COMM 386

Organizational Communication

*The syllabus for this course is built directly into Canvas – this version of the syllabus has been copied and pasted from Canvas pages.

To access each aspect of the syllabus, please click on the tabs below:

- Professor
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- General Resources
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Professor Information

Dr. Kathy Castle

Email: Contact via Canvas or directly at kcastle4@unl.edu

Class: Burn 102, 11:00 am-12:15pm T/Th

Physical Office: Louise Pound Hall 349

Virtual Office: https://unl.zoom/my/kathycastle

*Student Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm, and by appointment

*Students are encouraged to stop by and see me to discuss the course, ask questions, get to know one another a bit, share ideas/concerns and generally just connect. I value the student-teacher instructional partnership and part of that is getting to know you. It is generally good practice to give me a heads up if you plan to stop by my office hours. *While I strive to be available for unannounced drop ins, please don't be discouraged if I am not there for an unscheduled visit during office hours (my roles often take me in a wide range of directions). However, I will ALWAYS prioritize my students when I know they are coming to see me. In light of this, it helps to send me a quick email earlier in the week or let me know in class that you're planning to come to office hours, or, if that time doesn't work in your schedule, to request a meeting at a different time. I am happy to arrange something.*

Description & Learning Outcomes

Course Overview

At their core, organizations are constituted in and through human interaction - and they shape human interaction in powerful ways. They are pervasive in impact our lives in profound ways. From the schools we attend, to the places we work, to the clubs, sports, and hobbies we engage, all of these experiences shape our understanding of organizations. In this course, we will examine how communication creates, sustains, transforms, and sometimes even destroys organizations. Our goal this semester will be to go beyond your casual understanding of organizations and, drawing from a communication perspective, begin to develop a more nuanced understanding as we explore questions central to understanding why they operate in specific ways. This should prepare you to be more proactive in improving the organizations you encounter and your experiences within them.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, you should be able to:

- Understand major concepts and theories of communication in organizational contexts
- Learn the historical development of theory and research in the field of organizational communication
- Apply organizational communication theories and concepts to practical organizational communication situations.
- Think critically about the role of communication in organizational processes
- Analyze organizational communication problems and develop evidence-based recommendations for change

Advocate, Negotiate, and Relate

The [Department of Communication Studies](#) teaches students how to better advocate, negotiate, and relate across personal, professional, and public contexts. This course accomplishes this in several ways, including learning how to *advocate* for your perspective in an organizational context, how to better *relate* with others as you manage relationships in organizational contexts, and how to better *negotiate* different priorities, goals, perspectives, and needs in organizational contexts.

Course Structure

This course is a face-to-face, in person course that is meant to provide opportunities for in-class peer-to-peer learning. Thus, it is important that, as long as you are healthy and able to attend class, that you come to class prepared and ready to discuss this material. *If you must miss class, I ask that you work with me in advance (as much as is possible) to notify me of a need to miss class and make arrangements for ensuring you are caught up.* Your proactive approach to these situations make it possible for me to help you manage the absence. If you miss and do not reach out to me prior to or, if necessary, immediately following the absence, I will be less able work with you on getting caught up. This kind of approach requires that each of us take seriously the importance of engaging in and attending class as long as we are able to do so, and places a great deal of trust on one another to make good decisions about when we should be in class and when we should not.

Learner Tip:

- Check your weekly schedule and plan ahead for work and/or class attendance so you know what you are working on each week
- Be communicative with me if your situation requires that you miss class. Be proactive, let me know ASAP, and work with me on a plan to ensure you are caught up
- Remember, I am here to support your learning of this content. I cannot help you with missed classes and/or missed assignments if you do not work with me proactively when these occur.
- If you wait until the end of the semester to get caught up, I am limited in what I can do to support you in that effort

Course Expectations and Policies

Learner Tip:

Review these expectations and policies and, if you have questions about any of them, please reach out to your instructor.

In order to promote the most productive learning environment in this course, please be sure you are familiar with and abide by the course expectations and policies, detailed below.

General Course Policies

Attendance. Class attendance is a key part of your learning in this class. Thus, all students are expected to attend all class sessions. If you are unable to attend class due to illness, quarantine, or some other conflict, you should reach out to me to advise me of your situation ASAP. You will be asked to provide documentation for your absence. If this is an excused absence, you will be allowed to make the work up for that class period. If you wish to make up the work for this class period, you must reach out to me within 48 hours of your absence and arrange for the completion of the missed work within seven days of the original due date. Work completed after that time will not be accepted for credit.

Excused Absences: There are many reasons a student may not attend class, some of which can be considered "excused", and others of which will be considered "unexcused". If a student has an unexcused absence, that student is not eligible to make up the work that is missed due to the absence. If a student has an excused absence, that student will be given the opportunity to make up the work for that day for full credit if done so within 7 days of the absence. Excused absences are

absences that result from a student's illness, quarantine, death in the student's family, or a conflict due to a university sponsored event. For an absence to be considered "excused", the student should provide appropriate documentation supporting the need for the absence on the specific day and time of the class meeting within 48 hours of the missed class period.

Respect and Contributing to Positive, Productive Classroom Culture. Each student contributes to the classroom culture, and contributes to an environment that shapes the learning process. You are expected to respectfully engage in all aspects of the class. When disagreements do occur, you are encouraged to state your perspective in a respectful manner and listen respectfully to others. Respect for yourself, your peers, your instructor, and the class as a whole are imperative.

Part of showing respect for your peers and your instructor is ensuring you are giving your classmates and instructor your attention throughout the class period and throughout the group-related meetings outside of class. This means that in class, you are expected to silence your phones, avoid social media and surfing the internet, and put technology away when the instructor indicates that you should do so.

Academic Dishonesty and Student Misconduct. Academic honesty and integrity are an expectation in this course. Any student who is found to have engaged in an act of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, complicity, misrepresenting excuses for missing class **or** turning in late work) will be assigned an automatic zero for the assignment and the case will be reviewed to determine whether the student will fail the course. **Plagiarism is any act of submitting another person's work as your own work. Please note: It is possible to plagiarize yourself**. You may not submit work that you completed in a prior semester (for this or any other class) for a grade in the current semester. ***Doing this constitutes self-plagiarism.*** If you have questions about this, please talk with your instructor.

Existing and Emerging AI Writing Tools. As we begin to learn more about the ways Artificial Intelligence as seen in existing and emerging tools like Chat GPT can both support and circumvent the learning process, it is important that you know that you are expected to complete all your work in this course without using these resources. We are still learning about the impact of these tools on the educational process and the work you are asked to complete in this course is directly tied to supporting your learning of the key learning outcomes. If you have questions about this, please talk with your GTA.

The Department of Communication Studies is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity. The Department adopts the campus definition of academic dishonesty in the Student Code of Conduct (Article 3, Section B-1) including cheating, fabrication or falsification, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, falsifying grade reports, impermissible collaboration, and misrepresentation. The instructors will meet with the student and if they determine that academic dishonesty or misconduct has occurred, the instructor will prepare a written account and file a "Misconduct Referral Form" with the Office of the Dean of Students. The full "Academic Dishonesty and Student Misconduct" policy is linked to the department's website: https://comm.unl.edu/forms-and-policies

Assignment Turn In. All assignments must be submitted through Canvas as explained in each assignment description. Assignments will not be accepted via email or any other format. It is your responsibility to use Canvas effectively to turn in your assignments and to ensure that your assignment is properly submitted before the assignment due date according to course specifications. PLEASE NOTE: Your assignments MUST be Microsoft Word documents. If you are saving your assignments on your MAC, you must add the .doc or .docx file extension to your document in order for it to be accepted.

Deadlines. Meeting deadlines is very important and a mark of professionalism. All assignments are due to Canvas by the date indicated in the assignment within Canvas. Late assignments will be accepted up to four days beyond the due date, with a 10% deduction of the total points possible for every calendar day they are late. If you are not able to meet this deadline, please reach out to me in advance to discuss what, if any options, exist.

Turning Work in Early. You are welcome to turn your work in early. However, please note that your written assignments will not be graded until the assigned due date.

Written Work. The work you turn in should reflect your professionalism. All written assignments must be typed and proofread for errors. Handwritten work will not be accepted.

Student Responsibility in Educational Process. Students are expected to engage in the learning process—come to class prepared and ready to discuss and apply the concepts and respectfully engage with one another and with the instructor. Students should embrace and engage instructor guidance and should respectfully

and consistently contribute to their team. Each student has a responsibility to contribute to a positive, productive, respectful classroom culture. The timely completion and submission of coursework is critical to the learning process, as is the timely review and, if necessary, clarification, of feedback. Timeliness in these aspects of the class facilitate a student's ability to build on their knowledge throughout the semester.

Grading as a part of Learning and Instruction. I assess work in this course in accordance with how well it demonstrates student mastery of the course content (reading, lectures, feedback, etc). Students should strive to demonstrate mastery of these concepts in all aspects of their work. As a part of the learning process, I provide feedback when I grade to help students improve their skill and understanding as they move forward. Students are expected to review and incorporate this feedback in their future work.

24/7 Rule. Given the role of grading in the teaching and learning process, it is vital that students actively review their feedback and stay engaged in the process throughout the semester. If a student has a question or concern about feedback and/or the grade on a particular assignment, they are expected to take 24 hours from the time of receiving the feedback to consider it and determine how they can incorporate it into their understanding moving forward. If, after considering the feedback in depth, they have continued questions about the assessment, they should address those questions with the instructor within 7 days of receiving the feedback to ensure a productive conversation and the opportunity to learn from the feedback and assessment as they move forward in the class.

Grade Appeals Process. If a student has continued concerns after clarifying the feedback, they can consider initiating a grade appeal on the assignment. The Department of Communication Studies "Grading and Grade Appeals" policy document is linked to the department's website: https://comm.unl.edu/forms-and-policies .

Incompletes. Incomplete grades are rarely assigned in this class. Please plan to complete all work for the course within the semester you are taking it. In the event you experience circumstances that you see as potentially warranting an incomplete, please note that you must have completed at least 75% of the work in the course and you must approach your instructor before the last week of classes with a proposal for completion of the work. ***Please Note: I generally will not approve an Incomplete unless absolutely clear it is viable for both the student and for me.***

Statement on Special needs Accommodation

Students with disabilities, or who suspect they may have a disability, are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate fully in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, (402) 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

The Department of Communication Studies is committed to achieving inclusive excellence as outlined by the university's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. As communication scholars and teachers, we believe communities and relationships are enriched when we give voice and value to diverse perspectives based on "group and social differences (e.g., race/ethnicity, indigeneity, class, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, country of origin, and (dis)ability), historically underrepresented populations, and cultural, political, religious, or other affiliations." We are committed to continual reflection and refinement of curriculum, scholarly endeavors, and community engagement to achieve goals of inclusiveness and equal opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to discuss these with your instructors, the Chair of the department (Dr. Jody Koenig Kellas), members of the department's Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, or the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Title IX

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same accountability and the same support applied to offenses against other protected categories; such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, UNL offers several resources for reporting and support (https://www.unl.edu/equity/title-ix .). Located in Canfield Administration 128, Meagan Counley is UNL's Title IX coordinator. Her contact number is 402-472-3417 In the Student Union, Jan Deeds runs the Women's Center and is supervisor of PREVENT (the on campus student organization aimed toward sexual assault awareness and bystander intervention). Her contact information is jdeeds1@unl.edu, and 402-472-2598. Also located in

the Student Union, Voices of Hope provides support in answering questions and guidance in reporting options. Please find the many resources offered by Voices of Hope at http://involved.unl.edu/gender/advocate . Additional support is offered through Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) located in the University Health Center on the second floor. The contact number for CAPS is 402-472-7450.

Required Course Materials

This course will require that you have access to a computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile device with a webcam and microphone that allows you to regularly access Canvas and the Zoom virtual classroom.

Required Textbook

Miller, K. (2015). *Organizational communication: Approaches and processes*. Cengage.

I will be assigning other articles and/or case studies periodically throughout the semester. These will be loaded into your Canvas shell.

All required course materials including the e-book will automatically be loaded into your course and be made available to you when your Canvas course is published. No access codes will be required for this process. The cost of this book will appear on your student bill as "Inclusive Access Material", and can be applied toward any available financial aid. If you have any questions on this, please contact Student Accounts at 402-472-2887 studentaccounts@unl.edu.

You can access your book by clicking on the **Brytewave Course Materials link** on the left-hand side of the Canvas menu.

As a student you always have the choice to not purchase course materials. Thus, students may opt out of the purchase of these materials up to **August 30**. If you take action to opt out and then decide to opt back in, you must do this before February 1 as well. All students will receive an automatically generated email from Follett giving them directions on how to opt out if they so choose. It is important to note that the required textbook for this course is a customized version that can only be purchased through this process. **PLEASE NOTE:** If you choose to opt out of this process you will not have access to all the materials you need to be successful in this course, and will lose the opportunity to earn a significant number

of points in the class based on point-bearing reading and video assignments linked directly to each students' e-textbook account.

What Technology Will You Need?

- Laptop or Mobile Device equipped with a webcam and a microphone
- This device should be able to run Zoom so you can attend class virtually as assigned and/or needed. Please note, [university computer labs](#) will be open.
- You need to be able to access Canvas
- You need to be able to submit assignments using Microsoft Word documents and Microsoft PPT. Students can get access to [Microsoft Office from the University .](#)

Assignments and Grading

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on the following. Full details for each assignment will be posted on Canvas.

Discussion Preparation Notes (100 points - 20 @5 pts each). Each class period you will be asked to come having read the assigned material and be ready to discuss and actively engage with me and with your peers in the learning process. This is a vital part of your learning in this course. Given the importance of your active engagement, I am providing you with the opportunity to earn points for preparation for each class discussion. You will have 23 opportunities to submit your preparation notes throughout the semester. I will take your top 20 scores to calculate your grade. Each collection will be worth a possible 5 points.

PLEASE NOTE: *In order to earn points for these, you must **(a) submit them prior to the start of class and (b)** be present and engaged in class discussion the day the reading is assigned.*

Organizational Communication Theory Application Paper (100 points). This paper provides you with the opportunity to consider organizational communication theory as a novice theorist and as a practitioner as you evaluate an organization to which you belong from the perspective of three contemporary theoretical approaches to organizational communication: systems, cultural, and critical.

Assignment Check In: Literature Review and Case Analysis (10 points). Given the importance of planning ahead when you are relying on access to organizations and organizational members, this assignment is an opportunity to articulate a well

considered plan for completing your literature review paper and for completing your final case analysis.

Literature Review: Organizational Communication Processes (100 points). You will complete a literature review of an organizational communication process that you would like to understand better.

Organizational Analysis Progress Report: (10 points). This assignment will detail the progress you've made on and lay out your plan for completing the remaining work for your Case Analysis Assignment.

Organizational Analysis (100 points). You will be asked to select an organization that you are interested in and have access to that you can analyze. Please note, this will require you to research the organization, observe organizational life, evaluate organizational documents, conduct interviews of people who work at the organization, and apply concepts and ideas from the text. You will draw from one primary approach to organizational communication from the first half of the semester (e.g., cultural, critical, human relations, etc) and focus in on at least two organizational communication processes (e.g., conflict, socialization, leadership, etc). have in-class check ins for this assignment.

Grading Criteria for all Written Assignments

There are a variety of writing assignments in this course, but they all generally involve applying the ideas you are learning about to an actual conflict; either a conflict you have been involved in or observed, or a larger scale conflict of interest to you. All of these assignments provide practice working with the language of communication and conflict as you connect the ideas being learned in class to real life. Your work on these assignments also lets me know how well you are understanding the course materials. In addition to assessing how well a written assignment meets key requirements, when grading written assignments, I generally look for four things in addition to the criteria specified in the assignment description:

1. Does the paper illustrate a good understanding of key concepts and ideas?
2. Does the paper demonstrate an ability to synthesize key ideas and concepts in ways that enable an in depth, nuanced understanding of the content area?
3. Does the paper demonstrate a developing expertise in the content area?
4. Is the paper reasonably well written? Are ideas clearly presented? Is the paper relatively free of typos and grammatical errors?

Course Grading Scale

A+ = 97-99.9%	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%	
A = 93-96.9%	B = 83-86.9%	C = 73-76.9%	D = 63-66.9%	F = <60%
A- = 90-92.9%	B- = 80-82.9%	C- = 70-72.9%	D- = 60-62.9%	

Important Resources

Learner Tip:

- If you are falling behind or not sure how to move forward, please reach out to me ASAP! I'm happy to help!

Campus Support Resources

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln is committed to helping you succeed here as a student. There are a number of resources available on campus to help support you through a wide variety of challenges.

- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Student Affairs: Provides links to a wide variety of support services
- COVID 19 Info from University: Resources for COVID-19
- Food Insecurity: Husker Pantry
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- OASIS: Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services
- Career Services: Start preparing for your career after graduation now!
- Trio Services
- Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education : offers support for victim/survivors of interpersonal violence and other crimes
- Center for Academic Success and Transition   : This center is completely dedicated toward student academic success, providing workshops and resources to help you manage your time, develop study skills, work with an academic coach as needed, and much more!

Technology Resources

Canvas Resources

Canvas is the University of Nebraska Learning Management System. All of your course materials, assignment submissions, and communication will happen within this Canvas. Below, please find some important resources if you are just getting familiar with Canvas:

- Be sure to bookmark the login URL for Canvas: my.unl.edu
- Use the help button to get Canvas Help - the live chat system works great!
- Be sure to install the Mobile App: Apple or Android
- Be sure to set up your profile
- Be sure to set your notification settings
- Remember to click the courses icon to set what courses show on the dashboard

We will be using Canvas extensively in this course. To assist you in this, here are some resources on how to use some of the specific features in Canvas that we will use in this course:

- Short Videos by Specific Canvas Functions
- Using Canvas Calendar
- How to View Annotated Feedback From My Instructor In Canvas
- Canvas Teams:
  - Discussion Boards:
  - Collaborations   These are online collaborative documents that your team can work on together. I recommend using Microsoft 365 documents. Any time you need to create something together, just begin a new collaboration in your team!
  - Conferences   There will be times over the course of this semester that your team will need to meet together in a virtual meeting space, particularly as you begin working on your team project. If you or any member of your time has difficulty accessing these conferences, please reach out to your instructor ASAP to identify alternative methods of meeting outside of class.

Zoom Resources

All University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty, staff, and students have access to a Zoom Pro license. For more information, [visit the UNL ITS page .](#) or login to [https://unl.zoom.us/](#) with your university email address and password. Below, please find some targeted resources to help you with this platform:

- [Joining a Zoom Meeting Room](#)
- [Detailed Guide for Using Zoom](#)
- [Other Help Guides for Zoom](#)

Desktop Access

Select the Zoom link that was provided by your instructor.

If you have never joined a Zoom session on the computer you're using, you will be prompted to download the Zoom desktop client.

You may want to review [Getting Started on PC and Mac](#) from Zoom.

Mobile Access

Select the Zoom link that was provided by your instructor.

If you have never joined a Zoom session on the mobile device you're using, you will be prompted to download the Zoom app.

You may want to review this Getting Started documentation from Zoom:

- [Getting Started with iOS](#)
- [Getting Started with Android](#)
- [Getting Started with Blackberry](#)

Telephone Only Access

If you're having trouble with the computer audio, or you're temporarily somewhere that you don't have access to data, you can also dial in to the Zoom session using a telephone. Toll charges may be associated with this call.

1. Use one of the following dial-in numbers:
   +1 646 876 9923
   +1 669 900 6833
   +1 408 638 0968

2. Enter the 9-digit meeting code provided by your instructor.

For complete instructions, including a list of international call-in numbers, check the [Join by Telephone](#) article from Zoom.

System Status and Support

If you are experiencing issues with Zoom, first check the [Zoom status page](#) to see if there are known system outages.

For immediate assistance call the University technical support team at 402-472-3970 (or toll-free at 866-472-3970). Or you can email technical support at mysupport@unl.edu.

[Zoom's privacy policy](#) is available through this link.

General Support

- All students have the capability of submitting assignments through Canvas. If you have difficulty with this, it is likely due to a small compatibility issue that can be easily addressed. Please make note of the following simple troubleshooting steps if you encounter problems--these alleviate nearly all issues that students experience:

Technology Requirements and Tips

If you are having trouble getting Canvas to behave as it should, try the following solutions. If they do not fix your problem, contact the [UNL Helpdesk](#).

Contact Canvas Help

- [Chat with Canvas Support (Students)](#)
- [Canvas Student Guide](#)
- Canvas Support Hotline (Students): 877-244-8884 - call 24/7
- Report a Problem. If Canvas misbehaves, tell us about it.

Recommended Computer Specifications

- [What are the basic computer specifications for Canvas?](#)
- [Which browsers does Canvas support?](#)

Problems Accessing Your E-Book?

o Your e-book is published by Cengage Learning and hosted by Red Shelf Reading Platform. Cengage has comprehensive student technical support if you are experiencing difficulty. Please review the information below to get access to support:

🆘 Our comprehensive self-support materials! These are videos, documents, and links that help with every problem or process they could possibly have! **This is going to be the fastest method during the busy Back-to-School season.** This student-centered help can be found at the below link. Most professors put this link and the below information in their Canvas shell and direct students to it when they have questions. https://startstrong.cengage.com/ – Students can choose their platform> campus LMS> whether their course is included in an auto-billing program (inclusive access).

💁 **Student Virtual Office Hours** – Available August 9th- September 14th (except Labor Day). Students will be required to enter Name and School and join from a computer. Phones will not work as we need to screenshare to assist. Use this link to join: **Click Here!**

a. Mondays: 10am- 12am CST

b. Tuesdays: 1pm-3pm CST

c. Wednesdays: 10am-12am CST

d. Thursdays: 1pm-3pm CST

<u>Difficulties with our Technology or Accessing Your Cengage Account?</u>

Fill out a tech support ticket by clicking on the Tech Support link in your course or by going to www.cengage.com/support. At the end of the ticket process, you will be given a ticket number (aka case ID). Make note of it. If you want to talk to an agent live you can call in: 800-354-9706. Have your ticket number ready as they will ask for it. There is also 24/7 chat. **Do not ask your instructor for technical help—this will just delay the resolution to your issue.**

o If you need assistance beyond these resources, you can contact

Mackenzee Lahmann with Cengage Learning at

PHONE: (402) 312-6272

EMAIL: mackenzee.lahmann@cengage.com

Common Browser Issues

Clear Cache

Your browser caches temporary copies of internet files to be more efficient, but if the browser fails to refresh its copy you may find yourself stuck with old or out-of-sync page content.

- o [How do I clear my browser cache on a Mac?](#)
- o [How do I clear my browser cache on a PC?](#)

Enable Flash

Some components of Canvas require the use of Flash. Review the tutorial Enabling Adobe Flash for more information.

Enable Java

Enabling Java might also help solve an issue you are experiencing. Canvas requires a working version of Java on the local computer for Chat and other functions in Canvas to work. Make sure you upgrade to or [Download](#) the latest version of Java directly from Oracle.

Enable Cookies

Cookies are allowed by default on all supported browsers. If you experience problems staying logged in to Canvas, please check your browser settings to make sure you allow third-party cookies. For more information on enabling cookies, please select your current web browser:

- o [Mozilla Firefox](#)
- o [Internet Explorer](#)
- o [Safari](#)
- o [Google Chrome](#)

Disable Pop-Up Blockers

Announcements, assessments, chat, and web links may be opened within new windows in Canvas, which pop-up blockers can interfere with. You could select "Turn Off Pop-up Blocker," or add an exception to the pop-up blocker. The second option will allow functionality while still blocking pop-ups on other websites.

Contact the UNL Helpdesk

The UNL Helpdesk is a free service available to all NEBRASKA students. You can contact the UNL Helpdesk with any questions or concerns you have regarding your computer, internet connections, Canvas, MyRed, MyPlan, virus eradication, etc.

You can contact the UNL Helpdesk by phone at **(402) 472-3970**, or toll free at **(866) 472-3970**, or via email at mysupport@unl.edu.

Department Mission Statement

The mission of the faculty and students of the Department of Communication Studies is to examine human symbolic activity as it shapes and is shaped by relationships, institutions, technology, and culture. This work concerns the creation, analysis, and critique of messages ranging from face-to-face to digital media contexts. The department's research and teaching devote particular attention to scholarly initiatives aimed at understanding and explaining the role of communication in (a) facilitating civic engagement, mediating public controversies, and organizing for social change, (b) constituting individual and family health, promoting healthy behaviors, and helping persons navigate relational challenges, and (c) creating, maintaining, and challenging personal, social, and community identity in a complex and diverse world.