Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS
COMS 550
COMMUNICATION FOR TEACHERS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The theories and skills necessary to manage communication in the education or training environment. Note: Required for all graduate teaching assistants.

RATIONALE
There is substantial evidence to suggest that most graduate students will serve in some instructional/training capacity at some point in their careers. Thus, it is reasonable to suggest that part of the graduate training should focus on the psychology of the instructional process. Generally, the objective of the course is to develop competent instructors by helping them to acquire information relevant to the theory and practice of effective instruction, as well as developing their abilities to apply the information to instructional situations.

I. PREREQUISITE
For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE
Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING
A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
IV. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Illustrate the communication process.
B. Explain the teaching-learning process.
C. Design and execute instructional plans in the classroom.
D. Apply interpersonal theory to a real communication context.
E. Evaluate the current research on the psychology of instructional communication.
F. Summarize the basic principles of communication education.
G. Produce measurable learning outcomes based on the basic principles of communication education.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
B. Course Requirements Checklist
   After reading the Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
C. Discussion Board Forums (2)
   The student is required to provide a thread of at least 400 words in response to a provided prompt for each forum. The student must also reply to at least 2 other classmates’ threads, and each reply must be at least 200 words.
D. Chapter Summaries (16)
   At the conclusion of each module/week, the student is required to submit a summary of each chapter in the assigned reading. The student must overview, summarize, apply, and biblically defend or refute each chapter’s content. The student must answer each question with 100–150 words, and each summary must be completed in 2 hours and 45 minutes.
E. G.I.F.T. Assignments (4)
   The student will develop 4 activities that could be used in his/her current or future teaching/training context to practically illustrate/teach/model a communication principle, theory, etc. to students/participants. Each activity must be 1–2 pages excluding the Works Cited and must be formatted in current MLA format.
F. Research Paper
   The student will write a 10-page research-based paper in current MLA format that focuses on some aspect of communication in the classroom. The paper must include at least 15 scholarly references in addition to the course textbook and the Bible.
G. Research Presentation and Presentation Critiques

The student will record an 8–10-minute presentation of his/her research paper using a webcam or other video recording device. The student will also critique at least 5 classmates’ presentations on delivery and content. Each critique must be 200–250 words.

H. Exams (4)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material completed in the modules/weeks covered prior to the exam. Each exam will consist of 5 essay questions. The exam will be open-book/open-notes and will have a time limit of 2 hours and 45 minutes.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (2 at 30 pts ea)</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Summaries (16 at 15 pts ea)</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G.I.F.T. Assignments (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation Critiques</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams (4 at 50 pts ea)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1010</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Scale

- A = 940–1010
- A- = 920–939
- B+ = 900–919
- B = 860–899
- B- = 840–859
- C+ = 820–839
- C = 780–819
- C- = 760–779
- D+ = 740–759
- D = 700–739
- D- = 680–699
- F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the class will not be accepted.
4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.
D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
# COMS 550 Course Schedule

Mullen & Mullen, *Teaching Communication Creatively*. (2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 1–2  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 2–3  
1 presentation | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
DB Forum 1  
Chapter 1 Summary  
Chapter 2 Summary | 10  
0  
30  
15  
15 |
| 2           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 3–4  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 30–31  
1 presentation | Chapter 3 Summary  
Chapter 4 Summary  
G.I.F.T Assignment 1 | 15  
15  
50 |
| 3           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 5–6  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 24, 32  
1 presentation | Chapter 5 Summary  
Chapter 6 Summary  
Exam 1 | 15  
15  
50 |
| 4           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 7–8  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 10, 26  
Presentation | DB Forum 2  
Chapter 7 Summary  
Chapter 8 Summary  
G.I.F.T Assignment 2 | 30  
15  
15  
50 |
| 5           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 9–10  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 7–8  
1 presentation | Chapter 9 Summary  
Chapter 10 Summary  
Exam 2 | 15  
15  
50 |
| 6           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 11–12  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 33–34  
1 presentation | Chapter 11 Summary  
Chapter 12 Summary  
Research Paper  
Research Presentation | 15  
15  
170  
100 |
| 7           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 13–14  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 2, 35  
1 presentation | Chapter 13 Summary  
Chapter 14 Summary  
G.I.F.T Assignment 3  
Presentation Critiques  
Exam 3 | 15  
15  
50  
30  
50 |
| 8           | Chesebro & McCroskey: chs. 15–16  
Mullen & Mullen: chs. 36–37  
1 presentation | Chapter 15 Summary  
Chapter 16 Summary  
G.I.F.T Assignment 4  
Exam 4 | 15  
15  
50  
50 |

**Total**: 1010

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE**: Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.