

## Communication 350: Human Communication Research (WI)

I

**Instructor:** Dr. Catherine Becker, Associate Professor & Chair

**Class Meets:** 9:30 – 10:45 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays in K 110

**Course Websites:** <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal>;  
<http://communication.wadsworth.com/rubin>>  
<http://www.library.kent.edu.commstudies.resource/textbook.html>>  
[www.infortrac-college.com](http://www.infortrac-college.com) (need password from text)  
[http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/instruction/web\\_eval/contents.htm](http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/instruction/web_eval/contents.htm)  
[http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/lib\\_services/services/library\\_instruction.htm](http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/lib_services/services/library_instruction.htm)  
[http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/research\\_tools/refworks.html](http://library.uhh.hawaii.edu/research_tools/refworks.html)

**Office:** K 209

**Phone:** 974-7464 **email:** [beckerc@hawaii.edu](mailto:beckerc@hawaii.edu) (*email is the best way to contact me.*)

**Hours:** W 8-9:50 (K 209); 10-11:30 (UCB 120); 12-1:30 (K209); R 8-9:00 (K209) & by appointment.

### Supplies:

Text: Rubin, R.B., Rubin, A.M., Piele, L.J. (2005). *Communication Research: Strategies and sources (6<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth.

A three ring binder (1/2"") with pockets and a composition note book.

### Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will be to locate, read, and apply communication research to their academic, professional, personal and political interests.

Students will be able to describe several different areas of communication research, their related methodologies, and studies.

Students will be able to locate, read, correctly cite, and critique communication research.

Students will be able to distinguish between quantitative and qualitative methodologies and the pros and cons of using them to address a specific research question.

Students will be able to engage in public discussions of communication research and its implications.

Students will be able to describe communication faculty research and influences.

### Assessment:

50% Article Analysis (extra credit available):

2=C

3=B

4=A

20% Research Note Book: Includes Learning Log and Assignments

20% Presentations: Discussion of Articles Analyzed  
(2 presentations @ 10% each)

05% Group Participation

05% Class Participation

## Article Analysis (50%):

Locate, photocopy, cite in APA format, read, summarize, discuss, consider applications, and critique a **minimum of two** academic articles. To ensure the article is an **academic** article, *you must get approval of your article in advance*. You must include photocopy the entire article (including references) and include it with your analysis. Each analysis must be 3-4 pages long, typed, and double-spaced. Two of your analyses must be photocopied (21 copies), distributed to peers and discussed in class. After the presentation, the analysis may be revised for clarity, grammar, and sophistication.

**Extra Credit:** After the minimum requirement to two articles analyzed has been met, students may propose projects that may be counted as additional articles. Proposals must be submitted in writing and pre-approved by the instructor.

### **Examples:**

*Student X* proposes to video tape all of the guest researchers and transfer the tapes to the class website; this counts as two articles. If she has analyzed the minimum of two articles (and earned an A on them), she can count her extra credit project as 2 articles for a total of 4 articles. She will have earned an A on this assignment.

*Student Y* wants to learn how to reduce violence in schools. He proposes to replace two articles with a review the literature on school violence and write ten page paper about school violence and communication. He combines his two articles and his research paper to earn an A on this assignment.

*Student Z* loves to take tests (really!). She wants to demonstrate her mastery of the material by taking the on line final provided offered on the online site. She proposes to analyze three articles and take the online final that will count as an article for a total of 4 articles. She earns an A on her three papers and on the final!

## Research Note Book (20%):

Includes Learning Log and Assignments:

Learning Log Researchers keep records of their thoughts, observations, challenges and discoveries. Try to write in your log before or after every class session and keep it with you as you prepare your analyses and class assignments. Write down any discoveries you make and questions that you have and share them with the class. Be sure to number your pages and put the date on the top of each entry. Minimal length is 10 pages; many students will have logs that are 30 pages or more.

Assignments are designed to help you prepare for class. Please enter them into your learning log with the date and title of the assignment at the top of the page.

Research Note Books will be graded by the number of completed assignments, interview questions for the speakers, reflections on research, the completion of exercises from the text, on line explorations, creativity, clarity, and depth. Before submitting you notebook at the end of the semester, please create a typed index and insert it into your binder in the front of your articles and analyzes. Place your notebook (with your name on the front of it) in the pocket of your binder.

### **Presentations (20%):**

You are required to make two 7-10 minute presentations to the class based on your article analysis. The first presentation will be based on a selection from the articles submitted by the guest speakers. You may use a sample of their actual research or an article that has influenced them. A collection of these articles will be placed on reserve at the UH-Hilo library. To help the class gain a deeper understanding of their work before the guest speaker visits the class, your first presentation is due the session before they are scheduled to visit.

Your second presentation will be based on the analysis of an article of your choice. However, you must have your article approved in advance.

### **Group Participation (10%):**

You will be assigned to a group whose task it is to use research methods to solve a specific communication problem. After every chapter, the groups will be given time in class to report how the methods discussed in the chapter may be applied to the problem.

### **Participation 10%:**

This class will provide a forum for communication faculty to discuss their research with communication students and peers. This is a rare and special opportunity to discuss communication with experts (and/or explorers) in a variety of areas of the discipline. Faculty members are offering their valuable time to come to class and answer your questions about their research. Therefore, it is absolutely essential you attend these sessions and prepare by reading the assigned materials. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. After that, each absence will lower your participation grade by 3 points. Coming late or leaving early will count as ½ of an absence.

### **Additional Information:**

It is my intention to do everything I can to make this course a success. For me, this means setting high standards (you learn as much as or more than you thought you would or could) and that we have some fun (enjoy the experience as much as possible). If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

### **Special Needs:**

If you have a documented learning disability and would like to request accommodation please contact the University Disability Services at 933-0816 (V), 933-3334 (TTY), Campus Center Room 311, as early in the semester as possible. If there is anything else I can do to help you succeed in this course, please come and talk with me.

### **A note from the UH-Hilo Advising Office:**

Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.