Montgomery County Community College
SPC 203
Human Communication Theory
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course introduces students to theories of communication. The nature of – and differences between – social scientific and humanistic theories will be discussed. A focus will be the research methods used to develop and /or test communication theories. The course is geared towards 2nd year students with limited exposure to communication coursework. This course requires 42 hours to complete.

REQUISITES:
Previous Course Requirements
- SPC 120 Public Speaking
- ENG 101 English Composition I

Concurrent Course Requirements
None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Analyze communication theories from different perspectives.	Assigned Readings Discussion Research Resources	Written Examinations Discussion Board Written Assignments (e.g., Follow-a-Thread)
2. Recognize and explain major communication theories.	Lecture Discussion AV/Multimedia Materials	Written Examinations Discussion Board Written Assignments
3. Apply knowledge of communication theories to "real world" issues like workplace and personal relationships, cultural interactions and self-realization.	AV/Multimedia Materials Research Resources	Written Assignments (e.g., Poster Presentation)
4. Present knowledge of the application of communication theory in oral and written form.	Lecture AV/Multimedia Materials	Oral Poster Presentation

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:
1. Course Introduction
2. Approaches to theory
3. Using and evaluating theories
4. Objectivist theories
   - Uncertainty Reduction
   - Expectancy violation
   - Social judgment
   - Elaboration likelihood
   - Communication accommodation
   - Face negotiating
5. Interpretive Theories
   - Symbolic convergence
   - Symbolic interactionism
   - Speech codes
   - Relational dialectics theory
   - Communication privacy management

LEARNING MATERIALS:
Griffin, E. (2012). *A First Look at Communication Theory* (8th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:
Prepared by: Meredith Frank and Tom Donlan   Date: 4/11/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:
          Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.   Date: 6/18/2013

Revised by: Tom Donlan   Date: 11/17/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Date: 2/2/2018

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.