

**CIS 300-212: Strategic Business and Professional Communication
Summer 2021, Online**

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|----------------|---|
| Instructor | Chas J. Hartman, Ph.D. |
| Email | cjhart2@uky.edu (I do not discuss grades via email.) |
| Office Hours | Virtual, by appointment |
| Course Website | http://www.uky.edu/canvas |

Course Description: This communication intensive course prepares B&E and Communication majors for their careers by developing effective communication skills (integrated written, oral, and visual) applied specifically to today’s technology-driven and global business environment. The course will focus on developing strong communication skills in interpersonal settings, in small group teams, communication to internal and external stakeholders, and when delivering public presentations. Students will prepare application materials; develop effective interviewing skills in face-to-face and online environments; communicate effectively based on audience analysis in face-to-face and online settings; deliver business presentations based on audience analysis, and using a variety of presentational aids that enhance the message; and learn to manage data, graphics, and a positive online presence (e.g., websites blogs, social media outlets, and email messages).

Prerequisites: Upper division status in accounting, analytics, economics, finance, management, marketing, or permission from instructor.

Course Learning Targets, Outcomes, and Assessments: This course has been designed to provide students with opportunities to acquire skills, knowledge, conceptual understanding, classroom experience, and professional practice related to their general business majors.

| Learning Target/Outcomes: Business Communication Content | Assessment (Formative/Summative) |
|--|--|
| Write, revise, and proofread effective audience-centered business documents in a variety of formats (e.g., cover letter, resume, press release, memoranda, e-mail correspondence, presentations, meeting agendas, and minutes). | Formative: Course readings, class discussions, and activities Summative: Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams |
| Develop and deliver effective formal multi-modal business presentations using appropriate presentational aids based on the situation (purpose, audience, occasion, constraints). | Formative: Course readings, class discussions, and activities Summative: Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams |
| Practice effective group communication skills (teamwork, leadership, conflict management) in informal settings and as part of formal presentations (face-to-face and online). | Formative: Course readings, class discussions, and activities Summative: Group Presentation, Quizzes, and Exams |
| Indicate a comprehension of the interview process. Construct effective answers to interview questions and perform well on simulated interviews. | Formative: Course readings and class discussions Summative, Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams |

Model effective response to media and stakeholder inquiries during crisis events and during question and answer sessions.

Formative: Course readings, class discussions and activities
Summative: Memo, Press Release, Quizzes, and Exams

Course Delivery: This course is designed as an online course. All lectures, activities and assignments are hosted on Canvas. All lectures and assignments will be posted on Canvas. Lectures and assignments may include videos, narration over slides, or instructions to read.

Required Texts:

Hopkins, P.D., Payne, H. J., & Spence, P. R. (2020). *Competent communication at work: Communication, technology and professional strategies* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Kendall Hunt.

*Note that an online version (eBook) is available at a discounted rate. Please visit <https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/competent-communication-work-communication-technology-and-professional-practices-0> and select eBook.

Email: To obtain instructions for assignments, additional materials for this course, and important announcements. *I will not respond to emails sent from an address other than "@uky.edu."* **I do not discuss grades via email.**

Technology Requirements: Minimum technical requirements for UK courses and suggested hardware, software, and internet connections are available at [ITS Student Hardware & Software Guidelines](#). Requirements include: Computer with internet access or access to UK computer facilities; access to digital video recording devices and Microsoft Office. See <https://download.uky.edu/> for free versions.

Technical Support: For account help, contact UK's [Information Technology Customer Services online](#), by [email](#), or by phone at 859-218-HELP (4357).

Additional Resources: [Distance Learning Library Services](#); [Carla Cantagallo](#), Distance Learning Librarian, 859-218-1240

COURSE POLICIES

1. Attendance and Punctuality

Please reference the definition of excused absence in current edition of *Students Rights and Responsibilities* or on the web at <http://www.uky.edu/studentconduct/code-student-conduct>.

For any emergency situation that arises, e-mail your instructor as soon as you know about the situation.

Excused Absences

Senate Rules 5.2.4.2 defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: (a) significant illness, (b) death of a family member, (c) trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, (d) major religious holidays, (e) interviews for graduate/professional school or full-time employment post-graduation, and (f) other circumstances

found to fit “reasonable cause for nonattendance” by the instructor of record. Students should notify the professor of absences prior to class when possible.

Verification of Absences

Students may be asked to verify their absences in order for them to be considered excused. *Senate Rule 5.2.4.2* states that faculty have the right to request appropriate verification when students claim an excused absence due to: significant illness; death in the household, trips for classes, trips sponsored by an educational unit and trips for participation related to intercollegiate athletic events; and interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate and professional school. (Appropriate notification of absences due to University-related trips is required prior to the absence when feasible and in no case more than one week after the absence.)

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Please check the course syllabus for the notification requirement. If no requirement is specified, two weeks prior to the absence is reasonable and should not be given any later. Information regarding major religious holidays may be obtained through [the Ombud’s website](#) or calling 859-257-3737.

Students missing any graded work due to an excused absence are responsible: for informing the Instructor of Record about their excused absence within one week following the period of the excused absence (except where prior notification is required); and for making up the missed work. The instructor must give the student an opportunity to make up the work and/or the exams missed due to the excused absence, and shall do so, if feasible, during the semester in which the absence occurred. The instructor shall provide the student with an opportunity to make up the graded work and may not simply calculate the student's grade on the basis of the other course requirements, unless the student agrees in writing.

Important Semester Dates: <https://www.uky.edu/registrar/2021-summer-session>

*Mid-term grades will be posted in myUK by the deadline established in the [Academic Calendar](#).

2. Academic Integrity Policy

Prohibition on Plagiarism (Senate Rules 6.3.1)

Per University policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the University may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Complete information can be found on the [Academic Ombud](#) page. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Senate Rule 6.3.1 (see current [Senate Rules](#)) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result

of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording, or content from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism.

Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work (including, but not limited to a published article, a book, a website, computer code, or a paper from a friend) without clear attribution. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work, which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be. Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone.

When a student's assignment involves research in outside sources or information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she has employed them. If the words of someone else are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact is plagiaristic. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas, which are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain.

Please note: Any assignment you turn in may be submitted to an electronic database to check for plagiarism.

Prohibition on Cheating (Senate Rules 6.3.2)

Cheating is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongfully giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. The fact that a student could not have benefited from an action is not by itself proof that the action does not constitute cheating. Any question of definition shall be referred to the University Appeals Board.

Prohibition on Falsification/Misuse of Academic Records (SR 6.3.3)

Maintaining the integrity, accuracy, and appropriate privacy of student academic records is an essential administrative function of the University and a basic protection of all students. Accordingly, the actual or attempted falsification, theft, misrepresentation or other alteration or misuse of any official academic record of the University, specifically including knowingly having unauthorized access to such records or the unauthorized disclosure of information contained in such records, is a serious academic offense. As used in this context, "academic record" includes all paper and electronic versions of the partial or complete permanent academic record, all official and unofficial academic transcripts, application documents and admission credentials, and all academic record transaction documents. The minimum sanction for falsification, including the omission of information, or attempted falsification or other misuse of academic records as described in this section is suspension for one semester.

3. Accommodations due to disability

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services available to students with disabilities. Visit the [DRC website](#), [email the DRC](#), contact them by phone at (859) 257-2754, or visit their office on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407.

4. Non-Discrimination Statement and Title IX Policy

UK is committed to providing a safe learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University maintains a comprehensive program which protects all members from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct. For complete information about UK's prohibition on discrimination and harassment on aspects such as race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, and sexual orientation, please see [the electronic version of UK's Administrative Regulation 6:1 \("Policy on Discrimination and Harassment"\)](#). In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the University prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex in academics, employment, and all of its programs and activities. Sexual misconduct is a form of sexual harassment in which one act is severe enough to create a hostile environment based on sex and is prohibited between members of the University community and shall not be tolerated. For more details, please see [the electronic version of Administrative Regulations 6:2 \("Policy and Procedures for Addressing and Resolving Allegations of Sexual Assault, Stalking, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Sexual Exploitation"\)](#). Complaints regarding violations of University policies on discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct are handled by the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity (IEEO), which is located in 13 Main Building and can be reached by phone at (859) 257-8927. You can also visit [the IEEO's website](#).

Faculty members are obligated to forward any report made by a student related to IEEO matters to the Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity. Students can *confidentially* report alleged incidences through the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center, Counseling Center, or University Health Services.

5. Online Decorum

Ideally the virtual classroom environment should be supportive and comfortable. Do not equate a relaxed atmosphere with a lack of academic standards. You are expected to be prepared for all assignments and conduct yourself appropriately for a respectful academic environment. Email is the ideal method for contacting the instructor.

Important Notes

- **Be sure to complete readings on time/as assigned. It is expected that these be incorporated into assignments you are submitting.**
- **You are responsible for all information, announcements, and changes addressed in classes and/or Canvas.**
- **The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus during the semester, if necessary.**

Additional Student Resources

The Graham Office of Career Management is another tool that will be helpful for aspects of CIS 300. The mission of the Graham Office of Career Management is dedicated to assisting students in their career development process and employment success by working closely with employers

who seek to hire world ready interns and graduates. More information can be found at <http://gatton.uky.edu/career/>.

At Presentation U!, students can receive free tutoring for communication projects in any form for any course, including research papers, essays, lab reports, presentations, infographics, ePortfolios, and iPad related projects. Tutoring can be delivered face-to-face online or on written assignments submitted online. Visit www.uky.edu/presentationU for more information.

The Robert E. Hemenway Writing Center at the University of Kentucky offers free assistance with writing, speaking, and multimedia assignments. Students can register and schedule an online appointment at uky.mywconline.com. Appointments are available Monday-Thursday from 10 am to 9 pm and Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm. This resource is not required but can be helpful if you are stuck at any stage of the creative process. For more information, visit <https://wrд.as.uky.edu/writing-center> or contact Judith G. Prats, Writing Center Director, at judithgprats@uky.edu.

The University of Kentucky's Career Services has a fast and powerful recruiting platform for UK students and alumni. [Handshake](#) uses cutting-edge technology to help you more easily connect with employers and source jobs and internships, event information, and on-campus recruiting opportunities. Login using your existing Link Blue ID and password to upload a resume, manage your account and set up your notifications. www.uky.joinhandshake.com

6. Discussing Grades

I do not discuss grades via email. Students who have grade or exam concerns must approach the professor during office hours, or through appointment. Once grades are posted online, you may visit the professor during office hours or by appointment. Please contact the professor if you do not find your score posted.

Students who wish to discuss grades or scores earned have one week from the date grades are posted to do so. Grades will not be addressed after this time period has expired. Students need to contact the professor for an appointment to discuss the issue. Students must bring a written explanation of their dispute with them to this appointment. If the matter is still unresolved, students need to contact the Director of Instructional Communication & Research. Students that do not fulfill these requirements will not be addressed and the original grades will be final.

Course Activities and Assignments – NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED IN CIS 300

1. Job Search Assignment (25 points). Each student will conduct research in desired career field to locate and analyze at least one potential job opportunity/job call to critique their strengths, weaknesses, and fit for the particular job. Each student will write a report based on this process. A specific list of questions to consider will be provided by the instructor.
2. Application materials (130 points). Each student will conduct research to locate a job posting for a position he or she might like to hold one day. Each student will prepare a cover letter and resume draft to use for applying for that position. An additional reflection component will also be included. These documents will be revised later in the semester to reflect what the student learned throughout the term. Upon receiving feedback and making revisions, students will prepare a self-reflection articulating how and why they made the suggested revisions to the cover letter and resume.

3. Elevator pitch (50 points). Each student will prepare and deliver an “elevator pitch” or introduction. This assignment will be outlined by the instructor. Points will be earned for content, structure, and delivery of the actual speech.
4. Interview and critique (130 points). Each student will complete a mock interview using the Career Center’s InterviewStream program. The mock interview will be 6-10 minutes in length. Students will be graded on professionalism, answers, and delivery. In addition, students will prepare a 600-700 word self-critique of their mock job interview.
5. Team Project (315 points). Students will work together in teams (4-5 students each) to examine a workplace crisis situation and formulate potential solutions, as well as a plan for addressing various stakeholder groups. Each group will produce a proposal describing what and how they would communicate to the various groups and why, and a formal 12-16 minute presentation. A written group report/executive summary will be submitted on canvas after the project is complete, as well as three written business documents (memo, email, and press release).
6. Flex Points Activities (25 points). Students may earn a variety of points related to activities. The way in which these points are earned will be determined by the instructor.

Grades

All grading will be calculated as objectively as possible; however, in cases of qualitative assessment, evaluation will be based on the instructor's judgment. Rubrics are used for assessing assignments and are provided to students when assignments are introduced in class. Grades will be based on the scores accumulated by the student divided by the total number of possible points.

| Point Allocation by Assignment | Points |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Job Search Assignment | 25 |
| Application Materials | 130 |
| Elevator Pitch | 50 |
| Interview and Critique | 130 |
| Team Project | 315 |
| Flex Points Activities | 25 |
| Total | 675 |

Incompletes. A grade of “I” (incomplete) will be given in emergency situations only, and will be at the discretion of the instructor. Students will have one year to complete all work if an “I” is awarded. The incomplete must be completed prior to student teaching. *My policy is that I do not grant incompletes.*

The following scale will be used to determine your course grade:

| | | |
|---|---------|---------------------|
| A | 90-100% | (605-675 pts) |
| B | 80-89% | (537-604 pts) |
| C | 70-79% | (470-536 pts) |
| D | 60-69% | (402-469 pts) |
| E | 0-59% | (401 pts and below) |

Summer 2021 CIS 300 Tentative Schedule—8 week, Online

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topics/Readings</u> | <u>Major Assignments Due</u> |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Module 1 6/16-6/18 | Introduction to the course Ch. 1 – Intro to Business Communication | |
| Module 2 6/19-6/25 | Ch. 2 – Globalization and Communication Ch. 4 – Writing in Business Communication | Cover letter/Resume 1 st draft, Job Search Assignment, and introductory video activity due on 6/25 |
| Module 3 6/26-7/2 | Ch. 7 – Resumes & Social Media Ch. 3 – Verbal & Nonverbal Communication | Elevator Pitches and What’s On Your Bucket List? assignment due on 7/2 |
| Module 4 7/3-7/9 | Ch. 8 – Interviewing Strategies | Revised Cover letter/Resume w/reflection and potential interview questions activity due on 7/9 |
| Module 5 7/10-7/16 | Ch. 11 – Presentations: Information-Seeking Ch. 10 – Presentations: Audience Analysis & Delivery | Interviews & interview reflection due on 7/16 |
| Module 6 7/17-7/23 | Ch. 5 & 6 – Interpersonal & Team Communication Ch. 9 – Communicating during Crises | Proposal due for review on 7/23 |
| Module 7 7/24-7/30 | Ch. 12 – Presentations: Development Ch. 13 – Presentations: Visual Aids Ch. 14 – Various Business Presentations | |
| Module 8 7/31-8/6 | Team Presentations | Team Projects (including presentation, visual aid, digital element, written report w/memo, email, press release) due on 8/6 |
| Final Module 8/7-8/11 | Reflection of Project and Course | Team Project-individual reflection survey due on 8/11 |