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### COMX 421.B01: Communication in Nonprofit Organizations

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# COMX 421 Communication in Nonprofit Organizations

Spring 2022

## ***Instructor Information***

**Instructor:** Dr. Joel Iverson

**Office:** - L.A. 359

**E-mail:** [joel.iverson@umontana.edu](mailto:joel.iverson@umontana.edu) – that is where to reach me.

**Office Hours:** Mondays 9-10 and 11-12. I plan to be available before class and after on Mondays. I am also available to set up a zoom meeting during most days, but I do have other meetings.

## ***Course Description and Learning Outcomes***

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of issues and topics in nonprofit organizational communication, at micro and macro levels. Our method of study will be a combination of reading, discussion, lecture, research, and analysis with a goal of coming to a broad understanding of the role of communication in the nonprofit sector. We will develop a broad understanding of the current opportunities and challenges in the nonprofit sector, central communication issues for nonprofit organizations as well as engage in the local nonprofit community. During the semester, you will engage in analysis of a nonprofit organization (you choose) to write papers evaluating the organization, discuss and of course celebrate the knowledge we have gained in written form. You will also be required to complete two celebrations (written expressions of knowledge) and two shorter papers.

## ***Course Learning Outcomes:***

1. To develop a working knowledge over a range of topics involved in the study and practice of organizational communication in nonprofit organizations.
2. Demonstrate a critical understanding of issues and politics involved in nonprofit organizational communication.
3. To analyze and significantly address nonprofit organizational problems.
4. To increase your ability to write analytical papers.
5. To foster an open mind so that we may fully comprehend the complex social constructs that influence nonprofit organizations and communication
6. To enact a safe space for discussion and learning.

## ***Required Texts***

We have one required book and supplemental readings. The text is:

Koschmann, M. & Sanders, M. (2020). *Understanding nonprofit work: A communication perspective*.

Wiley Blackwell. ISBN-13: 978-1119431251

ISBN-10: 1119431255

## Course Requirements

### Celebrations of Knowledge:

There will be one event similar to what you know as examinations over the readings, notes, and discussions. Since this is a writing course, the format will consist of mid-length (not really short) answer/essay questions as well as the possibility of a few matching or multiple guess questions. Celebration will be conducted on Moodle, so it is functionally open note. Do not copy and paste more than one line of text from course material. Explain thoroughly in your own words. These are designed to review and allow you the opportunity to synthesize the material we cover as well as express your own thoughts beyond the discussion.

### Papers:

There will be three papers for this class. Each paper will be the result of your research about a nonprofit and/or an interview with a member of that nonprofit organization. Students will focus on questions generated from readings in the course. I just revamped these with the Writing and Public Speaking Center, so they are emerging works and I will post them and discuss them in class.

## Grading

### My Grading Philosophy:

An assignment that meets, but does not exceed the basic requirements will receive a grade somewhere in the “C” range. So, for example, if a written assignment requires you to answer a series of four (4) questions and you only answer three (3) questions, the MOST you can expect to receive on that assignment is 75%--regardless of how well you answered the other three questions. Assignments are developed to achieve a variety of academic and assessment goals and I have attempted to be very specific in the assignments about exactly what is required. So, if you have a question about the assignment—its content, format, etc., just ask. I welcome the opportunity to work with you on any of your projects. I will offer suggestions and review drafts. Please, if there is any doubt, do not hesitate to ask.

To earn an “A” on an assignment, you will need to be extremely proficient at explaining, applying, evaluating, and synthesizing the concepts, models, and theories covered in this class. An “A” goes to truly excellent work. I hope you will approach this grading philosophy as a challenge.

### Basis of the Course Grade

Celebration One	50 points
Paper One	50 points
Paper Two	50 points
Paper Three	50 points
Reading/Activities in Class or for Fridays	50 points max
Total	250 points max

Grading Scale: Grades in this class will not be curved, and will be assigned on the following scale:

A	92.5% or higher
A-	90% to 92.4999999999%
B+	87.5% to 89.9999999999%

B	82.5% to 87.499999999%
B-	80% to 82.499999999%
C+	77.5% to 79.999999999%
C	72.5% to 77.499999999%
C-	70% to 72.499999999%
D	60% to 69.999999999%
F	59.999999999% or below

Remember that grades are earned, not given. Grades do not define who you are, but do reflect on the outcome or product you turn in. I cannot evaluate effort, but effort does tend to result in a better outcome. I work to evaluate fairly the work on the criteria we set forth. If you feel I have made an error in evaluation, write down that objection to my evaluation of the content and then email me. I am happy to correct mistakes I have made. I do not change grades because someone wants or thinks they should get a different grade. I evaluate the outcome.

### Policies

1. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.
2. All students must be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at [www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321](http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321).
3. All celebrations of knowledge will be due on the assigned date
4. Papers will be typed and proofread and turned in on the date assigned.

### Respectful Environment:

You will be expected to act respectfully towards others in this class and assist in maintaining a civil and professional atmosphere for the class including discussions, email, and other exciting interactions. This includes respecting differing opinions, not using vulgar language, and creating a supportive environment.

**Rules of Zoom** – Be respectful, courteous and I will do the same. I plan to call on people and have class discussion. I always appreciate a couple of cameras on during my time of presenting so I can get feedback or quickly see if I am on mute. I plan to record classes. When called upon or asked to join a breakout group please turn on your cameras. If you have an issue with cameras, bandwidth or other issues, please let me know privately and we can accommodate that. If a pet enters the camera, we will briefly pause to meet the critter and then move on. I may add others as we go.

### Disability Statement

If you have a disability for which accommodations are needed please contact me in the first week of the semester. We will discuss what accommodations you need and will receive in this course. Also, please contact:

Disability Services for Students (DSS)	(406) 243-2243 (Voice/Text)
Lommasson Center 154	FAX 406-243-5330
The University of Montana	<a href="#">student life</a>
Missoula, MT 59812	

### Basic Needs Statement:

*Any student who faces challenges securing food, housing, or health care and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources:*

- **Food Pantry Program**
  - UM offers a food pantry that students can access for emergency food. The pantry is open on Tuesdays from 9 to 2, on Fridays from 10-5. The pantry is located in UC 119 (in the former ASUM Childcare offices). Pantry staff operate several satellite food cupboards on campus (including one at Missoula College). For more information about this program, email [umpantry@mso.umt.edu](mailto:umpantry@mso.umt.edu), visit the pantry's [website \(https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php\)](https://www.umt.edu/uc/food-pantry/default.php) or contact the pantry on social media (@pantryUm on twitter, @UMPantry on Facebook, um\_pantry on Instagram).
- **ASUM Renter Center**
  - The Renter Center has compiled a list of resources for UM students at risk of homelessness or food insecurity [here: http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php](http://www.umt.edu/asum/agencies/renter-center/default.php) and [here:https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog](https://medium.com/griz-renter-blog).
  - *Students can schedule an appointment with Renter Center staff to discuss their situation and receive information, support, and referrals.*
- **TRiO Student Support Services**
  - *TRiO serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. TRiO services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring.*
  - *Students can check their eligibility for TRiO services online [here: http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility](http://www.umt.edu/trioss/apply.php#Eligibility).*
- **Curry Health Center (Dental, Mental Health, and Medical)**
  - Curry Health Center provides quality, affordable, accessible health care for students at the University of Montana. They promote a healthy campus by treating students with dignity and respect and through collaborating and sharing expertise. They offer appointments and online screening tools, and same day appointments if needed: <http://www.umt.edu/curry-health-center/>

If you are comfortable, please contact me with concerns you have and I will do my best to help connect you with additional resources.

### ***Tentative Schedule for Spring 2022 COMX 421***

<b>Jan 17</b>	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday</b>
Jan 19	Introductions, Syllabus and overview
21	Introduction to Nonprofit Sector (in class)
Jan 24	Finish Frumkin Reading and intro to NPO sector
26	Chapter 1 Communication Perspective
28	Online – Video and discussion
Jan 31	Finish Chapter 1
Feb 2	Mission and Effectiveness – Herman and Renz
4	Online Mission Discussion
Feb 7,9	L-M-G Chapter 2
11	Online L-M-G

Feb 14,16 Strategy and Governance Structure (Reading)  
 18 Writing Day (Online/Independent time)  
**21 President's Day**  
 Feb 23,25 Chapter 3 Marketization (in class)  
**Paper #1 Due Feb 27 11:59 PM**  
 28, Mar 2 Marketization and Accountability  
 4 Online Marketization  
**March 7,9 Online Celebration of Knowledge**  
 11 Marketization and Accountability Regroup (in class)  
 Mar 14,16 Volunteers  
 18 Online Volunteers  
**Mar 21,23,25 Spring Break**  
 Mar 28,30 Chapter 5 Meaningful Work  
 April 1 Online Meaningful Work Activity  
**Paper #2 Due April 3 11:59 PM**  
 April 4,6 Chapter 4 Collaboration and Communication (Collabrication)  
 8 Online Collaboration Activity  
 April 11,13 Chapter 6 Internationalization  
 15 Online Internationalization  
 April 18,20 Narratives (Readings)  
 22 Online Narratives  
 April 25,27 Technology (Reading)  
 29 Online Technology/Paper writing  
**Paper #3 Due May 1, 11:59 PM**  
 May 2,4,6 Conclusion/Reflection 6<sup>th</sup> may be online  
 Final Thursday, May 12 10:10-12:10 Probably Online