

COMM 100: School of Communication Seminar. Loyola University Chicago Spring 2017
Thursday 1:00-2:15pm, Corboy Law Center, Room 602

Dr. George Villanueva (Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00pm, Thursday 11:45am-12:45pm, Lewis Tower #909, gvillanueva1@luc.edu)

Course Description

Welcome to the School of Communication (SOC) at Loyola University Chicago. In a changing media world, students can no longer expect to be passive learners and walk out and grab a job. Being successful in the field of communication requires forward thinking and positioning oneself while still in school. In order to do so, it is important to be aware of all the opportunities offered to students by our school. This class is designed to help students to be successful at our school and beyond by acquainting them with the staff, faculty, clubs, institutional culture, resources, and urban environment that make up the SOC. At the end of this class, students should understand how to begin to chart a career course, find an internship, network, and (for some) study abroad.

IDEA Course Objectives

- Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems.
- Developing a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.
- Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

Course Organization

This class is worth one credit hour and will meet once a week throughout the semester. Class assignments will take the place of midterm and final exams.

***Schedule:** Though our class is officially scheduled for 75 minutes, most sections of COMM 100 meet for 50 minutes per week, *unless otherwise noted in the course schedule below*. Most weeks, we will plan to meet for 50 minutes (1:00-1:50pm) and the remaining 25 minutes your professor will be available for individual or group consultations as needed.

Text and Other Materials

There are no required textbooks for this class. Readings will be made available by way of in-class handouts or posted via Sakai.

Grading and Evaluation

This course is graded on a **pass/ fail** basis. While it won't be difficult to pass, be aware that it is possible to fail. You must pass this course before you will be able to enroll in any upper-level courses in the School of Communication. In order to pass, it's important to remember three basic points:

1. Because you cannot benefit from the course material if you aren't in class, regular attendance and participation are required. **Any more than three absences will result in a failing grade.** Participation also includes being on time and staying for the entire class. Two tardies or two times leaving early will equal an absence. Also see the note below about staying engaged in class.

2. Students are expected to **participate actively in class discussions and come to class prepared by doing assigned readings**. Failure to do so will result in a “Fail” for this class. Discussion and debate are ways of assuring your understanding and adding valuable perspectives to a topic.

3. **Timely completion of assignments** will be essential to your success. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. The three assignments are described below. Each will be marked “credit” or “no credit”. Meeting deadlines is crucial in communication industries, and therefore a key expectation in the seminar. Assignments can always be submitted ahead of time. You must make sure your work is complete, well-done (no glaring grammar or punctuation errors), and on time. Missing more than one deadline will result in failing the course. **No Extra Credit** will be given in this class.

Assignments

1. **Speaker reflections:** During the course of the semester, we will have several speakers from the School of Communication and the University come in to share knowledge with us. You will be passed out a ‘Speaker Reflections Form’ at the start of the class and **will be required a completed reflection by the end of the class time for that day**. You are required to answer three questions: **i)** What new information did you learn from the speaker(s) that week?, **ii)** How did the speaker impact your understanding of the role of communication within society?, and **iii)** What questions arose in your head after hearing from the speaker(s)? You are encouraged to ask the speaker(s) your question during the presentation.

If you miss the day that the speaker(s) come in, you are required to get notes from your classmate and turn in a speaker reflection through e-mail by the next class.

2. **SOC Career Week reflection:** The SOC career week will be held from **January 24th- 31st** at the Water Tower Campus. I will forward the information flyer and agenda. You are required to attend at least one of the events scheduled and answer the same questions for the speaker reflections above. Turn in a hard copy of the paper at the start of the **February 2nd** class, *indicating which event you attended, reflection answers, and a selfie picture of you at a banner saying School of Communication Career week.*

3. **SOC Student Interview:** Find and interview an SOC upper class(wo)man in person, face-to-face. Find out the following information:

- What made you choose a SOC major?
- Do you have a minor/second major to complement the SOC major? If so, why? If not, why, not?
- What do you plan to do with your SOC degree upon graduation?
- What have been some of your most personally impactful classes for you and why?
- Have you ever met with an SOC faculty member, how was their knowledge helpful to you?
- Were/are you involved in an SOC student organization? How/why did you become involved?
- What resources (career development center, advising, etc.) have you found most helpful, why?
- What general advice would you give to a new freshmen/transfer student to SOC?

Do not write your paper in Q&A style but instead **format the paper as a profile**. Summarize what was said, **provide a few direct quotes**, and intersperse your own observations and analysis. **Include the student’s name and major within the SOC on the paper**. You will be required to submit a hard copy at the start of the **March 2nd** class. The paper can only be 1-page, single-space, 12-point font.

4. **Birthdate Communication Research:** This assignment will consist of researching and reporting on three pieces of information that came out the year you were born: **i)** an academic article from a scholarly journal, **ii)** top box office film from your birth date, and **iii)** chart-topping song from your birth date. Gabrielle Annala (Loyola librarian assigned to the School of Communication) will also come in to present on research strategies for this assignment and other library resources. This assignment will be due on **April 20**. Additionally, on **April 20 and April 27**, each student will be required to present on the knowledge you learned from the assignment. A separate document with full instructions will be distributed in class.

In-Class Technology Rules:

Personal computers, mobile devices, and wireless Internet are a key part of today's technological culture, but they also can distract you from the class discussion and dampen participation. You may bring your laptops to class for note-taking, but please refrain from browsing the internet, updating your Facebook profile, playing games, instant messaging, shopping, etc. Although you may think you are being discreet, 90% of the time students engaging in such behavior give themselves away (through inappropriate facial expressions, lack of eye contact, out of sync typing, etc.). Use of computer in the classroom is a privilege. If you abuse this privilege, you will be marked absent for that class period and laptops may be banned from the classroom.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

The penalties for academic dishonesty are a grade of F for the course and notification of the dean's office. All students must read the academic integrity policy of the School of Communication found here: http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml. If you have questions concerning acceptable practice, consult with me prior to submitting your work. (1) Never present another person's work as your own. (2) Always provide full citation information for direct quotations. (3) Always provide full citation information when presenting the argument, interpretation, or claim of another, even if you are paraphrasing.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student with a learning disability that needs special accommodation during class periods should provide documentation from Services for Students with Disabilities confidentiality to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student's needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. It is the student's responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates.

Wellness Center

Students are urged to contact the Wellness Center for any physical or mental health issues. Please visit <http://www.luc.edu/wellness> if you have issues or concerns about you or someone you know.

Course Schedule

1/19--Introduction and syllabus review.

1/26--Advocacy & Social Change Communication Major Presentation.

****From 1/24-1/31 is the SOC career week! Make sure you attend it and complete the required assignment above due on 2/2 in class.***

2/2--Susan Dimock: Washington DC Program, and a member of Loyola's PRSSA (Public Relations Student Society of America)

****Career week event reflection due at start of class.***

2/9--Eleni Prillaman WLWU radio station presentation and station visit.

****Please plan on this class going until 2:15pm since we will be visiting the radio station in addition to the in-class presentation.***

2/16--Dorothy Hofstetter: SOC Career & Internships Coordinator

2/23--Kat Fraser and Lauren Sanchez: SOC Student Advising presentation

3/2--Anne Regan, Study Abroad Program Office

****SOC upper class(wo)man major interview due at start of class.***

3/16--Gabrielle Annala: Loyola Library Communication Specialist

3/23--John Berger's *Ways of Seeing*, [Episode 1](#) (1972). Viewing & Discussion.

3/30—Topic TBD

4/6--SOC upper classwomen paper presentations panel on Chicago on Film: Representations of the City, Neighborhoods, and Violence. Presenters: Rachel Greene, Hanna Munin, and Mary Wright.

****Please plan on this class going until 2:00pm since we will have multiple presentations.***

4/13—Topic TBD

4/20--Birthdate Presentations

****Please plan on this class going until 2:15pm since we will have multiple presentations.***

4/27--Last Class: Birthdate Presentations and Evaluations

****Please plan on this class going until 2:15pm since we will have multiple presentations. Also bring your laptops as I will give you time to fill out the online course evaluations.***

This syllabus and course schedule is subject to change by the instructor.