**CMS 496 - Organizational Communication Senior Seminar**

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**Course Description:** This capstone course reviews the primary theoretical and empirical underpinning of the discipline. Students will research and write a major paper on a communication topic appropriate to their professional objectives.

**Textbook:** Clarifying Communication Theories; Stone, Singletary, Richmond
Iowa State University Press ISBN 0-8138-0292-X

**Course Objectives:**

This course is the capstone course for Organizational Communication majors. The chief objectives of the course are to provide you the opportunity:
- To explore a solid foundation in communication theory.
- To research a particular area of interest and to develop of a major project in that area.
- To write a research paper culminating your communication education.
- To instill a confidence in writing and research in the field of organizational communication.
- To cultivate self-motivational skills in completing a major project.
- To review personal growth.

This course is designed as a seminar so to provide you the opportunity to develop communication writing skills and a different approach to study and collegiality.  At this point in your intellectual development, you are ready to assume greater responsibility for your education and you have developed some clear notions about your goals in the communication field. Students will thoroughly research a particular area of interest and develop a major project in that area, presenting the results of that project in written and oral form.

**Class Schedule:** Each student is responsible for contacting the instructor to complete assignments and writing submissions within the boundaries of the guidelines given.

**Course Requirements:**

A.  Two autobiographies of 4 to 6 pages each. The first one is a personal biography, the second one is an educational biography.

B. Read chapters and incorporate the appropriate communication theories into your research project. Also refer to text book for developing any research tools.

C.  Explore a particular line of research (ie: self disclosure, organizational

identification, public relations, gender communication, generational communication, etc.), a theory, or some issue that is problematic in the area you're exploring. The research should be an original compilation of research offering a new perspective on communication issues.

D.  A one to two page proposal paper must be submitted for approval by the assigned deadline prior to beginning the writing of the major research paper.  This paper must propose 1) the organizational communication topic that the student wishes to address, 2) the position/perspective with which the student will approach the topic, and 3) what hypotheses the student wishes to prove/disprove (in other words; why should this paper be written at all?) Attached to this proposal must be an annotated bibliography of sources used to support the paper's examination. An annotated bibliography is one that has a one or two line description describing the information covered in the sources listed.

E.  Develop and produce a major APA research paper in your particular area of interest. The paper must be twenty to twenty-five pages in length (even more is acceptable).  It should deal with a topic that is of particular interest to furthering your career in organizational communication. It should be a culmination of your education in this area (which means it should challenge you). There may be a project involved with your paper, but you will have to write a paper.  Options can be discussed.   Turn to the major classes you have already taken for your direction.
     The project itself may take a variety of forms, including: a research project gathering data from live research, to a research project developed from research previously completed. All research must be empirically supported. The student will be responsible for completing work outside of class meetings and arranged deadlines.  Any personal research (surveys, questionnaires, etc.) must
be approved by instructor prior to distribution.  All work must be completed no later than one week before the end of the semester.

F. Sources should include educational and professional journals, along with other credible sources that reflect your topic.  Internet sources are accepted but must be recognized as credible such as educational sources. All sources must be cited according to APA guidelines. For further explanation of style and documentation use The Writers Guide Book  (as introduced in your reorientation class). The bookstore will have them in stock.  This book answers specific questions regarding preparation of bibliography, parenthetical documentation and textual form.   Avoid widow/orphan lines in the typing of the paper.

G. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, accuracy in quotation, and neatness are important. The paper will be submitted twice for updating and correction prior to final copy.

H.  Early submittal of homework is welcome. Late submission will not be accepted.

    I.      All deadlines will be given during the first class meeting unless otherwise indicated.

**Plagiarism**
        Plagiarism means representing another's ideas as your own.  This can be done by copying the work of another directly or even summarizing or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source.  Plagiarism is a serious offense in the academic world and is of particular importance at this level of your education. If you have any questions about what needs to be documented, ask me.

**References:**
        You should have at least 20 sources on your reference list pages. This list should be alphabetical according to the authors' last names.  If the author is unknown alphabetize according to the first word in the title other than an article adjective.  The list includes all sources that have contributed ideas and information to your paper. The list appears at the end of your paper. Other textual information can be gained by referring to the Writers Guide Book.
        If you have read materials that you are not using directly in your text you should also develop a bibliography list of these sources to show the depth of your research.

**Grades:**

70 % of your grade will be determined by the quality and progress of your project, written work and oral presentation.  It will be based on the challenge of your topic, the discrimination of theoretical support, the execution of your written paper (ie: punctuation, grammar, correct use of sources, format, etc.) and evidence of advancing work between deadlines.

Grades will be lowered if written requirements are not met by the deadlines.

10% Of your grade will depend on your oral presentation.
10% 0f your grade will depend on your personal biography.
10% 0f your grade will depend on your educational biography.

Grades: 99-100pts = A+, 94-98pts = A, 90-93pts = A-, 87-89 =B+, 84-86pts =B, 80-83pts = B-, 77-79 = C+, 74-76 = C, 70-73 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 64-66 = D, 60-63 = D-, under 60 = F.

**Academic Integrity Policy**
        The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class.  All projects and tests will represent your own work.  Any use of other's ideas without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in a loss of all points for that particular assignment or test.