COMM 400

Communication Capstone

Spring 2020

Course Information

1 cr. Pass/Fail. Complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experience in the major. Demonstrate readiness to transition into the professional world. GEP: Capstone. Course is 100% online, managed in Canvas. If you are new to the Canvas environment, you will find a Student Resources module at the bottom of the Home page for the course.

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Rhonda Sprague Office: CAC 208 Office Telephone: 715.346.2812 (cannot receive texts) Email: rsprague@uwsp.edu or Rhonda.Sprague@uwsp.edu (preferred mode of contact) Office Hours: Unless I tell you differently, I will be in my office TR 10-11 (until February 13) and W 3-4:30. If you want to meet with me, please send me an email at least 24 hours in advance to make an appointment. You may send me an Email at any time, but please be sure it follows the guidelines below.

Instructor Contact Etiquette

I expect that you will communicate with me in a professional manner at all times. To that end, please attend to the following hints for engaging in professional communication with me (and your other university instructors):

PLEASE DO	<u>PLEASE DO NOT</u>
 be polite. Say please when you ask for help and 	 contact me to ask about something you could find
thank you when you receive it.	out easily on your own (e.g., something on the
be brief and clear.	syllabus, on the Canvas site, or the like).
• include an informative <i>subject line</i> in Emails. I will	 send Emails that read like text messages. Watch
not open Email without a subject specified.	grammar, spelling, and formality.
• include a <i>salutation</i> (such as Dear Professor	 make demands. Instead, ask for help.
Sprague, Greetings, or Hello) and a signature.	 send Email about anything complicated. Make
• specify the <i>course and section</i> about which you are	arrangements to see me in person to discuss
writing or calling. Include your student ID number	complicated issues.
if you are requesting permission or similar.	 put anything into an Email message that you would
• be patient. I should respond within 24 hours.	not be willing to say in person.

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Learning Outcomes for All UWSP Capstone Courses

Upon completion of this course, students will . . .

- 1. Demonstrate skills, processes, and resources needed to make a successful transition from college to the world beyond; and
- 2. Complete a project that integrates knowledge, skills, and experiences related to those General Education Program Outcomes appropriate to the discipline.

Learning Outcomes for the Division of Communication

By the time they complete all major requirements, students will have gained the following competencies:

- 1. Communicate effectively using appropriate technologies for multiple audiences;
- 2. Plan, evaluate and conduct basic research;
- 3. Use theories to understand and solve problems;
- Apply historical perspectives to contemporary issues and practices; and
- 5. Apply principles of ethical decision making in a variety of contexts.

Texts

There are no required texts for this course.

Required Resources

Every student will need access to the following, all of which are available online, and some of which are available in printed form: Your UWSP Email Account; Canvas; Handshake; Big Interview; Student Message of the Day (SMOD); Academic information available through AccesSPoint; Division of Communication website and associated pages; UWSP Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Assignments / Grading

There are 41 points possible in this course. You must earn at least 35 points to earn a passing grade. All assignments in this class (except the Syllabus Quiz) will be graded on a pass/near-pass/fail basis. You will earn a "pass" (2 points) for work that is turned in at the time assigned, complete, and coherent. You will earn a "near-pass" (1 point) for work that is turned in on time but lacking in some area (e.g., you give feedback, but it is not very helpful). You will earn a "fail" (0 points) for work that is not submitted by the deadline, or that is submitted but blank, or that does not show a good-faith effort, or that I cannot read because of formatting issues. **Practically speaking, this system allows you one big screw-up, or a few minor screw-ups, before your overall grade is impacted.** The easiest way to screw up is to miss any assignment deadline. Pay close attention to those as you move through the course.

You will complete the following assignments:

- 1. A quiz over the content of the course syllabus (1 point)
- 2. Future Job Assignment (2 points each; 8 points total) (Course LO#1)
 - a. a position description for an open entry-level job
 - b. a printed resume appropriate for that position
 - c. a cover letter appropriate for that position
 - d. recordings from Big Interview and an overall assessment of your interviewing performance
- 3. An ePortfolio presentation based on the Division's learning outcomes, which serves as an integration and reflection of your curricular and co-curricular activities (2 points) (*Course LO#2*)

You will help one another create the best final products for #2 and #3 by engaging in the following connected activities:

- 4. Online Discussion Forum Original Posts (2 points each; 10 points total). For each assignment, you will make an original post to the Discussion forum before the deadline. Specific requirements for posts are available on the individual assignment description pages in Canvas.
- 5. Discussion Peer Reviews (2 points each set; 10 points total). You will use the automated Peer Review tool in Canvas to complete peer reviews of your classmates' posted work before the weekly deadline.
- 6. Peer Ratings of Your Feedback (2 points each; 10 points total). Each week, your colleagues will evaluate your ability to offer effective, helpful advice about their submissions. I will average the scores you receive from those colleagues. Excellent scores (80-100%) earn full pass points; satisfactory scores (60-79%) earn near-pass points; less-than-satisfactory scores (below 60%) earn zero points. If you fail to submit your peer ratings, you earn a grade of ZERO, regardless of the ratings you earn from your colleagues.

Because of the "stacked" nature of these three assignments, missing any Original Post or Peer Review deadline has a cumulative negative effect. If you miss a deadline for an Original Post, you will lose 6 total points. First, you lose 2 for not meeting the Original Post deadline. In addition, you will not be assigned Peer Reviews, which will cost you 2 more points. You also will not be able to evaluate others' peer reviews of you (because you will not have received any), which will cost you 2 more points. In short, missing an Original Post deadline will constitute your one big screw-up. If you receive less than a full pass grade for ANY additional assignment, you will not be able to earn a passing grade for the course without extra credit. If you do not submit your Peer Reviews on time, you will lose 4 points (2 for missing the Peer Review deadline, 2 more because your peers will not be able to evaluate your performance as a peer reviewer).

Extra Credit

You may earn **one (1)** extra credit point for the course, by taking advantage of any of the following opportunities:

- 1. Attending a career-focused workshop sponsored by the Academic and Career Advising Center. See the list of events posted at https://www.uwsp.edu/acac/pages/major-career-exploration.aspx.
- 2. Attending a private career advising session with a Career Specialist in the ACAC.
- 3.

More information and forms can be found on the Extra Credit information page, in our course's Canvas site.

Late Work Policy

Your classmates count on your active and timely participation in activities. They cannot do their jobs until you complete yours. Therefore, you are expected to meet all deadlines for coursework. *Work that is not submitted by its deadline will only be eligible to receive credit if you have received explicit permission from me to submit late work. I will accept late work for extremely compelling circumstances, but only if you have told me ahead of time that you will be unable to meet the deadline*. Unless you have documentable evidence that you were completely incapacitated and unable to hold your phone or sit at a computer for long enough to leave a voicemail or send an Email telling me about your situation ahead of time, you will not be allowed to make up missed work, regardless of the reason for your absence.

Course Schedule (This might change, I	but will not do so without notice.)
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Week	Date	Assignments Due
1	W Jan 22	Syllabus Quiz due before 11:59PM.
	F Jan 24	Last day to clear drop this course (without receiving a "W" grade)
	M Jan 27	Position Description Original Post must be posted to the Discussion before 11:59 PM.
2	F Jan 31	Position Description Peer Reviews due before 11:59 PM.
	S Feb 2	Position Description Peer Ratings Surveys due before 11:59 PM.
	M Feb 3	Resume must be posted to the Discussion before 11:59 PM.
3	F Feb 7	Resume Peer Reviews due before 11:59 PM.
	S Feb 9	Resume Peer Ratings Surveys due before 11:59 PM.
	M Feb 10	Cover Letter must be posted to the Discussion before 11:59 PM.
4	F Feb 14	Cover Letter Peer Reviews due before 11:59 PM.
	S Feb 16	Cover Letter Peer Ratings Surveys due before 11:59 PM.
	M Feb 17	Big Interview links must be posted to the Discussion before 11:59 PM.
	F Feb 21	Last day to drop this course with a "W" grade
5		Big Interview Peer Reviews due before 11:59 PM.
	S Feb 23	Big Interview Peer Ratings Surveys due before 11:59 PM.
6		Nothing due this week. Work on your Assessment ePortfolio. It will take longer than
		you think.
	M Mar 2	Division Assessment ePortfolio link must be posted to the Discussion before 11:59
7		PM.
	F Mar 6	Assessment ePortfolio Peer Reviews due before 11:59 PM.
	S Mar 8	Assessment ePortfolio Peer Ratings Surveys due before 11:59 PM.
8	W Mar 11	Final Assignments must be submitted to appropriate Dropboxes before 11:59 PM.

Academic Integrity

Although you will be gathering input from other students about your work prior to turning it in, anything you turn in for credit needs to be your own work. You are not allowed to "work together" on graded assignments.

I will not tolerate academic dishonesty of any sort. *If you are found guilty of engaging in academic misconduct, you will fail this course and I will report you to appropriate university personnel for further disciplinary action.*

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student does any of the following:
- (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
- (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the <u>Disability and Assistive Technology Center</u> and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at <u>datctr@uwsp.edu</u>mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude

upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.