



COMMUNICATION 4500 – SPRING/SUMMER 2009

Leadership & Team Communication

June 15-19, 2009 (4 credits)

4 credits in 5 days!!

This new, unique course offered by the Department of Communication gives Wayne State students the opportunity to engage in many fun activities while concurrently learning theory of leadership and team communication in a wilderness setting.

Course Description

This course will utilize both traditional classroom and experiential learning to explore the areas of leadership and team communication. As such, the course will take place at an off campus location so that students will, for a short period, be “removed” from their normal daily lives.

The majority of this course will take place over 5 full days and nights with an additional short service learning component to be completed afterward. This will allow students time and space to be reflective about their experiences, and time to develop group structures, culture, and communication patterns. This context offers ample opportunity to present the series of games, challenges, and exercises that will provide obstacles to be overcome. These successes and failures will extend a springboard for conversations regarding appropriate behaviors enacted by teams and leaders, to be generalized to other contexts.

The focus of this class is not on the games, challenges, and exercises but the reflection of the lessons learned and the implications that the observations have. These lessons will be interwoven with discussions of assigned readings of organizational, team, and leadership theory and research findings. Finally, the course offers students the ability to demonstrate their competencies developed to engage in a service learning project which will consist of helping to lead a group of students or community members, aid in managing the relationships there within, and be evaluated, in part, on their ability to successfully implement previous lessons.

Meet Your Instructor...

Colin R. Baker, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Communication



Summer Office Hours:
Thursday 12-2 p.m.
541 Manoogian Hall

Email: cbaker@wayne.edu

Colin teaches courses in organizational, group, and leadership communication. His research interests involve social influence in applied contexts and conducts research in organizational entry, influence strategies in the workplace, leadership effects on group communication structure, and group cognition. His recent works appear in *Communication Monographs*, *Journal of Management in Engineering*, and *Journal of the Northwest Communication Association*. He also has three chapters appearing in *Best Practices in Experiential and Service Learning in Communication*. Colin has a dog and a wife (both female), and enjoys spending time with them when he is not off on some adventure in the wilderness or in his office.



Dates & Locations

June 4 from 10am to noon (Room 531 Alex Manoogian Hall): Introductory Meeting

June 15 - June 19 (Proud Lake Recreation Center): Wilderness Week

June 20 - August 20 (Location to be arranged): Service Learning Project

August 20 (531 Manoogian Hall): Final Exam, Final Project



Questions?

For more details please download the course newsletter and/or contact Dr. Colin Baker at cbaker@wayne.edu. Also, check out the [COM 4500 Newsletter!](#)

Course Fees

The course fee of **\$200** will cover all expenses for the course. This includes **all food, lodging, classroom rental, high ropes course fee, canoe rental, day use fee**, etc. We have worked very hard to make sure that the class includes the critical elements for the experience while carefully considering the needs of students.