

## CI 615: Perspectives on Communication and Information Knowledge and Research II

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michelle Violanti, Ph.D.

**OFFICE INFORMATION:** 287 Comm. Building, 974-7072, violanti@utk.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Monday, by appointment

**INSTRUCTOR:** Michael J. Palenchar, Ph.D.

**OFFICE INFORMATION:** 476 Comm. Building, 974-9082, mpalench@utk.edu

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday, 1:00 – 5:00 PM, or by appointment

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT DURING OFFICE HOURS:** Call Joyce Holloway, CPS, 974-3048, or email her at [adv@utk.edu](mailto:adv@utk.edu), or just stop in

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT OUTSIDE OF OFFICE HOURS:** contact instructor

**Catalog Description (6 hours):** Examination of the paradigmatic underpinnings that drive research in interpretivistic traditions. Integrative study of the role of theory, various theoretical traditions and methods within interpretivistic communication and information research. Emphasis on classic and contemporary literature and on conducting primary research across the various fields represented by the college

### Goals & Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should:

- Understand research paradigms, world views, ontologies, and epistemologies driving interpretivistic research perspectives
- Understand how paradigmatic assumptions define the role of theory, impact research design, data analysis and criteria for rigorous research
- Understand major theoretical traditional CCI research and their respective research methods
- Be familiar with the available communication and information literature
- Identify a research area for doctoral research and master its literature
- Be able to apply the principles discussed in the research area's core literature
- Gain familiarity with the available communication and information resources
- Be able to play devil's advocate in reviewing others' manuscripts or at research debates
- Be able to utilize course materials to propose and conduct research projects

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Berger, P., & Luckman, T. (1966). *The social construction of reality: A treatise in the sociology of knowledge*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.

Geertz, C. (1973). *The interpretation of cultures*. New York, NY: Basic.

Goffman, E. (1959). *The presentation of self in everyday life*. New York, NY: Anchor.

Kuhn, T. (1962). *The structure of scientific revolutions*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago.

McCracken, G. (1988). *The long interview*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

*Publication Manual* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). (2010). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

\* Readings and materials available via the Library, Internet or Blackboard Learning System (<http://online.utk.edu>).

**CCI Diversity Statement:** CCI recognizes and values diversity. Exposing students to diverse people, ideas and cultures increases opportunities for intellectual inquiry, encourages critical thinking, and enhances communication and information competence. When all viewpoints are heard, thoughtfully considered, and respectfully responded to, everyone benefits. Diversity and fairness unite us with the wider professional and global community.

**Disability Accommodation Statement:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact with one of your instructors privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services at 865-974-6087 in 2227 Dunford Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

## **POLICIES**

- This course adheres to the university's Academic Standards of Conduct and Honor Statement, as presented in the student handbook *Hilltopics*.
- Students are expected to attend all classes, arrive on time and participate in class discussion.
- In general, students are not allowed to make up missed work without advanced notice. Plans should be made to turn assignments in early if you are traveling to a conference. Exceptions will be rare and at the discretion of the instructors.
- Syllabus is subject to change, as instructors deem appropriate and necessary.
- Please turn off all handheld devices, including mobile phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. during class. Mobile devices can be used for course-related reasons only. Other uses (email, IM, Facebook, general browsing) are incredibly disrespectful.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

- Heavy and critical reading of the assigned materials and participation in discussions.
- Individual research paper and presentation for submission to conference and then journal with appropriately reviewed literature, a research plan to answer a contemporary humanistic question in your area of interest, and data necessary to address the guiding research problem. Presentations should be between 12 and 15 minutes and presenters should be ready to field questions from the audience.
- Group research data analysis project; use the data to develop a co-authored paper for submission to conference and then journal.
- Miscellaneous assignments, including but not limited, to:
  - Analysis of Published Articles Assignment
  - Publication Outlet Options Assignment
  - Philosophy of Science Essays Assignment with Annotated Bibliographies (4) – for doctoral examination core question on Ontology, Axiology, Epistemology, and Methodology
- Team Presentation and Discussion (Groups of 2)

**Lead Discussant/Respondent:** Each student will lead class discussion for several assigned readings throughout the semester, as well as be a synthesis respondent at the end of class periods. This is not a formal presentation. The objective of this assignment is for each student to lead a critical discussion of reading assignments, reviewing the main topic of the paper, methodology analysis, critique of results and discussion sections, as well as analyzing the writing style and

academic outlet of the assigned piece. This can include elements such as background of the author(s), submission policy of the journals, editorial board of the journal, benefits to the body of knowledge, **commonalities with other assigned readings that day, research stream of the authors**, university affiliations, etc. The synthesis respondent will provide a concise synthesis of all the readings that day or related to the topic over several days.

**GRADE:** Grading is done on a traditional, graduate-level A through F scale with A representing superior performance, B representing satisfactory performance, and C representing less than satisfactory performance. The final grade is comprised of your performance on miscellaneous assignments (25%), Group Research and Data Analysis Project (25%), and Individual Research Paper & Presentation/Discussion (50%).

### **COURSE SCHEDULE (flexible)**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 13: Course Introduction (V&P)**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 18: Philosophy of Science (V)**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 20: Philosophy of Science (V)**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 25: Culture, Human Behavior in Social Situations (P)**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 27: Phenomenology & The Paradigmatic Underpinnings of Qualitative Research (P)**

- **PUBLICATION OUTLET OPTIONS ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1: Symbolic Interactionism (P)**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3: Social Constructionism (P)**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8: Translating Paradigm into Method (V)**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10: Underpinnings of Qualitative Research Design (V)**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15: Underpinnings of Qualitative Data Analysis (V)**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17: Foundations of Critical Studies (P)**

- **ANALYSIS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22: Foundations of Critical Studies (P)**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24: Research Presentation Workshop & Luncheon (P)**

- **CENTRIPETALS RESEARCH LUNCHEON PRESENTATION – PALENCHAR, 12:00 – 1:30 PM, UC EXECUTIVE DINING ROOM (\$8.00)**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25: CCI RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1: Data Analysis – Textual Analysis Workshop (V)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3: Data Analysis – Textual Analysis Workshop (V)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8: Foundations of Cultural Studies (P)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10: Feminist Scholarship (V)**

- **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 15 & THURSDAY, MARCH 17 – SPRING BREAK [no classes]**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 22: Semiotics (V)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 24: Literary Criticism (V)**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29: Narrative Theory, Rhetorical Criticism, & Discourse Analysis (P)**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31: Information Retrieval and Information Seeking (V)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 5: Historiography & Legal Theories/Methods Overview (V)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 7: Political Economy & Power (P)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 12: Ethnography (P)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 14: Post Modern Orientations, Reflexivity (P)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 19: Individual Research Presentations & Discussions (V&P)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 21: Individual Research Presentations & Discussions (V&P)**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26: Individual Research Presentations & Discussions (V&P)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28: Course Conclusion (V&P)**

**Monday, May 2: FINAL INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH PAPERS DUE BY 5:00 p.m. (hard copy to both instructors)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 5: FINAL EXAM PERIOD**