ISM 316  Communication, Technology and Organizational Behavior

Instructor: Steven Millet  
Autumn Term 2016  
August 15th – October 15th

Email: steven.millet@doane.edu  
Thursdays, 6:00 – 10:30 PM

Course Description:

This course is about integration of communication, technology, and organizational behavior in a climate of increasing change. THIS IS A COURSE ABOUT CHANGE – ABOUT BEING ABLE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY. The focus of the course is how communication are affected by changes in technology; how technology is impacted by changes in communication; and how organizational behavior is affected by, or affects, communication and technology. In terms of communication, the focus is on practice. In this sense, this is a course geared to applied communication. In terms of technology, the course does not focus on hardware, software, and technological skills, but on knowledge, the sum of all of technology. Finally, in terms of organizational behavior, the focus is on the integration of changes involving key components of information systems management, behavior, communication, and technology, into the practices of the total organization. In sum, the course concerns the concepts of adaptation and flexibility in an organization’s practice of knowledge management. (3 Credits)

Learning Goals and Objectives: At the end of this course, the student should

1. understand and be able to discuss the implications of change related to emerging technology;
2. understand and be able to discuss the changing world of work;
3. be familiar with and able to discuss various approaches to organizational communication;
4. be familiar with and able to discuss aspects of individuals vis-à-vis teams and groups in organizations;
5. be familiar with and able to discuss the concept “new knowledge worker;”
6. understand and be able to discuss the concepts “team-based and learning organizations;”
7. understand and be able to apply the critical thinking perspective to the study of communication, technology, and organizational behavior;
8. understand and be able to discuss the concepts: “systems thinking” and “knowledge management;”
9. be familiar with and able to discuss concepts relating to groups and teams dynamics, communications, place and purpose in the organization, and change;
10. understand and be able to discuss essential keys to making empowerment work in organizations;
11. understand and be able to discuss the concept “continuous learning approach;”
12. be able to organize concepts and make a presentation to a group of peers;
13. be familiar with issues about gender communication, especially related to the workplace;
14. be familiar with and able to utilize group facilitation skills and problem-solving skills; and
15. be able to organize and integrate information and concepts learned into verbal or written form.
**Required Course Text:**


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>General Topics To Be Covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Environmental Context</td>
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<td>Organizational Context</td>
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| 4    | Cognitive Processes of Organizational Behavior  
       MIDTERM EXAM             |
| 5    | Dynamics of Organizational Behavior – Pert 1 |
| 6    | Dynamics of Organizational Behavior – Pert 2 |
| 7    | Managing and Leading        |
| 8    | Project Presentations       |
|      | FINAL EXAM – Final Lab Exam |

**Methods for Assessment of Student Performance:**

The student’s final grade will be determined as follows:
- 20% Course assignments and activities
- 40% Exams (2 scheduled)
- 25% Class Project
- 15% Attendance and Participation

The following Grading Scale will be used:
Classroom Procedure:

The first 2 hours of class will always be devoted to lecture and/or class discussion. The remaining class time may be reserved for students to work on course assignments. Students are encouraged to make optimum use of this time, as your instructor will be readily available to answer any questions you might have. Time will be allotted for working on class projects (discussed the first night of class).

Academic Integrity:

The Doane Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All assignments and exams/quizzes will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and could result in the loss of all points for that particular assignment or exam.

Use of Personal Technology During Class:

Please restrict your use of cell phones to outside of class time. The use of PDAs, Laptop Computers and any personal audio/visual devices are generally prohibited during class time unless approved by your instructor.

Students with Disabilities/Reasonable Accommodations:

Doane seeks to maintain a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities. To ensure your equal access to all educational programs, activities and services, federal law requires students with disabilities notify the college, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations. If you need accommodations in this course, please notify your instructor immediately so that the required documentation is filed, and that your accommodation plan is in place.

Note: The schedule outlined in this syllabus is tentative. All efforts will be made to adhere to it as closely as possible. However, your instructor reserves the right to make any changes to the schedule as needed.