

**COMM 4310.001 – Senior Capstone  
FALL 2018  
Course Syllabus**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Joseph Velasco, Ph.D.
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mon. through Thurs., 2-2:50pm, or <i>by appointment</i>
<b>Office Location:</b>	FAB 206B
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<b>Email Address:</b>	<a href="mailto:jvelasco@sulross.edu">jvelasco@sulross.edu</a>
<b>Class Schedule:</b>	TBD
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	TBD
<b>Required Texts:</b>	No textbook required

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### **Section I. Introduction**

The senior capstone is the culminating course in the Communication major sequence. Capstone experiences allow each student to demonstrate the capacity to bring information, skills, and ideas acquired from the major to bear on one significant research project. The course aims at providing students with the opportunity to integrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired as communication majors.

### **Section II. Course Objectives**

1. To provide students an opportunity to clarify and articulate their area of specialization within the Communication discipline.
2. To develop students' understanding of the connection among communication theory, application, and research via an in-depth original scholarly project.
3. To assess students' written communication competency and content knowledge across the curriculum of their Communication major.
4. To produce an original scholarly project in-line with the student's academic and/or career aspirations.

### **Section III. Course Requirements**

You and I will see each other at least once every two weeks throughout the term. We begin by choosing a topic, developing an outline, improving your information retrieval skills, brushing up on your research, reading, and writing skills, and then moving into your final paper writing, one chapter at a time. To successfully complete this course you will need to utilize the library to access previous communication research related to your topic and gather data to test your hypothesis or address your research questions.

### **Section IV. Grading**

Forty percent of your grade will be based on effort, minor writing assignments (such as topic proposal, literature review draft, and description of research methods), quality of first completed

draft of your research project, and attendance of scheduled meetings. The other 60% will be based on the grade you will receive for the completed scholarly project.

## **Section V. Course Policies**

**Procrastination.** You need to start working on this class right away and to keep going, week after week, even if your final draft is due months and months from now. A major research project is not the kind of thing that can be done at the last possible moment; it requires steady progress. For example, by the first week, you need to come close to finalizing your topic. By the second week, a rough outline is due, and so on. Another way of putting this: for the duration of this class, you and I are pen-pals who need to see each other, or write to each other, at least once every two weeks. If you vanish for three months, you cheat yourself out of a major life accomplishment.

**Academic Honesty.** All students are expected to comply with the student handbook guidelines for academic honesty. This means that students will turn in original work (not work completed by another student or purchased for submission), utilize appropriate citations to avoid plagiarism, and refrain from collusion (“the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit”.) Failure to comply with these standards will result in an F for the course.

## **Section VI. Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to meet one or more of the student learning outcomes applied to all Communication majors:

**SLO 1:** Students will be able to analyze communication content for argument, including identification of major elements, such as claim, warrants, and data.

**SLO 2:** Students will be able to effectively construct messages appropriate to audience, purpose, and context; including electronic media technologies.

**SLO 3:** Students will be able to apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts to the analysis of communication situations.

## **Section VII. Notes on University Programs and Services**

**ADA.** It is Sul Ross University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, psychological, or learning impairment/disability/challenge, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility located in FH 112 or call 837-8203. E-mail: [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu)