

CSD 150: Communication Disabilities in Film
Th 3:00-4:15
Spring 2
Kamhi
GA: Lisa Jeanes: Email: lmjeanes@uncg.edu

Course Description: Students will view popular films and discuss the way in which individuals with various speech, language or hearing problems are portrayed, how that information promotes images that are positive and negative, and how those images influence public opinion. This course is designed for freshman and sophomores who would like to learn about communication disorders as they are portrayed in film. Junior and seniors may enroll with permission from instructor or advisor.

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts: None

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Describe potential experiences persons with speech, language, or hearing disabilities or differences may have.
2. Discuss the potential influences of popular media in shaping the thinking of the public with regard to persons with communication disabilities or differences
3. Discuss the interplay between images and ideas presented in film and the realities experienced by people with communication disorders
4. Describe, at a basic level, a variety of types of communication disabilities affecting children and adults
5. Define the difference between speech, language, and communication, and give examples of difficulties with each.

What will this course be like?

During our 75 minute classtime, we will discuss the films that you watched during the week before class.

From this course you will be introduced to viewing films in a new way. In addition to understanding the “story line” you will learn the ways that film can influence society’s attitudes about communication disability in both positive and negative ways. You will be encouraged to “listen” to people with communication disorders and differences and develop an appreciation for the impact of communication disorders on quality of life and participation in life activities. For those of you who might have an interest in pursuing speech-language pathology or audiology, you will have some opportunity to learn about these very popular career choices. For those of you interested in a future career in broadcasting or film, you might learn about the different ways in which people with communication disorders are portrayed.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class Attendance.** Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken and students’ grades **will** be lowered if 2 or more classes are missed.

2. **Active Class Participation.** Students are encouraged to contribute to class on a regular basis. This means at least *every other class period, each student should comment or ask a question. Please be aware that failure to do this will lower the participation grade and negatively affect the overall class grade.*

3. **Discussion Posts.** Posts should be between 300 and 400 words. The following questions should be addressed.
 1. How was the individual or persons with a communication disorder portrayed in the film? Positively, negatively, sympathetically, humorously....? Elaborate.
 2. Was the portrayal of the communication disorder consistent with your previous views about the disorder? Elaborate.
 3. Did you learn anything from the film about the communication disorder that you didn't already know?
 4. Did you like the film? Why or why not?
 5. Comment on at least one other classmate's post.

4. **Exams** – There will be two tests. Exams will be mostly *Fill in the Blank* and *Short Answer* in nature and will cover content in films and information about the various communication disabilities discussed in class.

Grading:

Class Participation/Attendance	15%
Reaction Posts	25%
Test 1	30%
Test 2	30%

Students **must** abide by the UNCG Academic Honor Policy at all times. All assignments and examinations must be pledged in order to receive credit. **No exceptions.** **A complete description of this policy may be found in the *UNCG Policies for Students*. The instructor will promptly investigate any suspicion of an infraction, and university procedures will be followed. I do not take this lightly.**

Class attendance is expected. Absences will be excused only with a written doctor's excuse or letter from the Dean explaining the reason. If 10% of classes are missed, the student's final grade **will** be lowered one letter.

Health and Wellness

Your health impacts your learning. Throughout your time in college, you may experience a range of health issues that can cause barriers to your learning. These might include physical ailments, illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may be experiencing. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at <https://shs.uncg.edu/> or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. Please know that I am always available to meet and will make arrangements outside of office hours if necessary. I care about your health.

Academic Accommodations Statement

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. If you feel you will encounter any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). The OARS staff can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can learn more about OARS by visiting their website at <https://ods.uncg.edu/> or by calling 336-334-544 or visiting them in Suite 215, EUC. The instructor will make all appropriate accommodations for students' documented learning disabilities. However, students must bring documentation, complete with all recommendations, from Office of Disability Services to instructor during the **first week** of class.

Topics and Tentative Anticipated Class Film Schedule

Dates	Topic	Movie
January	Intro, Class Overview, Expectations Hearing Impairment/Deafness and Culture	<i>Sound and Fury</i>
Jan. 22	Fluency	<i>The King's Speech</i>
Jan. 29	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<i>Temple Grandin</i>
Feb. 5	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	<i>Rainman</i>
Feb. 12	Reading Disability	<i>Stanley and Iris</i>
Feb. 19	Class Discussion	
Feb. 26	Exam 1	
March 11	Intellectual Deficiency	<i>I Am Sam</i>
March 18	Congenital Movement Disorders (focus: CP)	<i>My Left Foot</i>

March 25	Acquired Movement Disorders	<i>Theory of Everything</i>
April 1	Influence of environment/stroke/twin speech	<i>Nell</i>
April 8	Head Injury/Cognition	<i>Regarding Henry</i>
April 15	Cognitive Decline/Dementia	<i>Still Alice</i>
April 22	Class Discussion	
April 29	Exam 2	