CMS 496 Senior Seminar in Organizational Communication

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
With the guidance of a faculty member, students will develop a research or experiential project, which will demonstrate the knowledge and skills expected upon completion of the major. Satisfactory completion of this project, including a written and oral presentation, will demonstrate a solid understanding of the major, as well as the confidence and skills to work with existing and emerging aspects of the professional field, to do independent research and effective problem-solving, and to communicate effectively. Prerequisites: IDS 206, BUS 215, senior standing, and permission.

by: Gerald Stone, Virginia Richmond, Michael Singletary

Students will demonstrate the following learning outcomes of the major:

• Uses analytical and creative thinking skills to gather and analyze information, to identify and solve problems, to determine potential outcome alternatives, and to make appropriate decisions.
• Demonstrates a solid foundation in organizational communication theories and their practical application.
• Has the ability to use critical and analytical thinking skills for improvement of organizational communication.
• Demonstrates the ability to write a research paper culminating their communication education.
• Reads with comprehension.
• Writes in clear, concise, and grammatically correct English.
• Speaks in clear, concise, and grammatically correct English and deliver effective oral presentations to audiences of all sizes.

CLASS MEETINGS:
The instructor will contact students to announce class meetings dates and times. Students are expected to attend ALL scheduled class meetings.

There will be 4 class meetings throughout the two terms.
- Introductory Class (scheduled after student contact) during the first two weeks of term one
- APA refresher course, to be scheduled during introductory class meeting
- Mid-process discussion, schedule in the last week of the first term, or the first week of the second term.
-Final presentations, to be scheduled with students during mid-process meeting
ATTENDANCE: Attendance for the above meetings is mandatory. Also, deadlines set for turning in drafts and final projects are mandatory. The instructor is available to schedule meetings. All deadlines must be met. Early submission is acceptable.

Course Requirements:
A. Two autobiographies, 4 to 6 pages each in length. The first one is a personal biography, the second one is an educational biography. These will be explained at first class meeting.

B. Read chapters and incorporate the appropriate communication theories into your research project. Also refer to text book for developing any research tools.

C. Explore a particular line of research (i.e.: self disclosure, organizational identification, public relations, gender communication, generational communication, etc.), a theory, or some issue that is problematic in the area of organizational communication. The research should be an original compilation of research offering a new perspective on communication issues.

D. A one to two page proposal paper must be submitted for approval by the assigned deadline prior to beginning the writing of the major research paper. This paper must propose 1) the organizational communication topic that the student wishes to address, 2) the position/perspective with which the student will approach the topic, and 3) what hypotheses the student wishes to prove/disprove (in other words; why should this paper be written at all?) Attached to this proposal must be an annotated bibliography of sources used to support the paper's examination. An annotated bibliography is one that has a one or two line description describing the information covered in the sources listed.

E. Develop and produce a major APA research paper in your particular area of interest. The paper is to be twenty to twenty-five pages in length (even more is acceptable). It should deal with a topic that is of particular interest to furthering your career in organizational communication. It should be a culmination of your education in this area (which means it should challenge you). There may be a project involved with your paper, but you will have to write a paper. Options can be discussed. Turn to the major classes you have taken for your direction. The project itself may take a variety of forms, including: a research project gathering data from live research, to a research project developed from research previously completed. All research must be empirically supported. The student will be responsible for completing work outside of class meetings and arranged deadlines. Any personal research (surveys, questionnaires, etc.) must be approved by instructor prior to distribution. All work must be completed no later than two weeks before the end of the second semester.

References:
You should have at least 20 sources on your reference list pages. This list should be alphabetical according to the authors’ last names. If the author is unknown alphabetize according to the first word in the title other than an article adjective. The list includes all sources that have contributed ideas and information to your paper. The list appears at the end of your paper. Other textual information can be gained by referring to the Writers Guide Book.
If you have read materials that you are not using directly in your text you should also develop a bibliography list of these sources to show the depth of your research.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism means representing another's ideas as your own. This occurs when copying the work of another directly or summarizing or paraphrasing the work without giving credit to the source. Plagiarism is a serious offense in the academic world and is of particular importance at this level of your education. If you have any questions about what needs to be documented, ask me.

**Grading:**

70% of your grade will be determined by the quality and progress of your project, written work and oral presentation. It will be based on the challenge of your topic, the discrimination of theoretical support, the execution of your written paper (i.e.: punctuation, grammar, correct use of sources, format, etc.) and evidence of advancing work between deadlines.

Grades will be lowered if written requirements are not met by the deadlines.

10% of your grade will depend on your oral presentation.
10% of your grade will depend on your personal biography.
10% of your grade will depend on your educational biography.


**Academic Integrity Policy:**

The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of other's ideas without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in a loss of all points for that particular assignment or test.