Communicating Ethics
COJO300X
Fall 2017
Credits

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Professor Contact Information

Professor: Amy May, Ph.D.
Email: amay11@alaska.edu
Phone: 907-474-6591
Skype: By appointment
Office: 102 Bunnell
Office Hours: 11:30-1 & by appt.

Course Information
Overview

We will examine a number of ethical issues through a communication lens, exploring ethical decision making within the context of interpersonal relationships, politics, mass media, etc. Emphasis will be placed on communication as one of the most basic of human activities and a process by which we impinge on and influence each other in a myriad of ways. When communicating, we do not choose words simply; we choose words for the effect we hope they will have on our audiences. We will examine ethical theories such as Ethical Relativism, Egoism, Utilitarianism, Virtue and Justice ethics. We will also look at gender and its role in our ethical choice making. To sum, questions of ethics in communication are a daily occurrence from interpersonal conversation to political campaigning.

Prerequisites

- Successful completion of COJO121, COJO131, COJO141 or permission of the instructor.
- All students successfully registering for this class, either by prerequisite or instructor permission, are assumed to have a working knowledge and understanding of the basic models of human communication (linear, interactional, and transactional).
- All students successfully registering for this class, either by prerequisite or instructor permission, are required to demonstrate college level writing proficiency. The Writing Center is also an excellent resource to ensure the overall quality of your writing. The Writing Center is located in GRUE 801. Visit their website for hours and additional information: http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/

What this class is NOT...

The aim of this course is to assist you, the student, in critically thinking through ethical issues in communication, to understand the responsibility we all bear for the decisions we make, and to recognize the historical and theoretical roots of those ethical decisions.

The goal of this course is not to stipulate for the individual what he or she or they should believe and value, but rather to have each individual examine the philosophy and standards
that are applied when decisions are made and communicated to others.

Course Level Objectives

- Analyze the differences between ethics and morality.
- Describe how the study of ethics is important to your personal, professional, and academic life.
- Examine the nature of ethical philosophy.
- Analyze the principal problems related to ethical philosophy.
- Apply theories of conduct within a communication framework.
- Demonstrate competence applying basic ethical theory and moral reasoning to specific ethical problems within a communication framework.

Delivery Method

Our learning environment consists of **TWO** platforms:

**Blackboard Learn**
This is our main classroom environment. Blackboard hosts all learning materials, assignment descriptions, class calendars, and gradebook. You will also submit your assignments using blackboard.

**Accessibility Statement**

**Privacy**

**Slack**
To help ensure lively and engaging discussion, we will be using Slack, an online/app-based platform designed to engage students.

**Keyboard Accessibility**

**Other Accessibility Considerations**

**Privacy**

- Our classroom Slack can be accessed using this link: [Join Slack](#)
- Download the app for your Apple products: [Apple Store](#)
- Download the app for your Android: [Google Play](#)

Technical Requirements, Prerequisites, and Support
This is an online class, ergo students must have regular access to a computer and the Internet to access online materials in Blackboard and Slack. Students will be expected to download course material as well as upload assignments. If you don’t have access, live in a remote area with limited access or have travel plans that will take you away from access for significant periods of time, this isn’t the class for you. Your success depends on your ability to access and engage.

**Technical Prerequisites**

- Must know how to connect to the internet and browse.
- Must know how to load a website.
- Must know how to conduct research using UAF library resources.
- Must have basic knowledge of how to format a Word or Google doc.
- Must know how to upload a document to Blackboard.
- Must know how to post a discussion response in Slack using the keyboard and enter.
- Must know how to use UAF provided email account to send and receive emails.
- Must be willing to watch “how to” videos provided in Blackboard and Slack to address knowledge gaps and gain proficiency in needed areas.

**Technical Support: OIT**

There are many variables that can impact your ability to connect to our learning environments and successfully navigate Blackboard/Slack. **I am not a technical expert, and I cannot provide technical support.**

UAF employs an entire staff of technical experts to help determine minimum technical requirements based on your computer, operating system, etc.

The technical experts are located in the Office of Information Technology (OIT). OIT is your first stop for any technical-related questions, and they should be consulted immediately if you experience login or any issues that prevent you from accessing our learning environments. Complete details on their location and availability can be found on the [OIT website](#).
Discussion and Assignment Requirements

This class is broken down into a series of modules.

Module = Discussion + Assignment

Discussion requirements, assignment specifications, and due dates are posted on Blackboard.

Discussion

The discussion threads are critical to your learning experience. They are intended to be a place of critical reflection and knowledge creation. Plan on spending some time in the threads. Coming in last minute and typing a few words will not meet expectations.

Follow the “rule of 🙌.” You are required to post 3 high quality responses on 3 separate days, starting no later than day 3 of the assigned module.

What does high quality mean?

- Minimum of 200 words
- Elaborate on previous comments from others
- Present explanations of concepts or methods to help fellow students
- Present reasons for or against a topic in a persuasive fashion
- Share your own personal experiences that relate to the topic
- Cite at least two academic/scholarly sources per APA
There are no late submissions on the discussion posts. The late policy does not apply to
discussion. Why? Once a module ends, we move on.

General Assignment Requirements

The assignments will vary module to module. Sometimes I will ask you to do a vlog. Other
times I will give you options. I will even invite you to suggest assignment ideas. Regardless of
the assignment specifics, you will always be required to format per APA and cite a specified
number of academic/scholarly sources. This is a 300 level class. We are way beyond Google
now.

- You must type and double space your assignments, number each page, set the margins to
  one inch, and use Times New Roman 12 point font.
- All assignments must be submitted as a Word doc or PDF. Links to a Google doc work
  sometimes...sometimes not. To avoid delays in feedback, use Word or PDF.
- All assignment will be submitted via Blackboard. Do NOT email me assignments.
- All references and assignment submissions must be formatted per APA.

If you are not familiar with APA, here are some links to help you get started:

http://www.uaf.edu/english/writing-center/apa-matters/
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Assignments</td>
<td>1600 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grade Review Procedure

Feel free to meet with me during office hours or contact me via email if you have questions
about an assignment or a grade. To initiate the grade review process, you will need to reach out
via email or in person within 5 days of receiving feedback. After 5 days, no adjustments will be
made. Don’t wait until the end of the semester to argue points.
Final Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incompletes/Withdrawal

I follow UAF policy for I/W. Please review grading regulations if you have any questions or concerns.

Late Policy

You will be required to submit assignments throughout the term. I do allow late submissions within four days of the original due date. I highly encourage you to submit on time, however. A late submission on your end does not equal a grading emergency on mine. All late submissions are subject to a 10% per day penalty. After four days, a zero will be finalized in the grade book.

**NOTE: Late policy does not apply to discussion or the final exam.**

Feedback

All feedback will be provided within 7 days of the module end date. The goal is to continue the conversation and promote continuous improvement. All students are expected to review their feedback, ask clarifying questions, and improve week to week.

Response Time

Responding promptly to your questions, concerns, and discussion posts is my goal. I will respond to all emails and general questions posted in Slack within 24 hours. If you do not get a response, assume I did not get your message. Please resend or call if you do not get a response.
For discussion posts, I will respond on a continuous basis to help ensure substantive discussion and engagement.

**Academic Integrity**

Forms of dishonesty include but are not limited to: (1) cheating or helping someone else cheat on an assignment or exam; (2) delivering part or all of a presentation or speech/written assignment that you did not author; (3) plagiarizing part or all of someone else’s written or oral work; (4) failing to cite your sources properly; and (5) falsifying information about any topic, such as why you were absent.

All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students.
- Please see in the student code of conduct: [http://www.uaf.edu/deanofstudents/academic-integrity/](http://www.uaf.edu/deanofstudents/academic-integrity/)
- The complete student code of conduct can be found here: [https://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/09-02.pdf](https://www.alaska.edu/bor/policy/09-02.pdf)

**Disability Services**

The UAF Office of Disability Services is ready to assist eligible students in determining and implementing appropriate academic recommendations. If you have a disability, please visit the [Office of Disability Services](https://www.alaska.edu/disabilityservices) to learn how to request accommodations.

**Contact Information**

UAF Office of Disability Services  
[Whitaker Building, Room 208](https://www.alaska.edu/disabilityservices)  
612 N. Chandalar  
PO Box 755590  
University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5590  
Phone: (907) 474-5655  
TTY: (907) 474-1827  
Fax: (907) 474-5688  
Disability Services E-mail: [uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu)

**Important to Remember:**
- You must provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services to receive accommodations.
- Accommodations take effect once documentation is received; there is no “back dating.” It is your responsibility to work with the Office of Disability Services to make the appropriate arrangements.
• If you are not a UAF student, it is your responsibility to ensure any necessary paperwork is forwarded to the UAF Office of Disability Services.

Classroom Climate

We will touch on culture, gender, sexuality, and other value-based topics. Please be prepared to discuss these subjects in a manner that does not discourage or devalue your classmates. I am a strong advocate of free speech, but this isn’t Twitter.

I will not tolerate offensive language, racial slurs, name-calling, anything considered hate speech, or anything else that disrupts our learning environment.

If your content is deemed offensive, I will take action to have you removed from my class. Go ahead and drop if you can’t handle this.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination.

The University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment, including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you disclose sexual harassment or sexual violence to faculty members or university employees, they must notify the UAF Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. Your choices for disclosure include:

1. You may confidentially disclose and access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health and Counseling Center at 474-7043.
2. You can get support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX coordinator at 474-7599.
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the UAF Police Department at 474-7721.

Student Support Services

UAF eLearning Student Services

e-learning helps students with registration and course schedules, provides information about lessons and student records, assists with the examination process, and answers general questions. Our Academic Advisor can help students communicate with instructors, locate
helpful resources, and maximize their distance learning experience. Contact the UAF eLearning Student Services staff at 907.455.2060 or toll free 1.800.277.8060 or contact staff directly – for directory listing see: http://elearning.uaf.edu/contact

Academic Support

UAF Academic Support Services supports students with academic advising, tutoring and academic support, disability services, computing and IT support.

Registrar

Contact the Registrar's office for things like: enrollment, registration, petitions, transcripts, graduation and more.

General Support

Alternately, contact UAF Student Support Services for first-generation and those with disabilities or low income who may be eligible for additional student support.

Student Polices

UAF maintains an academic environment in which the freedom to teach, conduct research, learn and administer the university is protected. Students enjoy maximum benefit from this environment by accepting responsibilities commensurate with their role in the academic community. Visit UAF Student Policies.

Disclaimer

Disclaimer: This syllabus is a living document and subject to change/revision. All changes/revisions will be uploaded to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to ask questions and seek clarification.