "Ways of knowing"	
<b>Week 2:</b> Jan. 14-20	What do Communication Researchers Study?	
	Ch 2 Ethics in Research	
	Ethics Cont./IRB Testing/Informed Consent	
<b>Week 3:</b> Jan. 21-27		
	Ch 3: Epistemology/ Three Paradigms of Knowing	DUE: IRB Certification
	Paradigms Cont.	
<b>Week 4:</b> Jan. 28-Feb. 3	Ch 4 Making Claims/Writing Student RQs/Setting student Research Agendas	
	Making Claims Cont.	
	Library Day/Researching Your Topic	
<b>Week 5:</b> Feb. 4-10	Researching Your Topic Cont.	
	NowWhat?...Introducing the Annotated Bibliography	DUE: Library Worksheet
	Writing Literature Reviews & Research Reports	
<b>Week 6:</b> Feb. 11-17	Writing Cont.	
	APA Writing Style	
	Ch 5 What Counts as Communication Data?	DUE: Annotated Bibliography
<b>Week 7:</b> Feb. 18-24	Communication Data Cont./Review for Exam 1	
	<b>Exam 1</b> (Chs 1-5)	

<b>Week 8:</b> Feb. 25-Mar. 3	Introduction to Research Methods	
	Ch 7 Survey Research	DUE: Topic Proposal
	Ch 8 Experimental Design	
<b>Week 9:</b> Mar. 4-10	Student Work Day/Collecting Data	
	Ch 10 Descriptive Statistics	
	Qualitative Interviewing	
<b>Week 10:</b> Mar. 18-24	Ch 13 Ethnography	DUE: Literature Review
	Student Work Day/Collecting Data	
	Ch 9 Content Analysis	
<b>Week 11:</b> Mar. 25-31	Collecting Data	
	Ch 12: Conversation/Discourse Analysis	
	Collecting Data	
<b>Week 12:</b> Apr. 1-7	Methods Wrap-Up/Writing Methods paper	
	Student Work-Day/Writing the Methods paper	
	Student Work-Day	
<b>Week 13:</b> Apr. 8-14	Student Work-Day	
	Review for Exam 2	DUE: Methods Paper
	<b>Exam 2 (Chs 7-10, 12-13)</b>	
<b>Week 14:</b> Apr. 15-21	Student Presentations 1-4	Due: Final Research Reports
	Student Presentations 5-8	Due: Final Research Reports
	Student Presentations 9-12	Due: Final Research Reports
<b>Week 15:</b> Apr. 22-28	Student Presentations 13-16	Due: Final Research Reports
	Student Presentations 17-20	Due: Final Research Reports
	Student Presentations 21-24/Final Exam Review	Due: Final Research Reports
<b>Week 16:</b> Apr. 29-May 3	<b>Final Exam (Comprehensive)</b>	