



**COMM 4523 Communication Theory
Fall 2016**

Instructor:	Dr. Jennifer Erdely
Section # and CRN:	N01 - 13699
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Office Hours:	Tuesday and Thursday 2-6pm (Or By Appointment)
Virtual Office Hours:	Monday 10-11am
Mode of Instruction:	Face to Face
Course Location:	205 Northwest Houston Center
Class Days & Times:	Tuesday 6-8:50pm
Catalog Description:	This course takes a close, critical look at some of the most important contemporary theories of human communication, emphasizing their practical implications for society and our everyday lives.
Prerequisites:	Prerequisites: Junior standing and COMM 2513, or COMM 2523, or COMM 2533, or COMM 2543.
Co-requisites:	none
Required Texts:	Bell, Elizabeth. <i>Theories of Performance</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2008.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. *Theory*: To develop an improved understanding of the principles of interpersonal functioning.
2. *Application*: To experience directly the elements inherent in a positive interpersonal communication environment.
3. *Analysis*: To learn strategies for examining individual, family, group, and social communication processes critically and analytically.
4. *Awareness*: To increase sensitivity to the nature and implications of interpersonal communication skills such as verbal and nonverbal messages, perception, decision making, and conflict management.

	Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:	Program Learning Outcome # Alignment	Core Curriculum Outcome Alignment
1	Articulate that performance is a category of communication theory	1, 3	Communication
2	Apply theory to a communication phenomenon	1	Communication Critical Thinking
3	Articulate the ethical implications of each theory.	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication Critical Thinking Social Responsibility
4	Apply analytical, precise, and elaborated terms, concepts, and theories for talking and writing about performance and the ways in which they communicate meaning	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication Critical Thinking Social Responsibility
5	Interpret texts (performances, film, television, etc.) to expand experience and understanding of the self and society	1, 2, 3, 4	Communication Critical Thinking Communication

Major Course Requirements**Presentation**—online visual element that helps explain your self-concept**Exams** – written tests designed to measure knowledge of presented course material**Exercises** – written assignments designed to supplement and reinforce course material**Class Participation** – online presence and participation in class discussion board**Method of Determining Final Course Grade**

Course Grade Requirement	Value (points)	Total (percentage)
1) Application Paper #1	200	20%
2) Application Paper #2	200	20%
3) Application Paper #3	200	20%
4) Mini-performance #1	100	10%
5) Mini-performance #2	150	15%
6) Poetic Workshop	50	5%
7) Comprehension Quizzes	100	10%
Total:	1000	100%

Grading Criteria and Conversion:

A = 180-200pts

B = 160-179pts

C = 140-159pts

D = 120-139pts

F = less than 119pts

Detailed Description of Major Assignments:

Grade Requirement	Description
Application Papers	You will turn in an application paper (3) times this semester. These papers will be application of theories to current events and/or performances. Each will be four (4) pages long. You will turn in (3) probes at 200 points each totaling 600 points. You will turn these in on eCourses. The due dates are listed on the schedule. Every assignment is due at 11pm. I cannot accept it if it is 11:01 or later. Prepare accordingly.
Poetic Workshop	This will be a workshop held by a special guest. Your attention, full attendance, and participation are worth 50 points.
Comprehension Quizzes	A quiz will be given promptly at the beginning of class to test your reading comprehension. You must be on time for class in order to take the quiz. You must have a blank piece of paper and writing instrument to take the quiz. There are no makeups for the quizzes. Take notes on the readings; pay careful attention to what the author is saying. When you're reading ask yourself, "Why would Dr. Erdely have me read this?" and/or "How will this help me better understand voice, diction, and performance?", "What will help me with my performances and activities in this class?" 10 @10 points each
Mini-performances	The performance method of communication ascribes to the fact that we learn theory through our bodies. These mini-performances will ask you to devise an explanation to a theory using performative techniques.

Course Procedures**Taskstream**

Taskstream is a tool that Prairie View A&M University uses for assessment purposes. One of your assignments will be considered an "artifact," an item of coursework that serves as evidence that course objectives are met. More information will be provided during the semester, but for general information, you can visit Taskstream via the link in eCourses.

Instructor Policies: By remaining in this class, you signal your agreement with the policies and procedures governing this course to the professor and the university.

Attendance: Regular attendance is crucial to your success in this class. You must be on time and prepared with all

of your materials on class days. If you do not come to class, you will be held responsible for all information and/or in-class activities. You will not be permitted to make up or complete any assignments or quizzes in a class for which you are absent or tardy.

Submission of Assignments: Make sure that you are attentive to the due date and time for assignments. You will not be allowed to submit late work or take quizzes or exams on days that you are late for class or from break. If you are absent due to a school-sponsored organization or team activity, your assignment **MUST** be turned in **BEFORE** you leave. I will not accept late assignments, presentations, exams, quizzes, or discussions unless you have documentation that you were in the hospital or emergency room. If you are late, you will be marked absent and will get a (0) zero for participation. If you miss the quiz because you are late, you will not be allowed to take it and will receive a zero. There is no extra credit.

Classroom Etiquette: In order to make each class session as productive as possible it is important that we follow classroom protocols.

- Please refrain from whispering or carrying on conversations with other class members when lectures, presentations, or discussions are in progress. If you decide to engage in this behavior you will be asked to leave and get a zero (0) for participation.
- Class discussions can be lively; however, students are required to practice civility towards the professor and their classmates. If a student decides to speak in a disrespectful tone to one of his or her classmates or the professor, that student will be asked to leave and earn a zero (0) for participation.
- Please refrain from reading materials or doing homework unrelated to class during our sessions. If you decide to engage in this behavior you will get a zero (0) for participation.
- Turn OFF and PUT AWAY cell phones, mp3 players, and headphones when in class. If you are looking at your cell phone, texting, or sending emails, you will get a zero (0) for participation.

Participation: Participation includes the quality of your contributions to class discussions, your attentiveness, your effort, and your attitude. Students are graded on the quality as well as the quantity of their class participation.

Attendance with a few brief comments all semester is average (C) participation. Below average or poor participation (D or F) includes side conversations and/or outbursts that contribute to an unacceptable noise level and disrupt the class; off-topic questions, comments, and/or examples demonstrate a lack of understanding of course material and disrupt the class; frequent absences, tardiness, and/or early departures; and failing to take notes. Above average and excellent participation (B or A) includes regular frequent questions, comments, and/or examples that demonstrate an understanding of course material, contribute to the class topic, seek additional knowledge relevant to the class topic, etc.

Student Responsibility: You are responsible for being fully knowledgeable of the contents of this syllabus, your individual graded assignments, and your course grade.

If you have problems with e-mail, eCourses, etc., it is your responsibility to contact IT immediately to document and/or to fix the problem, and to find a computer lab, public library, etc., to submit any assignments by or before the deadline via eCourses. Late work will not be accepted or graded. You are responsible for any material covered in class meetings, via on-line resources such as eCourses, and/or assigned as homework.

Citation: All sources used to complete assignments, exams, performances, presentations or other work completed for this course should follow the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition. All sources (unless otherwise stated) must be peer-reviewed, scholarly sources and acknowledged in the text and in a Bibliography. **The penalty for plagiarism is not only failing the course, but may result in expulsion from the university.**

Tentative Semester Calendar	
Week 1	8.23
Topic	Welcome and Introduction to Course and Syllabus
Reading	Syllabus
Assignments	none
Week 2	8.30
Topic	Introducing Theories of Performance
Readings	Preface & Chapter 1
Assignments	Take notes on the chapters as you read; Quiz #1
Week 3	9.6
Topic	Constituting Performance
Readings	Ch.2
Assignments	Take notes on the chapters as you read; Quiz #2
Week 4	9.13
Topic	Performing Texts
Readings	Ch. 3 Performing Texts
Assignments	Take notes on the chapters as you read; Quiz #3; Mini Performance #1 (p. 72)
Week 5	9.20
Topic	Performing Social Roles
Readings	Ch. 6 Performing Social Roles
Assignments	Take notes on the chapters as you read; Quiz #4;
Week 6	9.27
Topic	Performing Culture
Readings	Ch. 5
Assignments	Take notes on the chapters as you read; Quiz #5;
Week 7	10.4
Topic	Poetic Workshop
Readings	none
Assignments	Poetic Workshop; 50 points
Week 8	10.11
Topic	Performing Resistance
Readings	Ch. 8 Performing Resistance
Assignments	Take notes on the chapter as you read; Quiz #6
Week 9	10.18
Topic	Identity and Social Roles
Readings	p.164
Assignments	Application Paper #1 Due by 11pm
Week 10	10.25
Topic	Performing Identity
Readings	Ch. 7 Performing Identity
Assignments	Take notes on the chapter as you read; Quiz #7
Week 11	11.1
Topic	Performing Drama
Readings	Ch. 4 Performing Resistance

Assignments	Take notes on the chapter as you read; Quiz #8
Week 12	11.8
Topic	Performing Technologies
Readings	Ch. 9 Performing Technologies
Assignments	Take notes on the chapter as you read; Quiz #9
Week 13	11.15
Topic	Cyborgs
Readings	Ch. 9, p. 252
Assignments	Mini Performance #2 (p.252) – Post on Seelio
Week 14	11.22
Topic	Applying Theory to Resistance
Readings	Readings about Resistance
Assignments	Application Paper #2 Due – Write a theoretical paper about a performance of resistance
Week 15	11.29
Topic	Review Day
Readings	Reread Chs. 8-9
Assignments	Discuss possible topics for Application Paper #3
Week 16	12.6
Topic	Final Exam
Readings	
Assignments	Application Paper #3 Due at 11pm on eCourses **Graduating Seniors** due on 12.1

Student Support and Success

John B. Coleman Library

The library and its partners have as their mission to provide resources and instructional material in support of the evolving curriculum, as a partner in Prairie View A&M University's mission of teaching, research, and service and to support the University's core values of access and quality, diversity, leadership, relevance, and social responsibility through emphasis on ten key areas of service. It maintains library collections and access both on campus, online, and through local agreements to further the educational goals of students and faculty. <https://www.pvamu.edu/library/> Phone: 936-261-1500

The Learning Curve (Center for Academic Support)

The Learning Curve offers Tutoring via peer tutoring. The services include workshops (i.e., Save My Semester, Recalculate Your Route), seminars (i.e., Tools You Can Use: TI-84), group review sessions (i.e., College Algebra Topic Reviews, GRE Preparation), group study opportunities (i.e., TSIA, HESI, Study Break, Exam Cram), and test-taking strategies (How to take Notes, Study Buddy, 5 Day Study Guide). The Learning Curve is a nationally certified tutoring program through the National Tutoring Association. The peer tutors are trained and certified by the coordinator each semester. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 207F. Phone: 936-261-1561

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS)

The Center for the Oversight and Management of Personalized Academic Student Success (COMPASS) is designed to help Prairie View students in their second year and beyond navigate towards graduation by providing the following services: Academic Advisement, Targeted Tutorials for Personalized Learning, Campus-Wide Referrals, and Academic & Social Workshops. Location: J.B. Coleman Library Rm. 306. Phone: 936-261-1040

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides student consultants on all aspects of the writing process and a variety of writing assignments. Writing Center consultations assist students in such areas as prewriting, brainstorming, audience awareness, organization, research, and citation. Students taking on-line courses or courses at the Northwest Houston Center or College of Nursing may consult remotely or by email. Location: Hilliard Hall Rm. 121. Phone: 936-261-3724.

Student Counseling Services

The Student Counseling Services unit offers a range of services and programs to assist students in maximizing their potential for success: short-term individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as crisis intervention, outreach, consultation, and referral services. The staff is licensed by the State of Texas and provides assistance to students who are dealing with academic skills concerns, situational crises, adjustment problems, and emotional difficulties. Information shared with the staff is treated confidentially and in accordance with Texas State Law. Location: Owens-Franklin Health Center Rm. 226. Phone: 936-261-3564

Testing

The Department of Testing administers College Board CLEP examinations, the HESI A2 for pre-nursing majors, LSAT for law school applicants and MPRE for second-year law students, the Experiential Learning Portfolio option, the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment, which determines college readiness in the state, and exam proctoring, among other service such as SAT and ACT for high school students. Location: Delco Rm. 141. Phone: 936-261-4286

Office of Diagnostic Testing and Disability Services

As a federally-mandated educational support unit, the Office of Disability Services serves as the repository for confidential disability files for faculty, staff, and students. For persons with a disability, the Office develops individualized ADA letters of request for accommodations. Other services include: learning style inventories, awareness workshops, accessibility pathways, webinars, computer laboratory with adapted hard and software, adapted furniture, proctoring of non-standardized test administrations, ASL interpreters, ALDs, digital recorders, livescribe, Kurtzweil, and a comprehensive referral network across campus and the broader community. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 317. Phone: 936-261-3585

Veteran Affairs

Veterans Services works with student veterans, current military and military dependents to support their transition to the college environment and continued persistence to graduation. The Office coordinates and certifies benefits for both the G.I. Bill and the Texas Hazlewood Act. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 323. Phone: 936-261-3563

Office for Student Engagement

The Office for Student Engagement delivers comprehensive programs and services designed to meet the co-curricular needs of students. The Office implements inclusive and accessible programs and services that enhance student development through exposure to and participation in diverse and relevant social, cultural, intellectual, recreational, community service, leadership development and campus governance. Location: Memorial Student Center Rm. 221. Phone: 936-261-1340

Career Services

Career Services supports students through professional development, career readiness, and placement and employment assistance. The Office provides one-on-one career coaching, interview preparation, resume and letter writing, and career exploration workshops and seminars. Services are provided for students at the Northwest Houston Center and College of Nursing in the Medical Center twice a month or on a requested basis. Distance Learning students are encouraged to visit the Career Services website for information regarding services provided. Location: Evans Hall Rm. 217. Phone: 936-261-3570

University Rules and Procedures

Disability Statement (Also See Student Handbook):

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Evans Hall, Room 317, or call 936-261-3585/3.

Academic Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic Misconduct (See Student Handbook)

The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual Misconduct (See Student Handbook):

Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Title IX Statement

Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) is committed to supporting students and complying with the Texas A&M University System non-discrimination policy. It seeks to establish an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual assault or attempted sexual assault, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, the faculty member must report the basic facts of your experience to Ms. Alexia Taylor, PVAMU's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are individuals who can meet with you. The Title IX Coordinator is designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can assist you with understanding your options and connect you with on- and off-campus resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached by phone at 936-261-2123 or in Suite 013 in the A.I. Thomas Administration Building.

Class Attendance Policy (See Catalog for Full Attendance Policy)

Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Attending all classes supports full academic development of each learner whether classes are taught with the instructor physically present or via distance learning technologies such as interactive video and/or internet.

Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class during regular semesters and summer terms. Each faculty member will include the University's attendance policy in each course syllabus.

Student Academic Appeals Process

Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS**Minimum Recommended Hardware and Software:**

- Intel PC or Laptop with Windows 7; Mac with OS X; Smartphone or iPad/Tablet with Wi-Fi
- High speed Internet access
- 8 GB Memory
- Hard drive with 320 GB storage space
- 15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit
- Sound card w/speakers
- Microphone and recording software
- Keyboard & mouse
- Most current version of Google Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer or Firefox

Note: Be sure to enable Java & pop-ups in the Web browser preferences

Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills:

- Sending and receiving email
- A working knowledge of the Internet
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word (or a program convertible to Word)
- Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader
- Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S.

Netiquette (online etiquette):

Students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats as directed. Students are to

be respectful and courteous to others on discussions boards. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Technical Support:

Students should go to <https://mypassword.pvamu.edu/> if they have password issues. The page will provide instructions for resetting passwords and contact information if login issues persist. For other technical questions regarding eCourses, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3283

Communication Expectations and Standards:

Emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor, usually in less than 48 hours. Urgent emails should be marked as such. Check regularly for responses.

Discussion Requirement:

Online courses often require minimal to no face-to-face meetings. However, conversations about the readings, lectures, materials, and other aspects of the course can take place in a seminar fashion. This will be accomplished by the use of the discussion board. The exact use of discussion will be determined by the instructor.

It is strongly suggested that students type their discussion postings in a word processing application and save it to their PC or a removable drive before posting to the discussion board. This is important for two reasons: 1) If for some reason your discussion responses are lost in your online course, you will have another copy; 2) Grammatical errors can be greatly minimized by the use of the spell-and-grammar check functions in word processing applications. Once the post(s) have been typed and corrected in the word processing application, it/they should be copied and pasted to the discussion board.