



COMM 3342.001
Advanced Topics in Communication:
Communication Ethics
Fall 2013
Course Syllabus

Instructor Information

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eLearning: as COMM3342.001
Gradebook and Assignment Submission: www.turnitin.com (You must register.)

Course Description

This course introduces students to ethical theories as they relate to communication. Considering professional, interpersonal, technical, mass, and cyber communication, students will participate in an overview of ethical theories, define “ethic,” consider a variety of perspectives, evaluate the role of ethics in communication, and apply ethical theories to cases in current affairs. Topics include intercultural communication, professional codes of ethics, whistleblowing, alternative online identities, fan fiction, hacking, and intellectual property in cyberspace.

Course Prerequisites

- RHET 1302
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Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

To succeed in this class, you will

- define “ethic”;
 - create a personal code of ethics;
 - recognize and apply basic ethical theories from Western philosophers to communication;
 - research, analyze, and interpret complex topics as they relate to communication and ethics;
 - discuss ethical decisions and justify choices that you make in regard to communication;
 - understand the role of ethical codes in corporate America; and
 - improve your communication skills.
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Required Textbooks and Materials

You need access to the textbooks as well as additional sources that are noted on the course calendar.

Required Texts

Becker, L. C., & Becker, C. B. (2003). *A history of Western ethics*. New York, NY: Routledge.
Tompkins, P. S. (2011). *Practicing communication ethics*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

Texts and Resources

- American Psychological Association (APA) Style Guide, 6th ed.
- Internet access
- UTD user ID and password and access to UTD email

We will use APA style to format in-text and end-of-text citations in this class.

Assignment Values

Assignment	Submission Instructions	Value
Ethics wiki	On class wiki page	100 pts
Definition of ethics—essay	Submit via turnitn.com	100 pts
Ethical autobiography	Submit via turnitin.com	200 pts
Group analysis of corporate code of ethics	Submit via turnitin.com	200 pts
Team evaluation	Submit via turnitin.com	50 pts
Participation and Attendance	No formal submission	150 pts
Final essay	Submit via turnitin.com	200 pts
Total		1000 pts

Grading Criteria

Grades will not be rounded up. Course assignments together are worth 1000 points, and students receive grades according to the following (standard UTD) scale:

- 930–1000 = A
- 900–929 = A–
- 870–899 = B+
- 830–869 = B
- 800–829 = B–
- 770–799 = C+
- 730–769 = C
- 700–729 = C–
- 670–699 = D+
- 630–669 = D
- 600–629 = D–
- 0–599 = F

Your grade in this class reflects if you

- Fulfill objectives for the class and particular assignments;
- Support your ideas and arguments with analysis and evidence from credible sources, focusing on a thesis or main idea;
- Manage your time wisely and effectively;
- Use correct mechanics, strong style, and appropriate organization;
- Edit and proofread **all** work before you submit assignments;
- Ethically present information in assignment documents, address copyright, and correctly cite resources; and
- Present yourself professionally.

A reflects that the student's work shows excellence and meets all objectives with strength, originality, and creativity. **B** reflects that the student's work is satisfactorily but does not reflect excellence. This work is strong but contains minor issues that detract from your message. **C** reflects that the student's work fulfills course requirements but does not satisfy the audience's needs and contains issues that decrease the effectiveness of the document. **D** reflects that the student's work contains numerous issues and therefore does not fulfill the audience's needs or address the rhetorical situation. **F** reflects that the student's work is unacceptable (L. Bell, personal communication, August 2008).

Course & Instructor Policies

In addition to all UTD policies that students must know and follow (available at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>), the following policies apply.

Preparation for Class

UT Dallas students are expected to study 2–3 hours per credit hour each week preparing for an 15-week class. Therefore, for this 3-hour course, you should plan to study 6–9 hours a week. You will study, read, and write less some weeks and more some weeks. The writing process takes time, and **you must manage your time and integrate that time into your work and school schedule**. If you are studying consistently more than 9 hours a week, please document your activities and communicate immediately with the instructor.

Make-up and Late Work

In this class, you are scholars as well as professionals in training. Professionals who miss deadlines present poor work ethics and damage their reputations as well as lose contracts, increase costs, delay results, decrease profits, and lose their jobs. ***For these reasons, you may not submit late or incomplete work or makeup exams unless you are hospitalized and provide a valid physician excuse.*** Missed work results in a zero (0) on the assignment. You may not request an incomplete in this class unless you meet the university's criteria for an incomplete.

Extra Credit

Do not ask if you can earn extra credit. Instead, strive for excellence in assigned work.

References, Copyright, and Plagiarism

UTD has a no-tolerance policy for plagiarism, copyright infringement, or scholastic dishonesty (including missing citations). I support and enforce that policy in my classes. *If you do not cite your sources with in-text and end-of-text citations or if you publish copyrighted work without permission, you will receive a referral to Dr. Susan McKee in the Office of Judicial Affairs.* We will use APA style to cite all sources.

Attendance

If you arrive on time and participate in class activities, you are present. If you attend class but conduct nonrelated work, you will be considered absent. The classroom door will close 10 minutes after class begins; if you are not in the classroom, you are absent. You may miss two classes without penalty; after two absences, you lose 10 points of your 1000-point grade for each absence. Treat this class as you would a job: Attend class and be punctual. (Your work schedule is not an excused reason to miss class.)

UTD excuses absences for religious holidays; however, the student is responsible to inform the instructor *before* the holiday and to submit missed work *before* the absence.

Classroom Citizenship

You will receive a grade for participation. You should prepare for class; attend and participate; communicate professionally; and cooperate, listen, and respect others' opinions. Please leave profanity and other threatening language and behavior outside the classroom. *Turn off your cell phones and other electronic equipment during class, and use your laptop for class work only.*

Email

All official e-mail correspondence must go to and come from official UTD emails. I will not answer emails that come through addresses from other providers (per UTD policy).

Communication outside the Classroom

You should communicate with the instructor and your classmates outside the classroom.

Communication is part of coursework and therefore you should

- Identify yourself in all communication (e.g., email, texts, phone calls) to the instructor AND your classmates;
- Use correct mechanics and style in correspondence;
- Communicate clearly, respectfully, and professionally; and
- Respect that this is my profession, but I have other commitments, as do you. Please allow 24–48 hours for a response to e-mail during weekdays, and do not call between 8pm and 8am.

Please communicate about all issues with your instructor throughout the semester.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.



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Course Syllabus Contract

I have read the Fall 2013 Syllabus for COMM3342 and the university policies (<http://coursebook.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>).

I understand that content and communication related to this course may be used for future examples and research but that my identity will be blinded and my confidentiality will be protected if content is used.

I also understand that my contact information listed on this contract will ONLY be used for course-related activities and information.

By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have read the policies and this syllabus and that I am expected to abide by ALL university policies, attend class, and submit quality, unique work by all deadlines to fulfill requirements for this class.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Student ID Number

Mobile Telephone Number