

SPRING 2026 - EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IN A DIGITAL WORLD

University of Florida University Honors Program
IDH3931-Honors Course * Class #18213 * Section 2201

Thursday 8th Period * 3:00PM – 3:50PM
Honors Village, Room 114 * Bldg. #1



INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: R. Renee Clark, Ph.D.
Email: rclark@honors.ufl.edu
Office Location: Honors Village Bldg. 4, First Floor
Office Phone: 352-392-1519
Office Hours: By appointment via Microsoft Booking: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

"The art of conversation is the art of hearing as well as being heard." – William Hazlitt

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." – George Bernard Shaw

"To effectively communicate, we must realize that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others." – Tony Robbins

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou



COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Using various forums, technology provides a viable method for people to communicate with each other locally and worldwide. **Effectively** communicating **successfully** using computer-mediated communication tools is crucial and has become even more essential and prevalent as we learned in 2020 during the pinnacle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Effective Communication in a Digital World is an UF University Honors Program course focusing on professional development, specifically highlighting verbal and non-verbal communication methods that are connected to obtaining letters of recommendations and internships as well as preparing for job and graduate school interviews. Remember, whether we communicate with each other face-to-face or via Zoom, the basic elements of effective communication are the same: sender, communication channel, message, receiver, and feedback." The objectives of this one-credit professional development honors course are to:

- Provide a historical overview of popular computer-mediated communication tools
- Analyze the impact of digital tools and social networks on interpersonal communication
- Present information to assist students with effectively communicating in a digital world while helping to improve communication skills, and expand their professional network

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

There are no textbooks for this course. Students will be required to select, read, and write a blogpost review of three journal articles. The articles will focus on a variety of topics related to effective communication in a digital world.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This class will be held face-to-face. All students are expected to attend class in person.

Students are expected to be punctual in class attendance and remain in the classroom for the entire class session, as they would in any professional/business meeting (unless an urgent need arises, or prior arrangements have been made with the instructor).

Class discussion is an extremely important part of the pedagogy of honor courses! Students should be fully prepared to engage in **every** in-class discussion and use the opportunity to continue to develop effective professional communication skills. This includes demonstrating respect for differing perspectives and contributing to all discussions.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Religious Holidays: Religious holidays are always excused; however, please notify the instructor, in writing, within the first two weeks of class so that appropriate accommodations may be made.

Medical and Family Emergencies: Please submit documentation to verify your reason for missing class to instructor via email. If your medical/family situation requires you to miss two or more consecutive class meetings, please complete an ***Instructor Notification Request*** through UF's Dean of Students Office/Care Team. If your absence is confirmed and excused, the Care Team will contact all your instructors directly to excuse your absence. If you have questions about excusing long-term medical and family emergencies, please call the Care Team at 352-294-2273 or email DSOCares@dso.ufl.edu.

If you are sick, please do not attend class. Instead take care of yourself and visit the Student Health Care Center. Also, if you need assistance or have any concerns, please contact the course instructor.

FLU, COVID-19, & OTHER ILLNESSES

If you are experiencing any Flu or COVID-19 type symptoms, please do not attend class. If you are not able to attend class due to a positive test for Flu, COVID-19, etc., course materials will be provided to you, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. For an excused absence, please submit medical documentation.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES – CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please **TURN OFF** your cell phone ringtone and mute electronic device notification sounds before class begins!

Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices should be used as permitted by the instructor for work directly related to the class session. Sending email and text messages, accessing the Internet, and working on matters unrelated to this course are inappropriate behaviors that hinder and distract from the learning process. In urgent situations, the student should inform the instructor **in advance** about a pending (emergency) phone call or message.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATION

Students in this course are required to have and use their UFL email account for all UF related e-mail functions.

CANVAS

This course will use the e-Learning Canvas site. On this site, you will find the syllabus, course calendar, assignment instructions and deadlines, and other course information.

UF COMPUTING HELP DESK

Hours of Operation - <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>
Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
(352) 392-HELP (4357) * helpdesk@ufl.edu

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students who need accommodations should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

UNIVERSITY HONESTY POLICY

UF students are bound by **The Honor Pledge** which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor

received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code, <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>, specifies several behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor. Please carefully read the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. Also, **please make sure you understand the meaning of plagiarism and self-plagiarism.**

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations.

IN-CLASS RECORDING

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture **does not** include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

****UF Academic Policies can be found at: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.

USE OF GENERATIVE AI

Students are allowed to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as [UF's NaviGator AI](#), for writing assignments. Any such use must be appropriately acknowledged and cited, following the guidelines established by [the APA Style Guide](#), including the specific version of the tool used. Submitted work should include the exact prompt used to generate the content as well as the AI's full response in an Appendix. **Because AI generated content is *not* necessarily accurate or appropriate, it is each student's responsibility to assess the validity and applicability of any generative AI output that is submitted.** You may not earn full credit if inaccurate, invalid, or inappropriate information is found in your work. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered violations of the UF Honor Code. Note that expectations for use of AI in student work may vary across your courses and instructors. Please email me if you have questions regarding what is permissible and not for a particular course or assignment.

Adapted from Harvard University (<https://oue.fas.harvard.edu/ai-guidance>)

ASSIGNMENTS (VISIT COURSE CANVAS PAGE FOR DETAILS)

Assignments in this course aim to facilitate both discussion and professional development related to effective communication in a digital world by exposing students to information about the impact of digital tools and social networks on interpersonal communication. Each assignment provides students the opportunity to share their opinions and research findings about effective communication in a digital world.

***Please Note:** Read page five for document format guidelines for writing assignments.

In-class Assignment: Attendance and Participation – 65 Points (5pts for each class meeting)

***Please read page two for details.**

Journal Article Review Blogposts and Discussions – 45 Points (15pts for each blogpost & discussion)

Creating a blog is one tool to use to help effectively communicate your personal brand in a digital world. Throughout the semester, students will be required to write three journal article reviews, using a **blog post format** and during class, lead a discussion about their journal article review blogpost. The journal article contents must focus on topics that investigate and analyze the impact of digital tools and/or social media platforms on interpersonal communication. **Articles' publication dates must be 2021 to present.**

***Please Note:** Log-in to this course Canvas site to read the assignment overview, and specific descriptions and directions for the Journal Article Review Blogpost assignment.

Final Class Project & Presentation – 70 Points

Students will be required to select a final class project from a list of suggested topics. The list is located on the assignment information document located in Canvas. Or, students can propose their own project idea and submit the idea to the instructor via for approval via email, **by Thursday, February 26th.**

The final project must illustrate and relate to the main focus of the course: Effective Communication in a Digital World. Additionally, students will present an oral presentation about their final project.

***Please Note:** Log-in to this course Canvas site to read the assignment overview, and specific descriptions and directions for this assignment.

GRADING

ASSIGNMENTS (READ CANVAS FOR ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS!)

Assignments:	Possible Points
Attendance <u>and</u> Participation! (Each class 5 points)	65
Journal Article Review Blog Posts (Three Reviews 15 points each)	45
Final Class Project	70
TOTAL	180

ASSIGNMENT EXPECTATIONS

Late Work Policy

Late work will not be accepted for full credit. If you turn the late assignment in before the next class meeting, you may be eligible to earn half credit for the assignment.

Documents Accepted

Submit all assignments to Canvas, unless otherwise noted. Please submit documents to Canvas using PDF or Microsoft Word file format, and upload documents as attachments. Please do not 'copy and paste' any assignments into a Canvas submission box and please do not upload photos of the document. Also, for pictures or screenshots use jpg, jpeg, or png.

Assignment Format

All assignments should be typed, double-spaced, with 12-point Times New Roman font and 1-inch page margins, unless instructed otherwise. For citation formats, please use the latest edition of **American Psychological Association's** Publication Manual (APA Style). A useful guide can be found here: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html.

It is your responsibility to use the proper citation for all assignments especially for paraphrased statements and direct quotes from journal articles. (Read page three, see University Honesty Policy)

Course Grading Scale

Grades will be based on a scale with a total of **180 points** possible. For information on UF grades and grade points, please visit the following website: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>.

Note for Honors Students: A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Letter Grade	Points Earned	Letter Grade	Points Earned
A	168 - 180	C	132 - 138
A-	162 - 167	C-	126 - 131
B+	157 - 161	D+	121 - 125
B	150 - 156	D	114 - 120
B-	144 - 149	D-	108 - 113
C+	139 - 143	E	0 - 107

****Please Note:** The instructor will amend this syllabus at any time should the need arise.