RESEARCH REQUIREMENT PROCESS

The Communication Studies Department requires all students taking COMM1500 and COMM1110 to satisfy a 2 credit departmental research requirement. Students must earn 2 credits for each Communication Studies class that requires or offers research participation (e.g., students cannot use one research opportunity to apply to two classes). The Research Requirement must be completed on or before the last day of class (i.e., the day before Reading Day). Failure to fulfill the research requirement will result in a grade of Incomplete (I). In order to remove the Incomplete (I), you must complete the research requirement in a future semester.

The research opportunities are also available for students taking higher-level COMM courses that offer extra credits.

Six research options are offered to fulfill this requirement with varying credit allotment:

- Option 1: Participation in a lab-based research study = 2 credits
- Option 2: Participation in an online study = 1 credit
- Option 3: Attendance and reflection of a live debate = 1 credit
- Option 4: Attendance and reflection of the Public Speaking Contest = 1 credit
- Option 5: Attendance and reflection of a Communication Studies presentation = 1 credit
- Option 6: Written analysis of a Communication research article = 2 credits

**OPTION 1: PARTICIPATE IN A LAB-BASED COMMUNICATION RESEARCH STUDY (2 credits)**

A lab-based research study involves you physically attending a scheduled research lab session in Caldwell Hall or other lab space on campus. The Department of Communication Studies regards student participation in research studies as an educational experience for the participant, the researcher, and for the department. Student participation is appreciated and essential to the research of the Department of Communication Studies. Research contributions made by students are a lasting part of the body of social scientific knowledge about communication. The guidelines for research participation are as follows:

**STEP 1: SIGN-UP FOR A LAB-BASED RESEARCH STUDY.**

1. Check the “Research” website regularly during the semester to look for studies: http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research
2. When a study becomes available:
   a. Make sure that you qualify to participate in the study (e.g., ensure that you meet all of the parameters that might be set by the researcher or by the study).
   b. Make sure it is lab-based: A lab-based research study involves you physically attending a scheduled research lab session in Caldwell Hall or other lab space on campus. Online research studies (i.e., completing an online survey from home) are described below.
3. Sign-up (register for the study). Be sure to note what time you chose to participate, what will be expected of you, the approximate amount of time the study will take to complete, and the researcher’s contact information.
4. Be sure to fill in your full name, your instructor’s name, your course information, your phone number, AND your email address so the researcher can contact you if he or she needs to reschedule or send you additional information.
5. After signing up, you must participate in the research study to earn to complete the research requirement.

**STEP 2: PARTICIPATE IN THE LAB-BASED RESEARCH STUDY.**
1. Follow the instructions provided in the follow up email you receive regarding the study.
2. *Because you are signing up for a study that requires you to physically attend a research lab:*
   a. You must show up at the designated time and location.
   b. When you show up for the study, please sign in using both your name and your instructor’s name. The researchers need this information to ensure you receive participation credit for fulfilling the research requirement.
   c. If you have to miss an appointment due to illness or emergency, please email the research and let him/her know.
3. The researcher will post a list of participants to your instructor within 48 hours of the study closing. This means the list may not be posted until weeks after you have participated in the study.
4. If, for some reason you do not receive credit for participating in a study, notify your instructor and ask him/her to check with the researcher. The instructor has the responsibility to double check and find out whether you participated.
5. Participation in a study must be completed **on or before the last day of class.**

**OPTION 2:**

**PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE COMMUNICATION RESEARCH STUDY**

(1 credit)

An **online** study is one that is completed at your own convenience via an emailed link to a research study. As noted above, Student participation is appreciated and essential to the research of the Department of Communication Studies. The guidelines for research participation are as follows:

**STEP 1: SIGN-UP FOR AN ONLINE RESEARCH STUDY.**
1. Check the “Research” website regularly during the semester to look for studies: http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research
2. When a study becomes available:
   a. Make sure that you qualify to participate in the study (e.g., ensure that you meet all of the parameters that might be set by the researcher or by the study).
3. Sign-up (register for the study). Be sure to note what time you chose to participate, what will be expected of you, the approximate amount of time the study will take to complete, and the researcher’s contact information.
4. Be sure to fill in your full name, your instructor’s name, your phone number, AND your email address so the researcher can contact you if he or she needs to reschedule or send you additional information.
5. After signing up, you must participate in the research study to earn to complete the research requirement.
STEP 2: PARTICIPATE IN THE ONLINE STUDY.
1. Follow the instructions provided in the follow up email you receive regarding the study.
2. If you sign up for a study that requires you to physically attend the research lab:
   a. You must show up at the designated time and location.
   b. When you show up for the study, please sign in using both your name and your instructor’s name. The researchers need this information to ensure you receive participation credit for fulfilling the research requirement.
   c. If you have to miss an appointment due to illness or emergency, please email the researcher and let him/her know.
3. The researcher will post a list of participants to your instructor within 48 hours of the study closing. This means the list may not be posted until weeks after you have participated in the study.
4. If, for some reason you do not receive credit for participating in a study, notify your instructor and ask him/her to check with the researcher. The instructor has the responsibility to double check and find out whether you participated.
5. Participation in a study must be completed on or before the last day of class.

OPTION 3:
ATTEND THE PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST
(1 credit)
The public speaking contest is held twice yearly in the fall semester (November) and spring semester (April). The public speaking contest will be posted on the “Research” section of the Department’s website: http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research. The guidelines for attending the Public Speaking Contest are as follows:

STEP 1: SIGN UP TO ATTEND THE PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST.
1. Check the “Research” website in April/November to signup (register): http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research.
2. Note the time and location of the public speaking contest.
3. Your name (as an attendee) as noted on the website will be transferred to sign-in and sign-out sheets at the public speaking contest.

STEP 2: ATTEND THE PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST.
1. Arrive punctually and sign in. Your name MUST be on the sign-in sheet for you to receive participation credit for attending this event.
2. Take notes during the public speaking contest so that you are able to write an analysis of the speeches.
3. Stay for the entire contest (e.g., do not arrive late or leave early).
4. Sign-out when the public speaking contest is over.

STEP 3: WRITE A 2-PAGE PAPER.
1. Write a 2-page paper (1) to demonstrate that you paid careful attention to the speeches, and (2) to give an astute description of what you learned from the speakers.
2. Include the following criteria in your paper:
   a. Choose 3 speeches to evaluate.
   b. What did you like about each speech?
c. State 2 “take away” points per speech
d. Critically evaluate the speeches based on delivery, content, organization, clarity, importance of the topic, and relevance to the listeners.

3. Type and double-space your paper using a standard 12-point font and 1” margins.
4. Create a title page for the paper that includes:
   a. The date of the contest, and the winner of the contest
   b. Your name
   c. Your instructor’s name

STEP 4: TURN IN YOUR PAPER.
1. Submit your paper within 2 weeks of the Public Speaking Contest in the appropriate dropbox on eLC for your instructor.
2. Unacceptable papers must be revised and resubmitted to the instructor.
3. Any papers turned in after their due date will not be accepted for credit.

OPTION 4: ATTEND A DEPARTMENTAL DEBATE
(1 credit)
Eligible departmental debates will be posted on the “Research” section of the Department’s website (http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research) prior to the debate event. The guidelines for attending a debate are as follows:

STEP 1: SIGN UP TO ATTEND THE DEBATE (the departmental debate is titled “Loud and Clear,” but other debates are sometimes offered during the semester).
1. Check the “Research” website to signup: http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research
2. Note the time and location of the debate.

STEP 2: ATTEND THE DEBATE.
1. Arrive punctually and sign in; write your instructor’s name, your class, and the class meeting time.
2. Take notes during the debate so that you are able to write an analysis of the debate.

STEP 3: WRITE A 2-PAGE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE DEBATE.
1. Write a 2-page paper on the debate.
2. Include the following criteria in your paper:
   a. Topic of debate
   b. 2-3 main arguments advocated by the affirmative team (the team speaking first).
   c. 2-3 main arguments advocated by the negative (the team speaking second).
   d. Indicate which team won the debate: Affirmative or Negative
   e. Why did they win the debate?
3. Type and double-space your paper using a standard 12-point font and 1” margins.
4. Create a title page for the paper that includes:
   a. The date and location of the debate, and the winner of the debate team
   b. Your name
   c. Your instructor’s name
STEP 4: TURN IN YOUR PAPER.
1. Submit your paper within **2 weeks** of the Debate in the appropriate dropbox on eLC for your instructor.
2. Unacceptable papers must be revised and resubmitted to the instructor.
3. Any papers turned in after their due date will not be accepted.

**OPTION 5:**

**ATTEND A SPECIAL DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATION**

(1 credit)

Any special departmental presentations (e.g., Undergraduate Colloquium) will be posted on the “Research” section of the Department’s website (http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research) prior to the event. The guidelines for attending a departmental presentation are as follows:

**STEP 1: SIGN UP TO ATTEND THE PRESENTATION.**
1. Check the “Research” website to signup: http://spcmweb.franklin.uga.edu/research
2. Note the time and location of the presentation.

**STEP 2: ATTEND THE PRESENTATION.**
1. Arrive punctually and sign in; write your instructor’s name, your class, and the class meeting time.
2. Take notes during the presentation so that you are able to write an analysis of the presentation.

**STEP 3: WRITE A 2-PAGE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENTATION.**
1. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have carefully listened to and understood the talk. It should be partly a summary and an astute description of what you got out of the talk. Papers that contain simple phrases like "I didn't like his/her research” or “it was confusing" will not be accepted for credit. You need to critically evaluate the research content of the talk.
2. Type and double-space your paper using a standard 12-point font and 1” margins.
3. Create a title page for the paper that includes:
   a. The date and location of the presentation
   b. Your name
   c. Your instructor’s name

**STEP 4: TURN IN YOUR PAPER.**
1. Submit your paper within **2 weeks** of the presentation in the appropriate dropbox on eLC for your instructor.
2. Unacceptable papers must be revised and resubmitted to the instructor.
3. Any papers turned in after their due date will not be accepted.

**OPTION 6:**

**SUMMARIZE A COMMUNICATION RESEARCH ARTICLE**

(2 credits)
This option allows students to read current research published in the Communication discipline. The objective is for students to read the article and summarize it in their own words, adding their own thoughts and reflections. The purpose of writing this paper shows you have read and understood the research article. The summary and analysis should include an astute description of what you learned from the article and demonstrate that you can critically evaluate the material. The paper should contain at least two full pages of text plus a title page. The guidelines for summarizing a Communication research article are as follows:

**STEP 1: SELECT A RESEARCH ARTICLE FROM ONE OF THESE JOURNALS:**

1. Locate a copy of the journal in the UGA library or online.
2. Choose an article published **within the last year.**
3. The article must describe a research study (e.g., check for headings within the article such as “Method” and “Results”).
4. Check with your instructor to make sure the article is suitable before you write your paper.

**STEP 2: WRITE A 2-PAGE SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF THE ARTICLE.**
1. Your summary and analysis of the research article should include an astute description of the article. After summarizing, describe in your own words what you learned from the article. Share any insights or practical applications you learned from the research.
2. Your summary and analysis must be original work; any form of plagiarism is a serious academic offense (e.g., copying entirely or partially from the research article or from another student’s work). Shoddy work will not be accepted. Failing to heed these guidelines will cause your paper to be unacceptable.
3. Type and double-space your summary and analysis using a standard 12-point font and 1” margins.
4. Create a title page for the paper that includes:
   a. Your name
   b. Your instructor’s name and class time
   c. The title of the article you read and the author(s) of the article
   d. The name of the journal
   e. The date and/or volume number of the journal
   f. The page numbers of the article
   g. Include a link to the research article (If you used a journal from the UGA Library, then scan the article and include it with your paper).

**STEP 3: TURN IN YOUR PAPER.**
1. Submit your paper in the appropriate dropbox on eLC for your instructor by Friday of Week 14 of the semester.
2. Unacceptable papers must be revised and resubmitted to the instructor.
3. Any papers turned in after their due date will not be accepted.