

COMM 495: Speech Communication Integrative Seminar

TR 12:30- 1:50 BRN 106

Spring 2012

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Office Hours: MF 10-11:00 a.m., W 10-1:00 p.m., and by appointment
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Course Description: "Culminating experience for the major; completion with a C or better required. Advanced examination of the nature of communication theory, research, and methods. With the instructor's permission, a student not majoring in Speech Communication may enroll and propose a project specific to the Speech Communication discipline. Prerequisites: COMM 230, C average or better in Speech Communication courses; minimum of 15 hours 300-400 level Communication courses; senior standing; or instructor's permission." ([Columbia College 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog 180](#)).

Course Objectives: As the culminating scholarly work of the Speech Communication major, this class serves to help you transform your various academic experiences into a single study that you develop and conduct. You've been the student in class, now with your seminar study you have the opportunity to become the expert.

Course Goals:

- ❖ To acquire basic formal vocabulary and methods associated with speech communication research.
- ❖ To continue the exploration of communication theory and philosophical foundations.
- ❖ To expand and refine scholarly writing skills.
- ❖ To orally present written scholarship in an appropriate manner.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week One	Course introduction, expectations, grading, getting acquainted.
Week Two	Defining the research project: themes, topics, subjects, research questions, theoretical lens, and the difference between them.
Week Three	Defining your research question and methodology; Developing a working thesis and finding primary sources.
Week Four	Research subject selected and approved by 2/4/12. Human Subjects research.

Week Five	Human Subjects paperwork due by 2/11/12. MLA Citation.
Week Six	Methodologies: How do you use them? Which ones are best for your research question?
Week Seven	Evaluating appropriateness of methodologies.
Week Eight	Rough Draft due by 2/28/12. Distinguishing your work from other scholarly work. How is this unique and/or different?
Week Nine	Readying a complete draft of the paper--- Writing, writing, writing.
Week Ten	Revision.
Week Eleven	First Draft due by 3/20/12. Continued revision.
Week Twelve	Spring Break—NO CLASS
Week Thirteen	Second Draft due by 4/3/12. Revision that makes each subsequent draft different from the previous one.
Week Fourteen	Editing. Polishing and making the final draft the best and most professional draft.
Week Fifteen	Final Draft due by 4/17/12
Week Sixteen	Research Presentations
Finals Week	TBD Course Summary—return papers, presentation debriefing

Required Materials

Keyton, Joann. Communication Research: Asking Questions, Finding Answers.
2nd ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2007.

Modern Language Association. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.
7th ed. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009.

Online databases are available at <http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp>. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Course Policies:

1. Students who are belligerent, insubordinate, disrespectful, and/or disruptive to the classroom environment can be dropped without a course warning. Full and complete compliance with the Student Conduct Code (found in the C.C. Undergraduate Catalog) is expected.
2. Late work will not be accepted. Work is due at the beginning of class.
3. Exams cannot be made up.
4. All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, stapled, follow the format given in the syllabus, and use the MLA style of citation.
5. Work is not accepted via e-mail.
6. It is possible to receive zero credit for any given assignment if the work is of poor quality. This also includes papers and/or outlines returned to the student ungraded.
7. Cell phones are to be turned off upon entering class.
8. If after an assignment is graded and returned, you are not satisfied with the grading of a particular question or section, you must submit a written document explaining your appeal no earlier than 24 hours, and no later than 7 days after the item has been returned. This appeal will not be accepted via e-mail.
9. Students with documented disabilities that may need classroom academic adjustments; auxiliary aids or services are required to register with the ADA Coordinator, 214 Atkins-Holman Student Commons, phone # 875-7626.
10. No food is allowed in class.
11. Even though Columbia College allows the professor to give a grade of "W" after the end of the official drop date, I will not practice this policy. The grade you are earning at the end of the semester will be the grade reported.
12. Columbia College Athletes must provide a detailed schedule (including departure and return times) by the second week of classes. This is to insure that assignments can be met given the amount of time lost to travel.
13. Final exams are to be taken at the time designated in the syllabus, as determined by the Academic Affairs office. The appropriate professors must clear any change in the examination time.
14. Any revisions to the syllabus will be in writing and handed out in class.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

By the end of this course you will have completed an academic study that you will document in a paper ranging in length from 18-30 pages.

Your work is cumulative this semester. You will not be graded, per se, on each draft of the paper, but instead will be graded on the cumulative efforts of all of your work this semester. Per the course contract, failure to meet any or all of the requirements of the course will result in a student being dropped from the course.

All papers must be submitted to turnitin.com at each stage of the writing process. To register you must have a class ID number and a class password. The ID # for this course is **4667890**. The password is ***finish***.

A **MAGNIFICENT!** Much more quality than is expected from a student at this level. Superlative scholarly inquiry, writing, and presentation.

B **GOOD WORK!** Work done above the average for students at this level. Only 1 or 2 minor flaws. Above average scholarly inquiry, writing, and presentation

C **OKAY!** Average quality that is expected from students at this level. Few minor flaws. Met the normal expectations in scholarly inquiry, writing, and presentation.

D **MISSING SOME PIECES!** Below the average work for students at this level. Many minor flaws or a major flaw. Sub-standard scholarly inquiry, writing, and presentation work. Does not represent the work of a Speech Communication major—does not meet the standard for course credit.

F **WHAT HAPPENED????** Work that is completely below average for students at this level. Many major and minor flaws. Sub-standard scholarly inquiry, writing, and presentation work. Does not represent the work of a Speech Communication major—does not meet the standard for course credit.

SPEECH COMMUNICATION
Integrative Seminar in Research/Performance
Spring 2012 Contract

The following are minimum requirements for a grade of C in COMM 495. Grades of B or A will reflect a much higher standard of quality built upon the minimum standards listed below.

- _____ 1. A maximum of one absence in the classroom meeting periods. These continue the entire semester.
- _____ 2. Classroom assignments handed in on time with acceptable work.
- _____ 3. Research subject selected and approved by 2/4/2012. If needed, Human Subjects paperwork due one week from this day, 2/11/2012.
- _____ 5. Rough draft of seminar of acceptable quality handed in by 2/28/2012 @ 12:30 p.m.
- _____ 6. First draft of seminar of acceptable quality handed in by 3/20/2012 @ 12:30 p.m.
- _____ 7. Second draft of seminar of acceptable quality handed in by 4/3/2012 @ 12:30 p.m.
- _____ 8. Final draft of seminar handed in by 4/17/2012 @ 12:30 p.m. of acceptable quality.
- _____ 9. A 7-10 minute oral presentation of your seminar for public audience is selected for 4/26/2012.
- _____ 10. Student must meet with seminar advisor at least once per week after 1/24/2012. Missing a regular meeting without prior notification will result in voiding the seminar contract and the student will be dropped from the course.
- _____ 11. All papers must be typed, of high quality, and handed in on time. No WIP, incompletes, or other extensions will be granted.

The above requirements have been reviewed and agreed upon by all parties on _____.

 Instructor of Record

 Student Signature

 Printed Name

ACADEMIC HONESTY CONTRACT FOR DR. DARNELL'S CLASSES

Aristotle believed that we are persuaded by three artistic proofs. One of these proofs is *ethos*, or the ethical character of a speaker. This class is based upon full and just ethical treatment of all academic work. It is not enough to speak well, but you must also be a good and upstanding person as you speak, to paraphrase Quintillian.

To not be ethical in your scholastic work is to be academically dishonest. Academic dishonesty is a broad topic that entails many unethical education practices, of which plagiarism is the most well known yet most misunderstood. Plagiarism is a term that many of you may have heard of and even participated in, unknowingly. Therefore, let me define for you what I consider to be plagiarism and what I **will not tolerate** in this course. Specifically, the word plagiarism comes from the Greek *plagiarius* meaning *an abductor or plunderer*, and *plagiare* meaning *to steal*. Plagiarism is the knowledgeable and specific use of another's work while claiming that work to be your own original thoughts, ideas and work

To avoid instances of academic dishonesty, be sure to review the academic dishonesty policy at Columbia in the Undergraduate Catalog. For this course, the following practices constitute academic dishonesty:

- Reusing academic work from other courses without my consent.
 - Using another person's work with or without his or her permission.
 - Cheating on examinations.
 - Using group-produced work as individual work.
 - Falsification of information, which includes creating or citing sources for which bibliographic information and/or physical copies cannot be provided upon request.
 - Plagiarism in any and all forms. This includes:
 - Copying another's work verbatim or failing to give appropriate credit to another for an idea, opinion, or theory.
 - Citing sources as original when they were used as support for someone else's work.
- You must always cite sources when:*
1. *You are quoting another's work.*
 2. *You use another's ideas, theories, arguments, and or viewpoints.*
 3. *You use statistics, illustrations, or facts from another unless information is commonly known. To avoid questions, choose to cite rather than not to cite.*

I have read this entire plagiarism contract and I understand its content without exception. I agree to fully abide by its guidelines. All writing I submit in this class will be my own. If I use other sources than my own writing, I will clearly notate them and document them in parenthetical citation according to MLA style guidelines. I understand that submitting any writing with my name on it indicates it to be my own. Any instance of dishonesty, no matter the volume, nullifies the entire body of work. I understand that if I use writing from any source and submit it as my own, I will be in violation of this course's policy and the ethical cornerstone of higher education, and as such, this plagiarism will result in a grade of "o" being issued for the offending assignment and a grade of "o" for course participation.

Student Signature

Date