



University of  
**Pittsburgh**

College in the High School

**Bradford**

**Introduction to Human Communication  
COMM 0101  
3 credits**

**Description:** An introductory survey course designed to familiarize students with the many contexts of human communication, such as interpersonal, small-group, organizational, public speaking, and media communication.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Textbook:** The recommended text for the course is *A First Look at Communication Theory*. Griffin. 10<sup>th</sup>. Ed..

Other textbooks will be considered by the faculty liaison on case-by-case basis.

**The following topics should be covered in this course:**

1. Introducing communication theory
2. Comparing and contrasting several theories about communication
3. Motivated reasoning through social judgement
4. Harmonizing of dissonance
5. Communicative constitution of organizations
6. New rhetorics
7. The foundational contributions of Aristotle
8. Plato
9. The Myths
10. McLuhan: The medium and the message
11. Althusser's *Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses*
12. Rhetorical violence

**Course objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to have a basic understanding of, and appreciation for:

- the definition, purpose, and value of communication.
- how meaning is made, invested and shared across the breadth of the communication field.
- the process of perception, its role in identity development, and interpersonal communication.
- how culture shapes communication, and how communication generates culture.
- verbal and nonverbal contributions to the process, and symbol and sign use.

- the essential process of listening as a foundation for efficient, effective communication.
- group and team communication; leadership; and service.
- organizational communication.
- media literacy.

**Grading:** The final grade will be determined using a variety of assessment methods including exams, reflection papers and presentations.

**Pitt Grading System:**

All courses required to satisfy associate and baccalaureate degree requirements-including all courses required for a major, a minor, or general education-must be taken for letter grades, with the exception of those courses designated as graded S and NC only. Pitt-Bradford uses 13 earned letter grades. They are listed below with their equivalent quality point values.

A+	4.00
A	4.00 superior achievement
A-	3.75
B+	3.25
B	3.00 meritorious achievement
B-	2.75
C+	2.25
C	2.00 adequate achievement
C-	1.75
D+	1.25
D	1.00 minimal achievement
F	0.00 failure

**Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** Members of a university community, both faculty and students, bear a serious responsibility to uphold personal and professional integrity and to maintain complete honesty in all academic work. Violations of the code of academic integrity are not tolerated. Students who cheat or plagiarize or who otherwise take improper advantage of the work of others face harsh penalties, including permanent dismissal. The academic integrity guidelines set forth student and faculty obligations and the means of enforcing regulations and addressing grievances.

**Grades:** Grade criteria in the high school course may be different from the University standards. A CHS student could receive two course grades, one for high school and one for the University transcript. In most cases, the grades are the same. Grading standards should be explained at the beginning of the course.

**Transfer Credits:** Grades earned in CHS courses appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript and the course credits may be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. Students should contact potential colleges and universities in advance to be sure their CHS credits will be accepted. If students will attend any University of Pittsburgh campus, grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University. At the University of Pittsburgh, the CHS course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

**Drops and Withdrawals:** Students should monitor their progress in a course. A CHS teacher can contact the program administrators to request a drop or withdrawal. Dropping or withdrawing from the CHS course has no effect on enrollment in the high school credits.