

Course Name : Communication Theories							
Course Code	Course Type	Regular Semester	Lecture (hours/week)	Seminar (hours/week)	Lab. (hours/week)	Credits	ECTS
COM 102	C	Spring	3.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	5.00
Lecturer		Erlis Çela, Prof. Asoc. Dr.					
Assistant							
Course language		Albanian					
Course level		Bachelor					
Description		This course offers to the students an extended look at communication theories. The course of communication theories examines the main theoretical perspectives on communication processes. Through an integrated approach of key theories in exploring key traditions of communication theories, students are introduced to objective and interpretive approaches to communication. Through this course, students will be introduced to the seven traditions in the field of communication theories. The course is designed to enable students to classify different theories of communication and to distinguish the common points of these theories.					
Objectives		The course aims to help understanding features of the 31 current theories used in the communication process. It should encourage the application of theories outside the learning auditorium. It should inspire and develop research and analysis skills. During this course students are intended to expand their knowledge about the main theories of communication, to develop analytical qualities, to analyze each of the theories of communication, to promote the application of communication theories in research projects, to be provided with knowledge about the core concepts of the communication process under consideration from various theories.					
Core Concepts		Theoretical traditions Communication Schools Semiotics Mass Media Media effects Media ecology Objective approach Interpretive approach Interpersonal communication Group communication Rhetoric					
Course Outline							
Week	Topic						
1	Talking about theory-What is theory? General definition of theory and why we should study theories. Metaphors to explain theories and the image of theories. Theories like grids, lenses and maps. Two main approaches in the classification of theories. Objective approach and interpretive approach. Classification of communication theories. The difference between behaviorist scientists and rhetoricians. Presentation of the literature and basic resources of the course, introduction of the syllabus and the way of evaluation. p.13-23, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016						
2	Evaluation of theories. What are the criteria that a good theory must meet. Scientific standards for objective theories and interpretive theories. Mapping the territory. Seven traditions in the field of communication theories. Robert Craig's approach to the seven traditions. Defining boundaries in the field of communication theories. p.37-50, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016						
3	Interpersonal communication. Game metaphor and interpersonal communication. The bowling model as a way to define messages is the most common point of view about communication. Community: The social effect of others expectations. Symbolic Interaction. Coordinated meaning management. p.51-64, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016						

4	The theory of social penetration. What is social penetration and how does the process of social penetration develop. Personality structure according to Irwin Altman and Dalmas Taylor. Theory of social information processing. Technological changes and the impact on interpersonal relationships. Rapid changes in communication technology have made it difficult for communication researchers to try to understand what impact they have on interpersonal relationships. p.96-107, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016
5	Theory of expectations violations. Communication model according to the principle of personal space. The concept of personal space as the invisible and variable volume of space, which surrounds an individual, determining the distance he prefers to have with others. Proxemics and acquaintance with the study of space according to Edward Hall. Introduction to core concepts of theory according to the author Judee Burgoon. The theory of social information processing and the ideas of the author Joseph Walther. The concept of computer-mediated communication. Computer-mediated communication and face-to-face communication. p.177-212, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016
6	Public and group communication. Key concepts of theories that study public communication and group communication. An overview of organizational communication. Cultural approach to organizations. Critical theory of communication in organizations. p.242-277, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016
7	Rhetoric- Narrative paradigm. Ideas for Plato's ideal discourse and Aristotle's rhetoric. Acquaintance with the differences between dialectics and rhetoric. Rhetorical evidence, logos, ethos and pathos. Rules of Rhetoric: Principles of the Art of Persuasion, set by ancient rhetoricians - creation, structuring, style, interpretation and memory. p.278-308, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andreë; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016
8	Midterm Exam
9	Mass communication. Media Ecology. Familiarity with the ideas of the theorist Marshall McLuhan. The relationship of the media with culture and acquaintance with postmodernist approaches. The basis of McLuhan's theory suggests that the media should be understood ecologically. Analysis of the concept "Medium is the message". The power of a medium to transform us. By constantly using a medium it becomes a kind of extension of itself. Elaboration of the concept of "global village". The role of the media in shaping the global village. p.309-322, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tirana, 2016
10	Cultivation theory as a gateway to the field of studying the effects of media. Introduction of basic concepts and principles of cultivation theory. Analyzing the attitudes of Geroge Gerbner and Marshall McLuhan on the power and influence of the media. Unlike McLuhan who superimposed the medium with the message, Gerbner believed that the power of TV stems from the symbolic content of real-life drama, displayed hour after hour, day after day. Gerbnet believed that television dominates the environment of symbols, becoming the narrator of most stories. Familiarity with critiques of the theory of cultivation and discussion of the shortcomings of this theory. p.360-370, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016
11	Use and gratifications theory. Theory contribution to the study of media effects. Familiarity with the concept of two-stop communication. Analyzing Elhu Katz's contribution to changing perspectives on media effects studies. How did the replacement of the question "What does the media do to people" change the field of media effect studies? with the question "What do people do with the media?". By understanding the needs of media consumers, the reasons why we use media are also clarified. The effects of the media or their absence are also explained. Alan Rubin typology for media use. p.350-359, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016

12	Agenda setting theory. What is agenda setting and how does the media influence the public agenda setting? Elaboration of the main agenda-setting hypothesis, according to which the mass media have the ability to transfer interest in issues, from their informative agenda to the public agenda. Familiarity with McCombs and Shaw's ideas on the role of the media agenda-setting function as responsible for the correlation that exists between the media and the public's priorities. Discussion on the sustainability of theory in terms of a changed media ecosystem. Do the new media have the same power in agenda setting? p.371-385, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016
13	Critical Communication Theories and the Frankfurt School. What are the critical theories of communication and how can the key principles be applied in the study of new media? A look at the ideas of Georg Lukács, Theodor W. Adorno, Herbert Marcuse, etc. Social media, digital work through the lens of critical theories. Elaboration of the concept of social media and power according to Christian Fuchs. p.389-401, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016
14	Common lines in communication theories. Differences and common points of the main schools of communication theories. p.467-482, Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: A first look at communication theory, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016
15	Project Presentations
16	Final Exam
Prerequisites	The student must attend the course at a minimum rate of 75%.
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Griffin, Em; Ledbetter, Andrew; Sparks, Glen: Vështrim i parë mbi teorinë e komunikimit, Educational Center shpk, Tiranë, 2016
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ollivier, Bruno: Shkenca e komunikimit, teori dhe arritje, Papirus, Tiranë 2015 • Eric Maigret, (2010) - Sociologjia e komunikimit dhe e mediave, Tiranë: Papirus • Jean-Pierre Meunier, Daniel Peraya, (2009) Hyrje në Teoritë e Komunikimit, Tiranë: Migreerab • https://www.communicationtheory.org • http://www.communicationstudies.com/communication-theories
Course Outcome	
1	At the end of this course students will be able to know the main communication theories.
2	Students will acquire knowledge on the evolution of communication theories in time and new communication concepts
3	Students will gain the knowledge needed to classify, analyze, and evaluate the usefulness of communication theories.
4	Students will be able to apply the knowledge gained about communication theories to research projects and studies

Course Evaluation			
In-term Studies	Quantity	Percentage	
Midterms	1	30	
Quizzes	0	0	
Projects	0	0	
Term Projects	1	10	
Laboratory	0	0	
Class Participation	1	10	
Total in-term evaluation percent		50	
Final exam percent		50	
Total		100	
ECTS Workload (Based on Student Workload)			
Activities	Quantity	Duration (hours)	Total (hours)
Course duration (Including the exam week: 16x Total hours of the course)	16	3	48
Study hours outside the classroom (Preparation, Practice, etc.)	14	4	56
Duties	1	0	0
Midterms	1	0	0
Final Exam	1	25	25
Other	0	0	0
Total Work Load			129
Total Work Load / 25 (hours)			5.16
ECTS			5.00