

COMM 100 – School of Communication Seminar

Wednesdays 11:30a – 12:20p in CLC L09

Professor Aaron Greer, MFA

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Office Hours: W/Th 2-4 p.m. or by appointment in SOC 203

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the study of communication, the variety of jobs within the field, show them how to succeed in the School of Communication and acquaint them with the resources that can help.

Objectives: Students should complete this course understanding what the school has to offer in terms of advisors, professors, media, clubs, equipment and other resources. They should understand how to begin to chart a career course, find an internship, network and study abroad. They should be aware of what other students, faculty, alumni and professionals in their chosen field are doing.

Texts and Readings: There are no required textbooks for this class. All course materials will be available on-line via Sakai.

Grading and Evaluation: This course will be graded on a pass-fail basis (credit-no credit). Most of the value of this course will be garnered from attending and participating in the class sessions; consequently, regular participation is required to successfully pass the course. Attendance will be taken in each class and any more than two absences will result in a failing grade for the course!

In addition, to successfully pass the class, you must complete the following **assignments:**

1. My Major at Work Presentation – find a working professional who shares your major and briefly present their profile to the class. The presentation should be 2-3 minutes long and simply consist of the person's name, location, major, alma mater(s) and current job description. Your presentation will occur in class on 10/17 or 10/24.

2. Complete any 2 of the 10 tasks listed below, and submit them to me electronically via email or LUC BOX. The first task is due by 2/15 and the second task by 4/26.

- Attend a career fair event, write a brief (2-3 paragraph) description, listing two take-aways (2 things you learned) and get a business card from or selfie with an industry professional you met at the event.
- Attend a professional meeting, conference, workshop, event associated with your field and send me a brief description with proof of your attendance (tickets, selfie, etc.).
- Complete an internship or job search on the SOC database, identify 3 positions that intrigue you, and paste them into a list with a description about what interests you about each listing.
- Interview a communication professional or SOC faculty member about their job and career path, and send me the recording or transcript of the interview.

- Interview a SOC graduating senior or alumnus about their Loyola career and course experiences, and send me the recording or transcript of the interview.
- Identify 3 student abroad programs related to your major (at least one of them should be programs that LUC has a connection to) and list them with brief descriptions and/or links and an explanation about why each interests you.
- Create a fully-fleshed out LinkedIn profile (photo, resume, etc.) or online portfolio/website. Link to professional or organization in your desired field. Provide me with an electronic copy/link to your profile or portfolio.
- Submit an article/photo/video to the Phoenix and send me a copy of your submission.
- Join a student group related to your major or the SOC (SPJ, PRSW, Kettle Camp, etc.), attend an event or meeting of the organization, and turn in a one-page reflection about the group/event. Include a selfie of you at the event.
- Other (TBA)...

Due date policy: There are only three “assignments” due in this class. They are due on the dates listed on this syllabus. They are due by the beginning of class. You cannot turn in an assignment after the deadline. If you don’t turn a project in on time, you won’t get credit for it. Credit for all three projects is required in order to pass this class.

If you are truly sick, or have an emergency on the day a project is due, you must turn in proof of your illness and emergency – which I may verify. Acceptable proof includes a doctor’s note, a police report, an obituary, etc. The proof must include a reference to the date and time.

Participation and Professionalism: You are majoring in communication, so you must communicate in class. You will never be penalized for voicing your opinions, whatever they may be. You will, however, be penalized for disrupting the class or being disrespectful. Talking on cell phones, texting, using laptops, interfering with classmates, e-mailing, sleeping, putting your head down, listening to headphones, closing your eyes and hoping I don’t notice, doing Sudoku, instant messaging, checking Facebook or any other web site and other disruptions (which includes arriving late or leaving early) will lead to failure of the course.

Laptop and cell phone policy: Although technology is an integral part of communication, it doesn’t always help you learn. The more you multitask, the less you learn – studies prove it! Multitasking is also disruptive to me and to the students around you. You may only use your laptops or cell phones in class to take notes or when I have asked you to use them.

Email Policy: I will respond generally respond to emails within 48 hours. I will send you an “I got it” email upon receipt of your emailed assignment.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Plagiarism of any form, of any kind and of any length will be reported to the Dean of Students and the student will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. Cheating on in-class assignments or any other work associated with this class will receive a similar punishment. As you know, plagiarism constitutes using another’s words or ideas without acknowledgment. I will consider it equally dishonest to invent quotes, facts, scenarios and so on. I will occasionally check to verify that you have indeed completed the tasks that you have submitted.

Course Schedule

- Week 1 (8/29)** Syllabus Review. Why am I here? Who is the person next to me?
- Week 2 (9/5)** Tour of the School of Communication: people, resources, equipment.
Guest Speakers: **Jim Collins (LUC Studio/Rambler Productions)**.
- Week 3 (9/12)** Loyola Media (WLUW, The Phoenix, Rambler Sports Locker).
Guest speaker(s): **Ralph Braseth, Eleni Prillaman (WLUW)**.
- Week 4 (9/19)** Student and professional organizations. Working your networks.
Guest Speakers: **SPJ (Michen), Kettle Camp (JSP), PRSSA (Hibbert)**.
- Week 5 (9/26)** Studying Abroad: Where to go and why to go? First Task Due.
Guest: **Jacob Schoofs (Study Abroad) and Dr. Kamerer (SOC)**.
- Week 6 (10/3)** Library resources: research and resources for your major.
Guest speaker: **Abby Annala**, LUC Library Com Specialist.
- Week 7 (10/10)** Careers in Communication: Internships and Career Planning. LinkedIn.
Guest speaker: **Michael Limon & SOC Career Services**
- Week 8 (10/17)** My major at work. Presentation group 1 (Kasdan to Wirth).
- Week 9 (10/24)** My major at work. Presentation group 2 (Bagan to Kaloudis).
- Week 10 (10/31)** Advising: choosing SOC courses and utilizing your advisors.
Guest: SOC Assistant Dean **Lauren Sanchez**.
- Week 11 (11/7)** Graduate school. Where to go and why to go?
- Week 12 (11/14)** Social Justice and my major. What will I do to change the world?
Guest: Professor Emeritus, **Dr. Mark Pollock**.

***** *Thanksgiving Break* *****

- Week 13 (11/28)** Alumni at Work: Net-working.
- Week 14 (12/5)** Review and Wrap-up. Second Task Due.

NO FINAL EXAM

** Note: Because this class features so many guest speakers, the dates and schedule are subject to change as deemed necessary by the instructor. Any significant revision will be announced in class and reflected in an updated schedule on Sakai.*