

**Senior Thesis/Project**  
**Communication 490 (WI)**  
**Fall 2008 - Online on Laulima & via email**  
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Email: <mailto:dineh@hawaii.edu>  
<http://www.laulima.hawaii.edu>

Typical contact hours: **Asynchronous** TWR 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Hawaii Standard Time (HST)

ALL assignments are due by 9:00AM HST each Tuesday

*[Avoid disappointment by posting a day or two earlier as no late credit is possible  
regardless of technical glitches in the "final moments" of a deadline!]*

**Catalog Description:** Senior Thesis (3) Completion of the thesis project appropriate to the selected area of concentration within the context of a seminar. Prerequisites: 201, senior standing or consent. (School requirement: final semester senior)

**Course Objectives:** This course is designed to assist you in preparing your senior thesis or senior project; a requirement for graduation with a B.A. in Communication. The goal is to offer students an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities to synthesize knowledge, think originally, and cultivate research skills while analyzing a discrete self-selected communication topic. Whether you plan to pursue a graduate degree or to enter the job market upon graduation, your wisely chosen, well-executed project can serve as an example of your ability to work independently and to deliver a product on schedule.

**Recommended Texts:** Keyton, J. (2000) *Communication Research: Asking questions, finding answers*. Boston: McGraw Hill. [choice of text is yours but you must find routine and easy access to a basic research text in communication]

Hacker, D. *A Pocket Style Manual*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's; or similar guide to standard citations using the American Psychological Association (APA) format. And: *Online!* [Required format is APA; but choice of resource to find and use the standard is yours]

**Evaluation:** UHM's chosen online course delivery mechanism for 2008 appears to be limited to Laulima: <http://www.laulima.hawaii.edu> Unfortunately this resource does not allow the instructor to monitor your use of the system unless you *post* ("lurking" does not get noticed or accounted for; therefore you must actually and actively post to the site as necessary to document your contributions to the course.)

To meet the requirements of a Writing Intensive course, your writing process must remain ongoing and revision-oriented. Therefore, it is not sufficient to simply submit a finished paper at the end of the semester and expect a passing grade. Though non-traditional (alternative) projects are welcomed, they must be accompanied by a paper (minimum 4000 words) to meet the WI *and* thesis requirements. This paper must demonstrate the student's ability to carry out a research project in a systematic and logical manner appropriate to accomplishing the goals set out in the individual project. The project topic, its medium, research method(s), and sample work must be approved by the instructor by deadlines noted below. As a graduating senior, you are expected to adhere to schedules without reminders. You are required to submit your own timeline within the general guidelines provided below. Please submit this timeline on or before the proposal due date and report any changes in your weekly e-mails as necessary.

To meet the seminar requirements for the course, and to benefit from each other's experiences, students are expected to contribute to Forum Discussions assigned to them on Laulima (A minimum of one original contribution and response/reaction to a teammate per week: teams will be formed based on areas of interest or expertise). This is the standard rule except as specifically modified by the instructor in writing, via Laulima **Announcements** or direct email to each student's Hawaii.edu account, once all projects and methods are firmly established.

A mid-semester presentation is each student's final chance to pinpoint an area of interest on which to base the final thesis. This will enable the student to recognize the extent of remaining work and to consider withdrawing from the course without a grade penalty. All students are required to document their "attendance" in these mid-semester presentation sessions via Forum contributions and to share their progress with the class.

To receive full credit for the course, all students are required to document their attendance for all mid-semester & final presentation sessions.

Assessment Points are recorded continuously throughout the semester  
 [No make-ups or incomplete grades are given but Goodwill Credits are routinely considered for late postings to your own blog area!]

Weekly email or Laulima-Blog-based reports begin September 2 & end December 9 (15 total) up to 3 may be content-less (i.e., report submission is required but ok to simply state "no progress") Sept. 9 email must include completed library assignments	15%
Topic Proposal & first / sample annotated bibliography which may be used for your First Draft Literature Review: due Sept. 16	5%
First draft literature review: Due Sept. 23	5%
Mid-semester presentations of work in progress: 5 points Extended outline and draft of work in progress due Oct 6th (excluding literature review section; which will be returned to you later this week).	5%
Work in progress draft: no later than November 19 (Fully completed draft submission by 11/25 extends final deadline to 12/16: Must include all work to date, matching all elements of approved proposal as documented online)	5%
Final presentations: Post no later than Dec. 9; All peer responses due no later than 12/11 posted on Laulima. (12/16 reserved for goodwill adjustments)	5%
Completed thesis based on all prior work (On or before 12/11)	40%
Assessment (includes consistent class &/or online participation & tangible contributions throughout the semester)	20%