

## Fall 2018 Syllabus

**Course Number:** COMM1307    **Course Title:** Intro to Mass Comm



**Levelland:** Monday/Wednesday 5pm- 6:15pm

**Department:** Communication    **Discipline:** Mass Communication

**Instructor:** Billy Alonzo    **Office:** CM 153    **Phone:** 716-2436

**e-mail:** [balonzo@southplainscollege.edu](mailto:balonzo@southplainscollege.edu) The fastest way to reach me, other than coming to my office during office hours, is to e-mail. Please do **NOT** e-mail me using the Blackboard system.

**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed 12-2:15 pm....Tue & Thur 12noon – 1pm, 2:30pm – 4:30pm...

Friday 9:30am - 12pm or by appointment

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credit:** 3 semesters hours

**Course Description:** A broad survey of communications agencies in modern life. History, ethics and professional emphasis on newspapers, magazines, radio-television, motion picture, music, and internet.

**Supplies Needed:** Three-ring loose leaf notebook or folder in which to keep syllabus, schedule, handouts, returned assignments, and notes.

**Required Textbook:** Media & Culture Mass Communication in a Digital Age by Campbell, Martin and Fabos, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition WITH 2015 UPDATE ISBN 13= 978-1457642425 ISBN 10=1457642425

**This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement:** Yes- Language, Philosophy, and Culture

### Core Objectives addressed:

- Communication skills- to include effective written, oral, and visual communication
- Critical thinking skills- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Social Responsibility- to include intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities
- Personal responsibility skills-to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

**Course purpose:** The purpose of this course is to provide the opportunity for students to learn about the powerful mass communication media. The student is exposed to a discussion of the history of each medium, the strengths and weaknesses, and the responsibilities and challenges associated with each. The student is also introduced to the concept of media literacy and basic theories of mass communication.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon completion of the course, the student will show competence in the course objectives listed below:

From Lecture:

1. Analyze dimensions of individual media use
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of media literacy
3. Understand basic history of common media forms such as radio and television; demonstrate ability to relate past to present
4. Demonstrate a mastery of blogging
5. Identify and analyze the function of various communication theories as they apply to advertising
6. Identify the impact and relevance of social media
7. Understand the concepts of public relations
8. Understand issues related to a current definition of news and journalism
9. Understand concepts of ethics as they pertain to mass media; demonstrate ability to balance factors and concerns

**Course Requirements:**

From Lecture:

- a. Read the assigned chapters in the textbook
- b. Attend all lectures
- c. Take notes in class
- d. Participate in class discussions
- e. Participate in class online discussions
- f. Participate in blogging assignments
- g. Complete assigned outside reading material and homework
- h. View audiovisual materials on selected topics
- i. Use computer software in the lab and/or classroom as it is assigned
- j. Complete the exams on the assigned dates

**Course Evaluation:** Students' grades in this class will be determined by the following:

1000 points are available for the final grade.

900 – 1000 = A

800 – 899 = B

700 – 799 = C

600 – 699 = D

Below 600 = F

Points are earned as follows:

Participation - 100 points (See grid)

Class Blog - 75 points

{3 original posts about an assigned topic worth 25 points each}

Media Diary – 100 points

Classwork and Homework assignments - 325 points

4 Exams at 100 points each = 400 points

**Sometimes the final number of points available for the course will not reach the 1000 mark or it will exceed it. If either is the case, the scale will be recalibrated and you will be notified.**

**Attendance and Tardiness Policy:** Attendance in this class is required. Please keep the tardiness to a minimum because it is disruptive to class. There is a lot of classwork in this class that counts toward your final grade. Some of it cannot be made up. I generally do not allow exams to be made up. In the event that a makeup exam is allowed, the highest grade available on it will be an 89.

Regardless of the reason for your absence, it is your responsibility to find out what work you missed, ask whether it can be made up, and if so when it will be due. **Students with more than 4 absences in a row will be dropped from the class with an F or X without further warning. If a student misses more than 4 classes \*throughout the semester\*, I consider that number to be “excessive” and reserve the right to drop the student with an X or an F.**

### **ADA Statement**

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement-** Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the SPC policy at:

([http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human\\_resources/policy\\_procedure/hhc.php](http://www.southplainscollege.edu/human_resources/policy_procedure/hhc.php))

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.

**Diversity Statement-** In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

**Deadlines-** ALL deadlines are absolute. You need to get used to deadlines that exist in the working world. All assignments are due at the beginning of each class unless specifically told otherwise. Late assignments will be penalized harshly or not accepted at all.

**Civility Code:**

- As future professionals, you are to communicate with each other in a professional and civil manner. At all times we will treat each other with dignity and respect. That means no profanity or conversations that I feel are inappropriate. As the professor for the class, I have the final say for what may be considered “inappropriate”. If there are problems in this area, you may be asked to leave.
- Disruptive behaviors such as cell phones ringing, leaving and returning to class while in session, arriving late to class, talking with others during lectures/discussions, checking your r-mail or Facebook, sending/receiving test messages, eating or drinking in class, etc... may result in a request that such students leave the class. Cell phones must either be turned off or put on vibrate only.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and other forms of cheating behavior.

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable. Students committing acts of academic dishonesty will be penalized with failing grades on assignments and/or for the entire course, depending upon the instructor’s evaluation of the severity of the dishonest act.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

You are expected to contribute to class discussions. Mere attendance is not enough. Basic grading criteria:

Attendance (Missed Classes for semester)	Class Contributions	Grade Range
0-2	Frequent contributions; well considered comments	90-100
0-2	Infrequent contributions or ill-considered comments	80-90
0-2	Rare or no comments	70-80
2-3	Frequent contributions; well considered comments	70-80
2-3	Infrequent contributions or ill-considered comments	60-70
2-3	Rare or no comments	50-60
3-4	Frequent contributions; well considered comments	50-60
3-4	Infrequent contributions or ill-considered comments	40-50
3-4	Rare or no comments	30-40
More than 4		30