

## **Communication 650: Investigating Communication through Interactive Technologies**

### **Spring 2007 Syllabus**

Instructor: Dr. Chad Mahood	Lecture Time: T / TH 2:30 - 4:18
Office: 3045E Derby Hall	Lecture Location: JR 342
Office Hours: T / TH 4:30 - 5:30	
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### **Course Objectives**

In this class students will design a quantitative research study on a communication topic of their choosing, use interactive communication technologies to study that topic, collect data to test their ideas, and compile a research report on their findings. Over the course of the quarter this class will (1) familiarize students with the basic methodologies used in quantitative communication research, (2) examine several published research articles on specific new communication technologies (the exact articles will be partially determined by the interests of the students), and (3) devote significant class time to group research projects conducted by the students.

### **Required Readings**

All reading for this class will be made available electronically through the CARMEN system (<http://carmen.osu.edu>).

### **Grading**

Your grade for this course will be based on 2 exams, 8 homework assignments, completion of the CITI Course on The Protection of Human Research Subjects, a group presentation of a research project, a final paper on that project, and participation in communication research studies announced by the instructor.

The weighting of each component is as follows:

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	15%
Homework Assignments	10%
CITI Course	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Final Paper	30%
<u>Research Participation</u>	<u>5%</u>
Total	100%

## Course Policies

### Exams:

All exams are to be taken in class on the designated exam dates. No early or late exams are allowed except in the case of an extreme emergency. In the rare event that an emergency arises, it is your responsibility to do the following. First, you must inform the instructor of the emergency BEFORE the scheduled exam time. Second, you must provide the instructor with written documentation of the emergency (e.g., a medical note from a certified physician).

### Homework Assignments:

Prior to each class where a published research article has been assigned as a class reading you will be required complete a homework assignment on that article and bring it to class (refer to the Tentative Course Schedule at the end of this syllabus). The purpose of these homework assignments is to foster in-class discussion. Therefore, you will ONLY receive credit for each assignment if you attend class that day. With the exception of an emergency, credit for homework assignments will NOT be given without attendance.

### CITI Course:

The Ohio State University requires that all research on human participants, such as asking them to complete a survey or be in an experiment, be conducted by individuals that have an extensive understanding of the rights of human participants. As such, anyone conducting a study on human participants must first complete the CITI Course on The Protection of Human Research Subjects. This course can be found at: <http://www.citiprogram.org/>. In order to receive credit for completing this course you must print out a "Certificate of Completion" and turn it in to the class instructor.

### Research Project Presentation and Paper:

The most important and significant part of this class is to test an original research idea conceived independently by your research group (with a little help from the class instructor). Although students are encouraged to do as much independent thinking as possible to come up with this original research idea, there are a few restrictions. First, the research project must involve the use of communication technology in some way. Second, a quantitative content analysis, survey, or experimental methodology must be used. Students will work on this project all quarter long but will only be graded on this project in two ways. First, each research group will give a group presentation on their findings to the class. This will account for 10% of your overall grade and every group member will get the same grade. Second, each group member will write a 10-page paper on this project worth 30% of your grade. Unlike the presentation, the papers will be written independently and graded independently of the rest of the group. Specific guidelines for the presentation and paper will be provided later in the course.

Research Participation:

A few times throughout the quarter you will be given the opportunity to participate in a research study. These studies are conducted by both faculty and graduate students in the School of Communication and will allow you to experience communication research first-hand. It is not yet known how many hours of research you will be asked to participate in but this number will NOT exceed 2.5 hours. More information on the research participation requirement will be given later in the quarter.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a disability and would like to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact the instructor as early as possible during the quarter. Also, please contact the office for disability services at 292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty on any course assignment will result minimally in receiving zero points on that assignment and may also lead to further disciplinary action. Students should also familiarize themselves with the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\\_for\\_students/csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp)). Instances of misconduct will be prosecuted through the appropriate university channels.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>	<b><u>Assignments</u></b>
T 3-27	Introduction		
TH 3-29	Overview of Basic Methodology	S&S: Intro	Begin CITI Course
T 4-3	Overview of Content Analyses	Frey et al.: 236 - 243 Smith et al. (2003)	Homework #1
TH 4-5	Overview of Surveys	Frey et al.: 198 - 213 A&D (2000) Study 1	Homework #2
T 4-10	Overview of Experiments	Frey et al.: 169 - 182 A&D (2000) Study 2	Homework #3
TH 4-12	<b>Exam #1</b>		
T 4-17	Comm Tech Special Topic	TBA	Homework #4
TH 4-19	Comm Tech Special Topic	TBA	Homework #5
T 4-24	Comm Tech Special Topic	TBA	Homework #6
TH 4-26	Comm Tech Special Topic	TBA	Homework #7
T 5-1	Comm Tech Special Topic	TBA	Homework #8
TH 5-3	<b>Exam #2</b>		
T 5-8	Lab Work on Group Project		
TH 5-10	Lab Work on Group Project		
T 5-15	Lab Work on Group Project		
TH 5-17	Lab Work on Group Project		
T 5-22	Lab Work on Group Project		
TH 5-24	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
T 5-29	Group Presentations (and <b>FINAL PAPER DUE</b> at the start of class)		
TH 5-31	Group Presentations		