PSY 4109.206 – McNair Research
Summer 2023
Course Syllabus
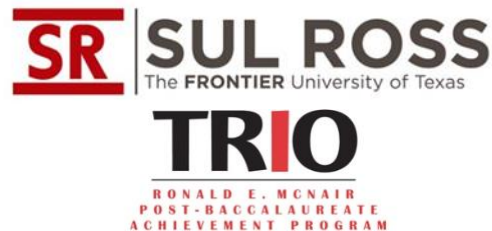
Instructor:	*Joseph Velasco, Ph.D.*
Office Hours:	Mon-Thurs 2-3pm & Fridays 1-5pm
Office Location:	LH 307
Telephone:	505-362-1066
Email Address:	jvelasco@sulross.edu
Class Schedule:	TBD
Classroom Location:	TBD
Required Texts:	TBD

Section I. Introduction

First, CONGRATULATIONS on being accepted into the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program! If you are reading this syllabus, it likely means that you selected me as your McNair faculty mentor. As your faculty mentor, you can count on me to help guide you through this highly developmental process of producing original research.

As a federally funded Trio Program, The McNair Scholars Program will guide and support your growth as a budding scholar to increase your chances at pursuing a doctoral degree.

Your participation in McNair involves a lot. For example, you are required to attend developmental trainings, seminars, and conferences facilitated through the McNair Program here at Sul Ross. This syllabus, however, is specific to the work/research you will do with me, your faculty mentor. Though this syllabus gives the appearance that you will be attending a class, this experience will likely be very different than any other class experience you've had to this point. Specifically, your progress through this experience will depend upon you as much as me. Further, the course calendar is up for negotiation. We will meet on an as-needed basis, though I have learned that regular meetings can be very helpful to our progress. Bottom-line: Effective communication between us will be key.

Again, Congratulations, and it's time to get to work.

Section II. 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 III. Course Objectives

1. To provide students an opportunity to clarify and articulate their area of specialization within the academic discipline of Communication Studies (e.g., interpersonal communication, family communication, political communication, health communication, organizational communication, etc.) or a related, non-disciplinary, professional field of communication (e.g., film directing, public relations, radio production, marketing/advertising, journalism, etc.).
2. To develop students' understanding of the connection among communication theory, application, and research via an in-depth original scholarly or professional project.
3. To assess students' written communication competency and content knowledge across the curriculum of their Communication major.
4. To produce an original scholarly or professional project in-line with the student's academic and/or career aspirations.

Section IV. Marketable Skills

This course offers you the opportunity to develop the following skills:
- Informative and Persuasive Speaking
- Audience-centered Writing
- Critical Analysis
- Research
- Effective Message Construction Using Technology

Section V. Course Requirements (Velasco's Advisee's)

You and I will meet at least once a week 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 VI. Grading (Velasco's Advisee's)
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 project.

Section VII. 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 Integrity. Intellectual development requires hard work. Academic dishonesty severely interferes with this development and reduces the value of college degrees. Presenting the ideas or work of others as your own, submitting the same paper for multiple classes, doing someone else's work, and/or failing to cite your sources when you utilize the ideas of others, are all examples of dishonest academic conduct. As an SRSU student, it is your responsibility to read and understand the university's expectations about academic integrity. All violations will be taken seriously and handled through the appropriate university process. The policy can be found at: https://www.sulross.edu/about/administration/university-policies/

In addition, please note that plagiarism detection software will be used in this class for written assignments.

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. SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 ("please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours"). The office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and their mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832. **Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received.**

SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. ==Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.== Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Technical Support. SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055. Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

SRSU Library Services. The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The **Graduate Student Center**, located in BAB 104, provides resources and services for all SRSU graduate students. There is a computer lab with desktop computers and a networked printer/copier/scanner; laptop computers which can be checked out; a projector and screen for rehearsing student presentations; and a conference room for group study. Both Alpine and distance education students can receive writing and thesis assistance by contacting gradcenter@sulross.edu or calling 432-837-8524.