

**COM 32400: Introduction to Organizational Communication**  
**Fall 2015**  
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**Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne**

**TEXTBOOK:**

Miller, K. (2015). *Organizational communication: approaches and processes* (7th ed.).  
Stamford, CT: Cengage.

**COURSE GOALS:**

Upon completing this course, you should be able to:

- 1) demonstrate an awareness of the nature and importance of communication in the organizational context;
- 2) apply relevant organizational communication theories to the behavior of yourself and others;
- 3) evaluate the usefulness of some of these theories for enhancing communication competence in your own workplace; and
- 4) demonstrate familiarity with some of the methods scholars use in studying organizational communication.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:**

**Examinations** (3 at 175 points each = 525 points). The examinations will cover material in lecture, class discussions and the textbook, as well as any brief additional readings that may be assigned.

**Response papers** (3 at 125 points each = 375 points) Each response paper assignment will ask you to respond to specific questions applying the course material to your own experience in a well-written, detailed, typed and stapled three to five page essay. You are responsible for keeping a copy of each response paper.

**Attendance/participation** (100 points). You are expected to attend class. Beyond mere attendance, though, this is a participatory course. Your productive contributions to class discussions and activities are important. In addition, brief homework assignments beyond the readings will be assigned. . Each unexcused absence will reduce your grade for this component by 10 points. 11 or more unexcused absences will result in a grade of F for the course.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

Week 1: Introduction to the course and each other; What is organizational communication?

Week 2: Introducing classical management; Bureaucracy and scientific management (read Chapter 2)

Week 3: Human relations approaches; Human resources approaches (read Chapter 3); Catch-up and review

Week 4: **Exam 1**; Introducing organizational culture (read pp. 71-79)

Week 5: Studying organizational culture; **Response Paper 1 due**

Week 6: Introducing and applying constitutive perspectives (read chapter 5)

Week 7: Introducing and applying critical perspectives (read chapter 6)

Week 8: Introducing and applying systems perspectives (read pp. 60-70); Catch-up and review

Week 9: **Exam 2**; Definitions and models of conflict (read pp. 158-161)

Week 10: Managing Conflict (read pp. 162-174); Third parties in conflict; **Response Paper 2 due**

Week 11: Organizational socialization (read Chapter 7)

Week 12: Organizational decision making (read Chapter 8); Motivation and feedback

Week 13: Organizational change and leadership (read Chapter 10 )

Week 14: Emotion in the workplace (read Chapter 11)

Week 15: The new normal, for better or worse (read Chapter 14); Catch-up and review; **Response Paper 3 Due**

Week 16: **Exam 3**