

COURSE INFORMATION

Course: HONR 300: Relationships & Technology
Credits: 4
Delivery Mode: In person
Course Schedule: Spring 2024 | January 8 – April 26 | 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. M/W/F | #336 Hollenbeck

FACULTY

Professor: Dr. Katie Warber
Contact: kwarber@wittenberg.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This honors course focuses on the impact of communication technology, specifically personal media, on close relationships (e.g., friendships, family relationships, romantic relationship, co-worker relationships). This upper-level course will use theory grounded in both relational communication and communication technology to explicate the role of media and technology in dyadic relationships. Factors tied to culture, gender, perception, the self, verbal and nonverbal communication, emotion, conflict, and deception will be studied in terms of how they impact or are impacted by technology within relationships.

NOTE: Your decision to stay enrolled in this class is an agreement to the terms set forth in this syllabus. Be sure to read it carefully, because you are responsible for the content within it.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Readings for the class will be posted on Moodle

EXPECTATIONS

As a contract that is entered into willingly by both parties, a course carries with it obligations for both the students and the instructor. As students, you are expected to be **on time**, **prepared** for class, **engaged** in class activities and discussions, **concerned** about and committed to your own success in the course, **approachable**, and **respectful** of all others in the class. Likewise, you can expect me to be on time, prepared, engaged in activities and discussions, concerned about and committed to your success in the course, approachable and available to you, and respectful of all students in the class.



To complete the work in this course, students should expect to spend about three times as much time outside of class as they spend in class working to understand content. This means the work outside of class for this course should require approximately **7-8 hours per week**. This will vary depending on the individual student and the specific assignments due in a particular week. Direct instruction will be met in a variety of ways in and outside of the class. In HONR 300, you can expect one-on-one meetings about oral communication assignments, out of class experiences, and sessions at the Oral Communication Center, that will all occur outside of our normal class meeting time.

COURSE OUTCOMES

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

1. Describe the impacts of technology on our personal relationships
2. Apply theoretical perspectives about technology and relationships to their own and others' experiences
3. Interpret social scientific research findings relevant to the course topic
4. Develop, edit, practice, and deliver oral communication assignments relevant to the course topic



LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course meets two general education learning outcomes:

LO 3: Students will effectively communicate their ideas orally, considering audience and purpose.

LO 9: Students will analyze social systems or human behaviors using knowledge, theories, or methods appropriate to the social sciences

EVALUATION

Final grades for this course will be assigned on the following basis:

435 – 449 points = B+	465 – 500 points = A	450 – 464 points = A-
385 – 399 points = C+	415 – 434 points = B	400 – 414 points = B-
335 – 349 points = D+	365 – 384 points = C	350 – 364 points = C-
≤ 299 points = F (no credit)	315 – 334 points = D	300 – 314 points = D-

Final grades are earned through the successful completion of the following assignments:

Essay 1	75 points
Essay 2	75 points
Oral Communication #1	50 points
Oral Communication #2	75 points
Oral Communication #3 (signature)	100 points
Reflection Assignment	25 points
Participation, class activities, asmts	100 points
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Total	500 points

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

The relevant Course Outcomes and Learning Outcomes described above are noted in each of the brief descriptions below. The full descriptions for all assignments are available on Moodle.

Readings: Readings and course materials (e.g., videos, web links, etc.) will be posted to our course Moodle page. Assignments are based on the assigned text and readings.

Exams: There will be two exams based on material from the textbook, handouts, presentations, lectures, etc. There will be a variety of question types. For each exam, you will have a study guide to help you as you review and prepare for the exam. Barring an emergency situation, exams cannot be rescheduled or made-up. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero on that exam.

Oral Communication Assignments: Full assignment descriptions are posted on Moodle.



Signature Assignment: Brief reflective assignment about your L 03 and L 09 learning outcomes. This assignment will ask you to reflect on your oral communication assignments as well as the social scientific approach to the study of relationships and technology.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is expected in this class. Students arriving late, being disruptive, or engaging in non-class-related activities may experience point deductions for attendance on that day. You are allowed three unexcused (“free”) absences; each absence beyond those two will result in a deduction of ten points from your course grade. *Excused* absences require documentation and notification in advance. Regardless of your reason for missing class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes and other information about what was covered in class from a classmate.

Participation is your mental presence in class, and it is comprised of being engaged in class discussions, being respectful of your classmates’ contributions, participating in class activities, and having completed all assigned readings and in preparation for class. Students are expected to participate in a variety of classroom activities, and homework assignments will help students process course content and prepare for the next class period. Homework is to be completed independently; no collaboration is permitted. You cannot earn participation points for a day you are not in class. This semester, 100 points are designated for participation in class discussions, worksheets, preparedness for required meetings, and other activities.

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GenAI)

Wittenberg Students using generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) software are expected to adhere to the standards set forth in Wittenberg’s Code of Academic Integrity regarding plagiarism and unauthorized assistance. Presenting GenAI output as your own work is a violation of academic integrity. If you use GenAI in your work, you must indicate that you have done so and in what capacity. You should also keep track of all queries and outputs, as you may be required to list them as part of showing your work and/or citing your sources for an assignment. The entire purpose of coursework at Wittenberg is to learn; therefore, any use of GenAI that interferes with this essential outcome is considered antithetical to our purpose as an institution of learning. While some uses may be appropriate and helpful to a student’s learning, it is each student’s responsibility to understand what is and what is not appropriate for a given assignment. If you have questions about the use of GenAI for an assignment, ask your professor before the assignment is due.

COURSE POLICIES

1. **Academic dishonesty** of any kind will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty, according to Wittenberg University Policy is defined as any treatment or representation of work as if one were fully responsible for it, when it is in fact the work of another person or work in which one has received unacknowledged and/or unauthorized assistance from others. It includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Submitting any fraudulent or plagiarized academic work;
- (b) Giving or receiving answers and/or any materials pertinent to any academic work without permission of the instructor; and/or
- (c) Stealing, manipulating or interfering with any academic work of another student.
- (d) Working collaboratively on assignments without the permission of your instructor.
- (e) Reusing work you have submitted in another course without permission from your instructor.
- (f) Using someone else’s words or ideas without proper acknowledgement (citing your sources).



Academic dishonesty is a serious violation that is counter to the purpose and aims of Wittenberg University. A substantiated case of academic dishonesty may result in permanent dismissal from the University, suspension for a designated period of time, or lesser sanction as deemed appropriate. Suspected instances will be submitted to the Department Chair and Dean of Students. Honesty is a fundamental principle that all students are expected to embrace. *All cases of cheating, including plagiarism, will result in a grade of XF for the course.* If you have questions, contact me. You are obligated to support a culture of academic integrity.

2. **Use of electronic devices** during class is not allowed unless students are instructed to do so. Students who violate this policy may be asked to leave and may lose participation points in the course.
3. All **submitted work** must adhere fully to the most current APA formatting requirements. Use the Department of Communication APA Manual, provided to you on Moodle, which shows you how to format your title page, document, and all source citations. Late work will be assessed a penalty of ten points for each day the assignment is late (including weekends); papers beyond one week late will not be graded. To earn the credit for the LO 3, all oral communication assignments must be completed.
4. The **examinations** will be administered during our class period. Students should begin the exams on time to ensure they have the full time. Failure to take the exam will result in a zero unless there are significant extenuating circumstances.
5. Make a habit of visiting **Moodle** and checking your Wittenberg **e-mail** regularly, as I rely on those channels to disseminate information to the students. E-mail is the best way to reach me.

HELPFUL HONR 300 RESOURCES

1. **Me**: If you are having difficulties in HONR 300, please set up a time to speak with me. I am available to meet by appointment.
2. **The Writing Center and Oral Communication Center**: The Wittenberg Writing Center and the OCC play key roles in enhancing and validating the importance of written and oral communication at Wittenberg. The Writing Center/OCC is located in the library lower level. You may schedule an appointment online.
3. **The Librarians**: The major assignments in this course require library research. If, after our in-class discussions on locating academic research articles and resources, you have questions or difficulties finding what you need, please feel free to contact a librarian; Kristen Peters is our library liaison for this class. For Live Help from a librarian, visit the library homepage at <http://www6.wittenberg.edu/lib/> and click on Live Help or email librarians@wittenberg.edu for help.
5. **Accessibility and ADA Accommodation**: Your learning in this course is important to me. I invite you to talk with me about ways to ensure your full participation in and access to this course. Please be aware that Wittenberg is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you are eligible for course accommodations because of a disability, you need to register with the Accessibility Services Office, located in the COMPASS: Sweet Success Center in Thomas Library. After you register, give me your accommodation letter from Academic Services and arrange to talk with me about your learning needs privately in a timely manner. Early identification at the start of the term is essential to ensure timely provision of services as



accommodations are not retroactive. If you have questions or would like more information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the Accessibility Services office at accessibilityservices@wittenberg.edu.

Course Schedule

The course schedule and corresponding readings are posted to Moodle, and will be kept current throughout the semester as the class progresses.

Syllabus Change Statement

Course instructors reserve the right to adjust this syllabus and content to meet the needs of students and to address course outcomes. In the event of substantive changes, students will be notified via an announcement in class or in Moodle.