COM 5/402 – LISTENING

COURSE SYLLABUS (Fall 2013)

Contact Information:

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Course Description:

The course explores the concepts of active and critical listening and presents techniques to improve listening in a varied communication arena.

Prerequisite: COM 402 – Communication Research or junior standing. COM 5402 – Graduate Standing

Tuition refund cannot be made on dropped classes after the first week of class.

Rationale:

Research indicates that the majority of our communication time is spent in listening; yet, very little educational training is devoted to developing effective listening skills, attitudes, and behaviors. In fact, few speech communication programs have an entire course devoted to this crucial communication skill. The aim of this course is to equip you to understand your own listening attitudes and behaviors and to build your own program for improvement in listening skills.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Articulate the process of and the role of listening in oral communication.
2. Critically evaluate research and materials developed in listening.
3. Listen more effectively through the effective recognition and use of the various purposes of listening.

Textbook:

Wolvin, Andrew (ed.). (2010). *Listening and Human Communication: In the 21st Century.* Wiley – Blackwell

Additional Resources:

Internet Resources:

http://www.listen.org/Templates/home.htm
http://listenersunite.com

Worth Reading:

Barker, Larry & Watson, Kittie (2000). *Listen up: How to improve relationships, reduce stress, and be more productive by using the power of listening.* New York: St. Martin Press.

Kaufman, Paul (1990). *Sensible listening: The key to responsive interaction.* Dubuque, IA : Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Roach, Carol & Wyatt, Nancy (1988). *Successful listening.* New York: Harper Collins.

Cain, Susan. (2012). *Quiet: The power of introverts in a world that can't stop talking.* New York: Random House Publishing.

Course Policies & Procedures:

Participation Policy:

The student will be active and thoughtful participation in all class meetings. The expectation is that you have read and digested all assigned readings before the class period.

The student will maintain high moral integrity. The official university policy is, "Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism . . . or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records, or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal." (Consult the recent issue of the Mississippi College Student Handbook or University Policy 2:19 for specific information regarding academic honest.)

All cell phones and pagers must be turned off before entering the classroom.

Special Accommodations:

In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services **immediately upon recognition of their disability** (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment **immediately** upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation from a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system). Documentation must be current (**within 3 years).**

The student must meet with SCS **face-to face** and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in **each semester** to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP

plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Student Counseling Services is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 (near the Post Office) or they may be contacted via email at mbryant@mc.edu . You may also reach them by phone at **601-925-7790. Dr. Morgan Bryant is director of MC Student Counseling Services.**

Syllabus modifications:

The professor will make every effort to adhere to the published course syllabus however; the he reserves the right to make any needed changes to facilitate the overall progress in the course and/or needs of the students taking the course.

Moodle:

Some items for this course will be made available to the student via the MC Moodle website. See the link at the beginning of the syllabus to access the webpage.

Grading Scale: (+ grades only apply to graduate students)

A	--	91% - 100%
B+	--	89% - 90%
B	--	81% - 88%
C+	--	79% - 80%
C	--	71% - 78%
D+	--	69% - 70%
D	--	61% - 68%
F	--	below 60%

Assignments:

Undergraduates:	Graduates:
Listening Log – 30%	Listening Log – 20%
Examinations – 50%	Examinations – 20%
Participation – 10%	Reading & Précis – 20%
Attendance – 10%	Research Paper – 30%
	Attendance – 10%

Schedule: **(This schedule is tentative.)**

Week	Day	Date	Topic/Activity	Reading/Resource
1	1.	08/27	Introduction to listening	Chapters 1-3, 6, & 12
	2.	08/29	Misconceptions about listening	
2	3.	09/03		
	4.	09/05		
3	5.	09/10	Importance of listening	
	6.	09/12		
4	7.	09/17		

	8.	09/19	Listening theories & models	
5	9.	09/24		
	10.	09/26	Listening research	
6	11.	10/01	First Exam	
	12.	10/03	The hearing process	Chapters 4 & 5
7	13.	10/08	*Fall Break*	
	14.	10/10		
8	15.	10/15	How we understand what we hear.	
	16.	10/17		
9	17.	10/22	Listening and memory	Homecoming week
	18.	10/24		
10	19.	10/29		
	20.	10/31		
11	21.	11/05	Interpreting messages we receive	Chapters 7, 10, & 11
	22.	11/07		
12	23.	11/12		
	24.	11/14	Listening and evaluation	
13	25.	11/19	Second Exam	
	26.	11/21	Responding	Chapters 8 & 9
14	27.	11/26	*Thanksgiving Break*	
	28.	11/28	*Thanksgiving Break*	
15	29.	12/03	Listening Contexts	
	30.	12/05		
16	31.	12/10		
	32.	12/12		
	33.	12/14	*Final Exam (Comprehensive)*	*12-3 pm*

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and course schedule as necessary.

Term Calendar & Exam Dates:
http://www.mc.edu/offices/registrar/files/1413/6509/9857/2013_Fall_Academic_Calendar__Exam_Schedule_8.pdf