

Brescia University College

IDS 1015/2115G

Interdisciplinary Perspectives: Communication in Modern Life

Term: Winter 2018

Class Time: Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Class Location: BR-MRW 153

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Chater

Office: BR-UH 216

Office Hours: TBA

E-mail: achater@uwo.ca

Course Description and Objectives

The course presents an interdisciplinary overview of the study of communication. It examines the ways we communicate with each other in the face of new technologies and shifting societal values. It examines interpersonal communication, group communication, public communication and mass communication. It also helps develop academic writing, research and thinking skills, designed to help students in all areas of study.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe controversies in modern communication and develop multi-faceted opinions about related issues (communication, social awareness and engagement, valuing)
- Analyze the impact of new technologies on communication and apply this knowledge to modern life (critical thinking, inquiry and analysis)
- Explain how the way we communicate in society impacts our personal lives and society in general (self-awareness and development)
- Develop logical arguments related to course material supported by quality academic research and critical thinking (critical thinking, inquiry and analysis)
- Plan arguments and structure writing to enhance its maximum impact and ensure major points are convincing (communication, problem solving)

Note: You cannot take IDS 1015 if you have previously taken IDS 2115. You cannot take IDS 2115 if you have previously taken IDS 1015. If you are not sure if you are eligible to register for this course, see the course instructor as soon as possible.

Class Organization

Monday's class will usually consist of a brief, interactive lecture on research skills followed by a practice activity. Wednesday's class will consist of a longer lecture on an aspect of communication, followed by an active learning activity.

Required Readings

Readings will be posted to the class OWL website (<https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). Read each week's assigned readings before coming to class.

Assignments and Evaluations

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Essay Proposal/Reflection	5%	January 31
Annotated Bibliography	15%	February 14
Essay Outline	5%	March 7
Peer review	5%	March 21
Essay	30%	March 28
Participation	10%	Various
Exam	30%	April Exam Period

Support Services

Emotional and mental distress: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/mental-health-and-wellness/>

Students with disabilities: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/about/accessibility/>

Learning services and help: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/learning-enhancement/>

Class Participation (10%)

Throughout the term, you will be evaluated based on the quality and quantity of your in-class participation. If you believe that you are too shy to participate, please see the course instructor as soon as possible to discuss strategies to overcome your shyness. You also earn participation marks by 1) bringing a news article to discuss during class, 2) e-mailing the course instructor questions and comments based on the lecture, or 3) visiting the course instructor during office hours to discuss lecture material. You will receive your participation mark-to-date at the mid-way point of each term (February 20).

Below is the rubric used to evaluate participation:

Mark	Comments
90%+	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent comments• Comments make specific reference to assigned readings, when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments demonstrate analytical thought• Comments are delivered articulately
80% - 89%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent comments• Comments usually make specific reference to assigned readings, when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments usually demonstrate analytical thought• Comments are usually delivered articulately
70% - 79%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited comments• Comments usually make specific reference to assigned readings, when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments usually demonstrate analytical thought• Comments are usually delivered articulately <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent comments• Comments rarely make specific reference to assigned readings, even when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments usually demonstrate analytical thought• Comments are usually delivered articulately
50% - 69%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited comments• Comments rarely make specific reference to assigned readings, even when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments demonstrate limited analytical thought• Comments are not delivered articulately
< 50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few or no comments• Comments rarely make specific reference to assigned readings, even when appropriate, as well as the week's lecture• Comments demonstrate limited analytical thought• Comments are not delivered articulately

Essay Proposal/Reflection (5%)

Students will write a brief, two-page reflection that will discuss a question of their choosing. The question must relate to course content and the study of communications. Students must then write their term paper on that topic.

You should not use secondary sources to answer the question. The purpose of the assignment is to provide a well-written expression of a well-reasoned opinion.

A good-quality reflection will provide a thoughtful and well-reasoned opinion on the chosen topic. It will be well written with almost no typographic errors or grammatical errors (for example, only one typo). It will be written in a concise and to-the-point manner.

*****OPTIONAL BONUS MARKS*****

The instructor will mark your reflection and return it as soon as possible. If you resubmit your assignment the following class, the instructor will re-mark your assignment. The higher of the two marks will be your mark on the assignment! Resubmitting your assignment is optional.

Annotated Bibliography (15%)

Your term essay must include a minimum of 8 scholarly sources. You must hand in an annotated bibliography with 4 of these sources.

The annotated bibliography must include the appropriate citations according to a major citation style (i.e., MLA, CMS, etc.). It also must include annotations that 1) state the source's thesis and 2) summarize the main argument and method. Each annotation should be 100-150 words.

A good quality annotated bibliography will include 4 high quality, academic sources. It will accurately and thoughtfully summarize the argument presented in these sources, complete with all pertinent information. The grammar and spelling will be correct and professional (i.e., only one or two spelling and major grammatical errors). The citation style will be employed with few errors (i.e., only one small error).

*****OPTIONAL BONUS MARKS*****

If you visit the instructor during office hours before the assignment is due, and show some evidence that you have begun serious work on the assignment, you will receive a 3% bonus on the assignment. This 3% could be the difference between a "B+" and an "A-". This visit is optional. Examples of evidence of "serious work" would include an outline, a rough draft, or even several pages of notes about chosen articles.

Essay Outline (5%)

You must hand in an essay outline. If you visit me during office hours, I will give you feedback on your outline. A document detailing the format of the essay outline will be available on the class OWL website.

This assignment will not be marked based on a rubric. If you hand in the assignment on time and the outline is complete, you will receive mark of 100%. If it is partly complete, or in need of significant revision, you will receive a mark of 50%. If the assignment is late without accommodation, you will receive a mark of 0%.

The purpose of handing in the outline is to practice structuring arguments.

Peer Review (5%)

The week before your essay is due, you will participate in peer review. You will trade a draft of your paper with a classmate and give feedback on the quality of their argument, research, grammar, style and fulfillment of assignment expectations.

This assignment will not be marked based on a rubric. At the end of the session, each student will evaluate the quality of the feedback they received and mark it out of 10.

If you cannot attend this class for a valid reason, such as a medical issue, please talk the instructor beforehand, and we will create an alternate assignment.

Essay (30%)

You will write an argumentative essay in response to the topic you selected for your reflection. Essays must be 8-10 pages, not including your bibliography or cover page. Your essay must include a minimum of 8 scholarly sources.

The instructor will provide a rubric before the essay due date. A good-quality essay will deliver a persuasive argument in response to the essay topic. It will provide good-quality research from a wide variety of scholarly sources. It will demonstrate analytical and critical thinking about sources and will contribute your own insight and analysis. It will consider and debunk counter-arguments to your view. It will be logically organized into sub-arguments. Each sub-argument will be equally strong. The grammar and spelling will be correct and professional (i.e., less than five spelling and major grammatical errors).

*****OPTIONAL BONUS MARKS*****

If you hand in a research log along with the essay, the instructor will add 3% to your essay mark. This 3% could be the difference between a “B+” and an “A-”. The instructor will provide a chart after the annotated bibliography assignment is due. You must fill in the chart with what you did on 10 days to create your final essay (for example, “went to the library to look for resources; read two journal articles; talked to my friend about some ideas”).

Exam (30%)

The final exam for the course will be held during the April exam period. The exact date will be released during the term. The final exam will be three hours. A breakdown of the exam format will be given during the term. On the last day of class, or two weeks before the exam, a two-page exam guide and practice questions will be uploaded to the class OWL site. Practice questions will be very similar, though not necessarily identical, to the questions that will be on the final exam. A good-quality answer should include material from lectures and the week's assigned readings.

Readings

Week 1: Introduction – January 8 and January 10

- Martin Luther King, “I Have A Dream . . . “ Speech at the March On Washington, August 28, 1963.

Week 2: Philosophy and Free Speech – January 15 and January 17

- Nigel Warburton, “A Free Market in Ideas?,” in *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 22-42.
- Dale Carruthers, “Prospect of Further Violence Grows After Second London Clash Testing Limits of Tolerance,” *London Free Press*, September 25, 2017.

Week 3: Politics and Fake News – January 22 and January 24

- Office of the Director of National Intelligence, *Background to ‘Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections’: The Analytic Process and Cyber Incident Attribution*, January 6, 2017.
- David Leonhardt and Stuart A. Thompson, “Trump’s Lies: The Definitive List,” *New York Times*, July 20, 2017.

Week 4: History and Propaganda – January 29 and January 31 – REFLECTION DUE

- George Orwell, “Propaganda and Demotic Speech,” *Persuasion* 2, no. 1 (1944): 223-231.
- American First World War poster gallery
- Canadian First World War poster gallery
- British Second World War poster gallery

Week 5: History and Remembrance – February 5 and February 7

- David Herbert Donald, “Herndon and Mary Lincoln,” in *Lincoln Reconsidered: Essays on the Civil War* (New York: Open Road Media, 1956/1972), 75-88.
- Christopher Carbone, “Which Confederate Statues Were Removed? A Running List,” *Fox News*, September 28, 2017.

Week 6: Sociology and Class – February 12 and February 14 – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

- Elizabeth Currid-Halkett, “The Twenty-First Century ‘Leisure Class,’ ” in *The Sum of Small Things: A Theory of the Aspirational Class* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2017), 1-23.
- CBC, “Hipster Handbook: An Old Term That’s Taken On New Meaning,” *The Passionate Eye*, September 17, 2017.
- Alice Pfeiffer, “The Hipster Is Dead. Long Live the Hipster,” *The Guardian*, October 3, 2015.

Reading week – no class February 19 or February 21

Week 7: Psychology and Technology – February 26 and February 28

- Aziz Ansari, *Modern Romance* (New York: Penguin Press, 2015), excerpts.
- Ryan Bradley, “The Accent Whispers of Hollywood,” *New York Times*, July 25, 2017.

Week 8: Geography and Contested Mapping – March 5 and March 7 – **OUTLINE DUE**

- Jeremy Black, *Maps and Politics* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003), excerpts.

Week 9: Women’s Studies and Communication – March 12 and March 14

- Beth Teresa Bell and Helga Dittmar, “Does Media Type Matter? The Role of Identification in Adolescent Girls’ Media Consumption and the Impact of Different Thin-Idea Media on Body Image,” *Sex Roles* 65 (2011): 478-490.
- Watch: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, “We Should All Be Feminists,” TED Talk, April 12, 2013,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=hg3umXU_qWc.
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Week 10: March 19 and March 21 – **PEER REVIEW**

- Peer review worksheet

Week 11: Indigenous Studies and Postcolonialism – March 26 and March 28 – **ESSAY DUE**

- Review the website <https://www.canadasshame.com/>
- Watch the trailer for the film *Angry Inuk*:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4tfmdv5Z7w>

Week 12: Education and Freedom – April 2 and April 4

- George Orwell, “Why I Write,” *Gangrel*, 1946.
- “Free Speech on Campus” folio

Week 13: Exam Review – April 9 and April 11

- Exam review guide

Policy on Late Assignments

Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the due date. If you do not hand in a stapled, paper copy of your assignment by the beginning of class (i.e., before the day's lecture begins), your assignment will be counted as late. Your assignment will be deducted 2% per day it is late, including weekends.

You must submit each assignment to Turnitin through the link on the class OWL website. If you do not submit your assignments to Turnitin by the beginning of class on the various due dates, your assignment will be counted as late. Your assignment will not be marked until it is uploaded to Turnitin.

If you cannot complete the essay or annotated bibliography on time or require a makeup exam for medical or other valid reasons, you must inform the instructor and visit Brescia Academic Advising to submit the required documents. Only Brescia Academic Advising can grant these extensions and schedule makeup exams. Information on documentation can be found here: <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/academic-advising/>

If you cannot complete the reflection assignment or essay outline on time, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. The instructor has discretion granting extensions for these assignments.

If you do not attend the peer review session, you cannot make-up this assignment, unless you received an accommodation from the instructor beforehand.

If you cannot attend several lectures for medical or other valid reasons, you must visit Brescia Academic Advising and submit the required documents. Missing up to two lectures will not impact your mark; if you must miss a significant number of lectures for a valid reason, you can submit an additional written assignment.

If a conflict emerges because of a religious observance, please inform the instructor two weeks in advance to make a reasonable accommodation.

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of

occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> .

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.