



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

# COM 320 Advanced Communication Theory

Summer 2023

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 55 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:**TBA

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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Advanced communication theory is a course that explores the major theories and concepts in the field of communication studies. The course is designed for students who have a strong foundation in communication studies and want to deepen their understanding of advanced theoretical frameworks and approaches. Further study of this course covers major theoretical frameworks that have influenced contemporary communication research, such as systems theory, critical approach, pragmatics, constructivism, and post-modernism. They will also examine the theoretical and practical applications of these paradigms in various communication contexts.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Gain a deeper understanding of the major theories and concepts in the field of communication studies
2. Explore the major paradigms influencing contemporary communication research
3. Understand the fundamental concepts and assumptions of each theoretical framework and their theoretical and practical applications in communication studies
4. Analyze various communication contexts from the perspective of these theoretical frameworks to gain insights into how communication works.
5. Apply these frameworks to real-world communication problems, enhancing their communication skills in various contexts

## **PREREQUISITES**

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COM 219 Organizational Communication Strategies



## GRADING

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Assignments	10 Points
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	20 Points
Midterm 2	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

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### **Required Texts:**

Stephen W. Littlejohn; Karen A. Foss; John G. Oetzel, *Theories of Human Communication*, Waveland Press, 2016.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

None

## COURSE TOPICS

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MODULE	TASKS
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Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 1: Foundations of Communication Theory  Topic 2: Evaluating Communication Theory  Topic 3: Frameworks for Organizing Theories  Topic 4: The Cybernetic Tradition</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Assignment#1  Quiz#1</p>
Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 5: Systems Theory  Topic 6: The Critical Tradition  Topic 7: Critical Approach  Topic 8: Critical Approach (Cont.)</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Assignment#2  Quiz#2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 9: The Communicator  Topic 10: The Message  Topic 11: Pragmatics  Topic 12: Pragmatics (Cont.)</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#1</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 13: Contexts of Communication: The Relationship  Topic 14: Contexts of Communication: The Group and Organization  Topic 15: Communicating Culture  Topic 16: Intercultural Communication Competence</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Midterm#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b>  Topic 17: Society: Modernism and Postmodernism  Topic 18: Power and Ideology  Topic 19: Critical Theory  Topic 20: Constructivism</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b>  Final Exam</p>

**ATTENDANCE**

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to



decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

## **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

## **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the



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academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.