

Course Outline for CMST-493/593: Exploring Comm. Theory Through International Films

Summer 2022 | Online Synchronous M–W, 10 a.m. – noon; Asynchronous R/F

Course Information + Textbook: craige.info/courses/cmst-493-comm-theory

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When contacting me by email, please follow these instructions:

Email subject line = **CMST X93: Topic of email (change to suit)**

Attachments submitted electronically: **LastnameFirst-Assignmentdetails.docx** (or .rtf).

A. Course Policies and Details: craige.info/course-policies

B. Goals/Learning Objectives

a. Description

Interpretation and analysis of communication theories and concepts through a discussion of critically acclaimed international films. This course is designed to teach learners how to evaluate communication theories, improve techniques for developing communication theory, and discuss everyday uses of communicative theories using international films as a shared text. Common theories of human communication are explored, including intra- and interpersonal communication, public communication, organizational communication, and intercultural communication theories.

b. Course Goals

- Enhance understanding of research paradigms and criteria for quality communication theory
- Explore a variety of general communication theories from humanistic and social scientific approaches
- Use film as a shared text for identifying and explaining communication theories in practice
- Introduce learners to the world through international films

c. Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, learners should be able to

- Use terminology associated with communication theory development and analysis
- Describe how communication theories are developed and categorized
- Evaluate communication theories using analytical frameworks
- Explain the difference between social scientific and humanistic approaches to communication
- Analyze communication phenomena from different paradigmatic perspectives
- Analyze communication situations and events using general communication theories
- Provide advice or recommendations to people or organizations based on the application of sound communication theory
- Explain and demonstrate oral and written communication competence

C. Assignments/Grades: craige.info/grading-criteria**a. Participation/Attendance10%**

Learners will receive a daily qualitative score that measures their preparation for and participation in activities. This score will be updated daily in D2L. If learners miss a class meeting, they need to request via email a make-up activity. Scores: A = Excellent; C = Satisfactory; F = Unsatisfactory.

b. Reading & Reading Activities (D2L).....25%

Scheduled readings should be completed before class meetings. To verify reading comprehension and to improve classroom discussion, there will be a series of short activities learners will complete before synchronous class meetings. These activities may include quizzes, reading questions, worksheets, reviews, research, annotated bibliography entries, or other creative activities. See D2L for specific instructions.

c. Film + Theory Worksheets25%

The instructor will provide worksheets for each film. Learners should complete these worksheets while reviewing the films. The worksheets will ask learners to identify specific instances of communication theories at work in the film (specifically character dialogue). These worksheets should be uploaded to D2L as scheduled. These film/theory worksheets will be used for in-class discussion.

d. 3 Mini-projects.....30%

Learners will complete three mini-projects of their choosing. Each project should demonstrate approximately two to three hours of work. These can be anything learners' hearts, minds, or hearts and minds desire! They can be discrete (one-off) or build upon each other to something bigger. Learners can work on these individually, in pairs, or teams. Learners' work can be creative or technical.

Ideas for creative work include reaction videos (YouTube style), a three-part video series, three chapters of a mini "documentary," conversational rap sessions (podcast style), pop-up art/displays, infographics, and more.

Ideas for technical work include not limited to film reviews, blog post(s), conference abstracts, paper reviews, prelim exam questions (CMST doctoral learners), or good ol' fashioned essays.

Only two requirements/limitations: 1. Activities must connect with the theme of the course: Communication Theory + International Films. 2. The projects must stick with [the topic] and do the same [type of work] for all three activities. The reason [for consistency] is to have a way to measure improvement in knowledge, skills, and abilities and to provide a benchmark for evaluation and grading.

e. Final Reflection Paper10%

Learners will write a ~three-page reflection paper to review learning objectives and reflect on what they learned about themselves, communication, and the world.

Schedule

Important Note: Due to the accelerated nature of a 4-week course, learners will not read all content on the pages listed. I will write specific instructions in D2L regarding sections of the listed pages to read. Grad learners will also read one *Communication Theory* article each week. Look for early submission bonuses on assignment prompts and worksheets.

Week 1

Meeting	Class Topic / Format / Notes	Reading / Films	Pages	Assignment/Activities Due (See D2L)
Monday, May 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions, course overview, expectations • Brainstorm ideas for mini-projects • What makes a good theory? Research paradigms! 			
Tuesday, May 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes a good theory? Research paradigms! (Cont'd) • Evaluate theories / connect to real life • Theories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Attribution Theory – Cognitive Dissonance – Correspondence Inference – Uncertainty Reduction – Politeness Theory 	Grads: Chapter 1 – Foundation of Comm Theory; Chapter 2 – Theory Development	3–20; 25–45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Activities (seeD2L) – Due by 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday, May 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elaboration Likelihood – Message Design Logics – Problematic Integration – Expectancy Violation – Standpoint Theory 	All: Chapter 3 – Cognition & Intrapersonal Communication	51–74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Activities (D2L) – Due by 9:30 a.m.

Meeting	Class Topic / Format / Notes	Reading / Films	Pages	Assignment/Activities Due (See D2L)
Thursday, May 19	Asynchronous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Exchange Theory Presentation of Self Queer Theory Identification 	All: Chapter 3 – Individual and Social Approaches to Communication Film: <i>3 Idiots</i> , 2 hr. 50 min. Available on Netflix	75–91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (D2L) – Due by 11:59 p.m. or as soon as possible.
Friday, May 20	Asynchronous	Film: <i>3 Idiots, Cont'd</i> Grads: textbook pp. 101–119 + Comm Theory article		
Sunday, May 22				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini Project Idea Film/Theory Worksheet (3 <i>Idiots</i>) Grad students – Theory article 1 – D2L discussion

Week 2

Meeting	Class Topic / Format / Notes	Reading / Films	Pages	Assignment/Activities Due (See D2L)
Monday, May 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss <i>3 Idiots</i> + theories from Week 1 Begin discussion of interpersonal comm theories 			
Tuesday, May 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication Privacy Management Affectation Exchange Identity Management Equity Theory 	Chapter 7 – Interpersonal Communication	223–259	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (see D2L) – Due by 9:45 a.m.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Relational Dialectics – Dyadic Power – Interpersonal Deception 			
Wednesday, May 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EoC – Cultural Hermeneutics – Anxiety/Uncertainty – DMIS – Identity Negotiation – Communication Accommodation – Hofstede – Negotiating Difference 	All: Chapter 11 – Culture	387– 424	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Activities (seeD2L) – Due by 9:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 26	Asynchronous	Film: <i>Waste Land</i> , 1 hr. 39 min. – Free with Curiosity trial on Amazon https://amzn.to/3v69wrc		
Friday, May 27	Asynchronous	Film: <i>A Separation</i> , 2 hr. 3 min. – Amazon (SD) = \$2.99 >> https://amzn.to/3OA537E		
Sunday, May 29				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film/Theory Worksheet (<i>A Separation</i>) • Film/Theory Worksheet (<i>Waste Land</i>) • Mini Project Idea Due • Grad students – Theory article 2 – D2L discussion • All by 11:59 p.m.

Week 3

Meeting	Class Topic / Format / Notes	Reading /Films	Pages	Assignment/Activities Due (See D2L)
Monday, May 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss <i>Waste Land, A Separation</i> + theories from Weeks 1 and 2 			
Tuesday, May 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elaboration Likelihood – Theory of Planned Behavior – Inoculation – Narrative 	All: Queer Theory Conflict Styles	See D2L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (seeD2L) – Due by 9:45 a.m.
Wednesday, June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Elaboration Likelihood – Theory of Planned Behavior – Inoculation – Narrative 	All: Chapter 7 – Persuasion (Dainton & Zelley)	See D2L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (seeD2L) – Due by 9:45 a.m.
Thursday, June 2	Asynchronous	<p>Film: <i>Rafiki</i>, 1 hr. 23 min.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Free with Showtime trial >> https://amzn.to/3MwAY7v <p>(Tip: While you have the trial, watch the doc <i>Ready for War</i>)</p> <p>Grads: Communication Theory Article</p>		
Friday, June 3	Workday for Mini Project			
Sunday, June 5				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini Project #1 Grad students – Theory article 3– D2L discussion Film/Theory Worksheet (<i>Rafiki</i>) All by 11:59 p.m.

Week 4

Meeting	Class Topic / Format / Notes	Reading/Films	Pages	Assignment/Activities Due
Monday, June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Rafiki + theories from Week 2 and Group Communication Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concertive Control Structuration Interaction-process analysis Symbolic convergence Groupthink 	Chapter 8 – Group Communication	261-297	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (D2L)
Tuesday, June 7		Film: <i>The Lives of Others</i> , 2 hr. 17 min. Amazon (SD) = \$2.99 >> https://amzn.to/3ElyOPf		
Wednesday, June 8	Discuss Org Comm, Group Comm Theories + <i>The Lives of Others</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCO Network Theory Identification, Control, and Resistance 	All: Chapter 9 – Organizational Comm.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Activities (D2L) Film/Theory Worksheet All by 9:30 a.m.
Thursday, June 9	Workday for Mini Project			
Friday, June 10	Workday for Mini Project			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini Project #2
Sunday, June 12				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection paper Mini Project #3 Make-up work / Revisions All due by 11:59 p.m.