

Required Course Materials:

Shwom, B.G., Snyder, L. G. (2019). *Business communication: Polishing your professional presence* (4th ed). Hoboken, NJ: Pearson Education.

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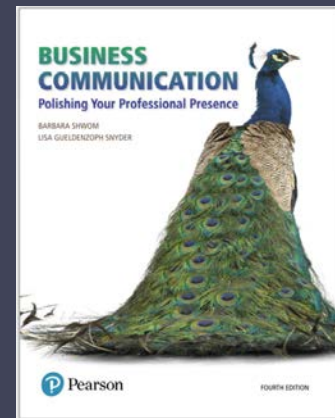
This text is available through UNC Charlotte's bookstore as well as directly from Pearson Publishing. You will need to purchase this textbook as it pertains directly to the theories and practices you will be learning within the course. **Pearson Mylab is NOT required; you only need the textbook.**

Optional Materials:

Mylab with e-book; To purchase access:

<https://www.pearson.com/us/higher-education/product/Shwom-My-Lab-Business-Communication-with-Pearson-e-Text-Access-Card-for-Business-Communication-Polishing-Your-Professional-Presence-4th-Edition/9780134789729.html> **If you choose to purchase access to Mylab, you will automatically have access to the e-book, making it unnecessary to have a hard copy of the book. **However, access to Pearson Mylab is NOT required.**

What you can expect: My approach to learning is creating through a student-centered environment where we will learn from one another, engage in active learning techniques, and exhibit fairness. My instructional methods include: lecture, group discussions, class activities, assigned readings, individual presentations, role-playing, and written assignments.



COURSE POLICIES

Please note: The course policies and grading criteria are part of your "contract" with me in this class. Once you register for this course, you agree to the terms and conditions of this contract (In other words, please don't come to me at the end of the semester trying to "renegotiate" the terms and conditions of this contract because of the grade you earned). Please read the fine print!



Course Expectations

- Business professionals spend about 70% of their time communicating. Thus, good communication skills are essential to you in your career, and they are the chief criteria of employers in both hiring and promotion decisions.
- This course was designed in response to industry feedback about the communication skills needed for business graduates to enter successfully into today's competitive marketplace. This course is very practical and will require effort on your part. It will also require regular attendance; we spend a lot of class time working in groups to apply principles and strategies discussed in your book and in class. You improve your communication skills by working together and giving and getting constructive criticism.

This course is demanding just like the office/work/corporate environment you will enter in a few months or years!

University Policies

Academic Integrity: All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Students who violate the code can be expelled from the university. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty, and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to "F." The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at: <http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

As a condition of taking this course, ALL written work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SimCheck for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the SimCheck reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. No student papers will be submitted to SimCheck without a student's written consent and permission (see FERPA form). It is imperative to understand what constitutes as plagiarism: Using a source in a paper without properly citing it, using a direct quote without including source information, page numbers, and quotation marks is plagiarism, among additional factors. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be reported and sanctions will be given.

If a student does not provide such written consent and permission, the instructor may: (1) require a short reflection paper on research methodology; (2) require a draft bibliography prior to submission of the final paper; or (3) require the cover page and first cited page of each reference sources to be photocopied and submitted with the final paper.

Students with Disabilities: UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at [704-687-0040](tel:704-687-0040) or visit their office in Fretwell 230.

Religious Observances: Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a major religious observance must provide notice to me *in writing by the second week of class*, explaining which class period(s) you expect to miss and why.

Statement on Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio- economic status.

Academic Requirement: COMM 3160 satisfies part of General Education requirement for Goal I - Communication: Oral Communication (O) and Writing Intensive (W) course. This goal states that UNC Charlotte graduates should be able to effectively send and receive in English written and oral messages in different situations for a variety of audiences, purposes and subjects.

All core courses in The Belk College of Business Administration are committed to fulfilling one or more of four major competency areas identified by the letters CATT: Communication and Technology Skills, Adaptability to Change, Globalization, and Diversity, Teamwork and Leadership, and Thinking, Integration, and Problem Solving. COMM 3160 is targeted at the first of these learning outcomes, Communication and Technology Skills.

Classroom Policies



Grading Policy:

Assignment	Points
Summative Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term exam (50pts) • Cumulative final (100pts) • Pop Quizzes (30pts) 	180 pts.
Written Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informative Email (25pts) • Analytical Email (25pts) • Analytical Report Draft (50pts) • Analytical Report - Final (100pts) 	200 pts.
Oral Assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview (20pts) • Informative (50pts) • Analytical (100pts) 	170 pts.
Lab Exercises (Fri. Sessions)	50 pts.

Grading Scale:

- A 537 - 600
- B 477 - 536
- C 417 - 476
- D 357 - 416
- F 356 and below



There are no make-ups for exams missed due to unexcused absences. If you need to miss class to participate in religious holidays or to represent the university, you should notify me in advance of the event. If you have any other assignment scheduling conflicts, these should be discussed on a personal basis with me within the first two weeks of the course.

Attendance Policy:

COMM 3160 is a highly participatory and demanding course, which requires regular attendance, both physically and mentally. Students are expected to be in class regularly to maximize progress toward the objectives of this course.

Attendance: Students must attend class sessions to complete both graded and non-graded assignments and to support the performance of speakers.

Absences: You are required to attend every class session, arrive on time, and remain until dismissed.

- ✓ Absences will only be excused due to medical reasons and/or university-related reasons. It is up to the instructor's discretion as to whether an absence will be considered excused.
- ✓ If you are absent, you must provide appropriate written documentation, which validates the nature of the reason claimed to justify the absence.
- ✓ All documentation must be provided either before the date of the absence, or within a week following the student's return to the class.
- ✓ If you are absent on the day of an exam or assignment due date, you must have your absence verified through the Dean of Students, in order to schedule a make-up date or submit without a late penalty.

****Please note:** Students who attend class regularly and attend on time usually earn a higher grade in the class. Students who are late are counted absent.

Lab Exercises: You will receive a grade for class participation and completion of lab exercises in Friday class sessions. Please note that not all lab exercises will be graded. This is why regular attendance is so important. These grades will be added for an overall participation grade of 50 points for the semester. This will be based on: (1) Coming to class prepared; (2) Participating in class discussions and activities; (3) Attendance/timeliness; (4) Exhibiting appropriate classroom behaviors.

Classroom Policies Continued

Class Preparation: Before each class meeting, read the assigned materials for the specified class session. If you don't understand certain concepts in the readings, ask questions in class or schedule a time to meet with me. Students who carefully read the chapters for each class session are able to engage in the classroom activities and perform better on their presentations and exams.

Late/Missed Work: All written assignments are submitted through Canvas. Late assignments will NOT be accepted and the grade is zero. Exceptions will only be made for significant illness or emergency verified by the Dean of Student's Office. Students are encouraged to manage their time and submit assignments before the due date. Also, if a student misses his or her presentation, the grade is zero. If a student is late for his or her presentation, ten points will be deducted from the presentation grade.

Classroom Courtesy: I expect mutual respect among all members of the classroom. This means:

- ✓ Active listening and avoiding interruptions, like the use of a cell phone, when students are speaking.
- ✓ Participation and attentiveness during lectures, activities, student presentations, etc.
- ✓ Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions (e.g. private conversations, sleeping, doing work for other classes, reading unrelated materials, texting, checking social media/email/etc.) Five points per instance will be deducted from a student's presentation grade if he or she is using an electronic device during another student's presentation.
- ✓ Avoidance of making negative and/or offensive comments that may unintentionally offend or exclude members of our classroom. This includes comments directed towards your instructors.
- ✓ You are not required to participate during each discussion; however, it is important that you provide insight, pose questions, or make comments regularly throughout the semester.

**Please note: You may be asked to leave the classroom if your actions are disruptive to the learning environment.

Class Cancellation: In the event of class cancellation due to inclement weather, personal or local emergencies, exams/assignments scheduled for the canceled day will be expected to occur the next class meeting (unless otherwise notified). **Please note: If your instructor is more than 15 minutes late to class, check class status via email and Canvas to confirm class cancellation before leaving. *Do not assume class is canceled.*

General Communication: You may reach me primarily through email. *Please allow 24 hours for a response to each email.* If you would like to secure an appointment with me, please send me an email and we will schedule from there. *Questions about grades must be discussed with me within two class periods after receiving the graded work.*

**Please note: My office hours are by appointment, and I have "virtual" office hours via SKYPE (contact me at mdb5000) or Google Hangouts (contact me via melodydb@uncc.edu).

Take care of yourself policy: A Personal Note from the Instructor

- Take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, avoiding drugs and alcohol, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax.
- All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. There are many helpful resources available on campus and an important part of the college experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is almost always helpful.
- If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, I strongly encourage you to seek support. The Center for Counseling at Psychological Services (CAPS) is here to help: 704-687-0311 or by email at caps@uncc.edu. You can also visit their website at <https://caps.uncc.edu/>.

Assignments Overview

Evaluation will be based on students demonstrating an understanding of course content through class participation, oral presentations, exams, and written assignments. Detailed rubrics for each element are found on Canvas.

Friday Lab Exercises: You will receive a grade for class participation in Friday lab sessions. These grades will be added for an overall participation grade of 50 points for the semester. This will be based on: (1) Coming to class prepared; (2) Participating in class discussions and activities; (3) Attendance/timeliness; (4) Exhibiting appropriate classroom behaviors.

Oral Presentations: Presentation criteria details are found on Canvas. Presentation dates will not be changed once a student confirms the date. Due to scheduling constraints, no make-up presentations will be permitted without written documentation of a medical emergency verified by the Dean of Students Office. All students must wear professional business attire for the presentations. Points are deducted for inappropriate attire. You will submit to your lab instructor (via email) your visual aid for your presentation 24 hours before you present. If you have not submitted your visual aid beforehand, there will be a five-point deduction from your overall presentation. Also, ten points are deducted if you are late for your presentation (absent when class period begins).

1. **Mock Interview:** The purpose of this oral assignment is to simulate business interviews using Big interview software.
2. **Informative Presentation:** The purpose of this oral assignment is to effectively research, organize, and deliver a 4-5 minute informative presentation to your audience. Extemporaneous delivery is required for this presentation. In an informative presentation you are relating content to your audience in an objective manner.
3. **Analytical Presentation:** The purpose of this assignment is to effectively research, organize, and deliver an 8-10 minute persuasive presentation to your audience. Extemporaneous delivery is required for this speech. In a persuasive presentation you are acting as an advocate to bring about change in the attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors of your target audience.

Exams/Pop Quizzes: You will have one mid-term exam and one cumulative final in this class. The mid-term and final will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and possibly short answer questions. ALL assigned readings, class exercises, lectures, and supplementary materials/handouts may appear on the exams. Students who arrive late on an exam day will be allowed to take the exam, IF another student has not already turned in their completed exam. There will be several unannounced "pop" quizzes in lecture throughout the semester. These will serve to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading and with the material presented in lecture. **Exams will not be curved.**

Written Assignments: Written assignments must be typed, using Times New Roman font, 12-point size. Handwritten material will not be accepted. Additional assignment details and directions are located on Canvas.

1. Informative Email: This assignment an email utilizing clear and concise communication to confirm your informative topic.
2. Analytical Email: This assignment outlines your work plan for your analytical report.
3. Analytical Report Draft: This assignment allows you to get feedback on your report before the final draft.
4. Analytical Report: This assignment will utilize formal, manuscript-style business report format aimed at accompanying your analytical topic.