#### INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES: EXPLORING THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CONNECTION

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES OPENS THE DOOR TO UNDERSTANDING HOW WE SHARE INFORMATION, EXPRESS IDEAS, AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD. WHETHER IT'S A CASUAL CHAT WITH FRIENDS, A PERSUASIVE MARKETING CAMPAIGN, OR A DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATION, COMMUNICATION SHAPES EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES. THIS FIELD, RICH WITH THEORIES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, OFFERS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE PROCESSES BEHIND HUMAN INTERACTION, MEDIA INFLUENCE, AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS. LET'S DIVE INTO THE FASCINATING WORLD OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES AND DISCOVER WHY IT MATTERS SO MUCH TODAY.

## WHAT IS COMMUNICATION STUDIES?

AT ITS CORE, COMMUNICATION STUDIES IS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE FOCUSED ON EXAMINING HOW PEOPLE CONVEY MESSAGES AND MEANING. IT ENCOMPASSES VERBAL AND NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION, INTERPERSONAL DYNAMICS, MASS MEDIA, DIGITAL PLATFORMS, AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION. THE STUDY INVOLVES ANALYZING THE CHANNELS, CONTEXTS, AND EFFECTS OF COMMUNICATION, HELPING US DECODE HOW MESSAGES ARE CRAFTED, TRANSMITTED, AND INTERPRETED.

THIS FIELD BLENDS ELEMENTS FROM SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, LINGUISTICS, AND EVEN POLITICAL SCIENCE, MAKING IT INHERENTLY INTERDISCIPLINARY. BY EXPLORING COMMUNICATION THEORIES AND PRACTICES, STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS GAIN A CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING OF HOW LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS INFLUENCE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR AND PUBLIC OPINION.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING COMMUNICATION

Understanding communication isn't just about speaking well or writing clearly; it's about grasping the nuances behind every interaction. Here's why communication studies is essential:

- ENHANCES PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS: LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNICATION PROCESSES HELPS IMPROVE EMPATHY, ACTIVE LISTENING, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS, MAKING PERSONAL CONNECTIONS STRONGER.
- BOOSTS PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS VITAL IN LEADERSHIP, TEAMWORK, NEGOTIATION, AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS ACROSS VIRTUALLY ALL INDUSTRIES.
- PROMOTES MEDIA LITERACY: IN AN AGE DOMINATED BY SOCIAL MEDIA AND 24/7 NEWS CYCLES, UNDERSTANDING HOW MESSAGES ARE FRAMED EMPOWERS INDIVIDUALS TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE INFORMATION.
- FOSTERS CULTURAL AWARENESS: COMMUNICATION STUDIES EXPLORE CROSS-CULTURAL INTERACTIONS, ENCOURAGING RESPECT AND SENSITIVITY IN AN INTERCONNECTED GLOBAL SOCIETY.

# KEY AREAS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

COMMUNICATION STUDIES IS BROAD, COVERING SEVERAL DISTINCT YET INTERRELATED AREAS. EACH OFFERS UNIQUE INSIGHTS INTO HOW WE CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND THE WORLD AROUND US.

#### INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

THIS AREA FOCUSES ON DIRECT, FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS. IT STUDIES HOW VERBAL AND NONVERBAL CUES INFLUENCE RELATIONSHIPS AND HOW MESSAGES ARE INTERPRETED IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. TOPICS LIKE LISTENING SKILLS, EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE, AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ARE CENTRAL HERE.

#### MASS COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

Mass communication examines how information is disseminated to large audiences through television, radio, newspapers, and digital platforms. Media studies dive deeper into the role of media in shaping public perceptions, cultural norms, and political discourse. This area is crucial for understanding the power and responsibility of media in society.

#### ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION

WITHIN BUSINESSES AND INSTITUTIONS, COMMUNICATION PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE IN COORDINATING ACTIVITIES, MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES, AND MANAGING CHANGE. ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION EXPLORES INTERNAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS, LEADERSHIP MESSAGING, AND CORPORATE CULTURE.

#### RHETORIC AND PERSUASION

THE ART OF PERSUASION HAS BEEN STUDIED SINCE ANCIENT TIMES. THIS SUBFIELD ANALYZES HOW SPEAKERS AND WRITERS INFLUENCE AUDIENCES THROUGH ARGUMENTATION, STORYTELLING, AND EMOTIONAL APPEALS. IT'S ESPECIALLY RELEVANT IN POLITICS, ADVERTISING, AND PUBLIC RELATIONS.

#### DIGITAL AND NEW MEDIA COMMUNICATION

WITH THE RISE OF THE INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA, NEW FORMS OF COMMUNICATION HAVE EMERGED. THIS AREA STUDIES HOW DIGITAL TOOLS RESHAPE INTERACTION PATTERNS, COMMUNITY BUILDING, AND INFORMATION SHARING. IT ALSO ADDRESSES CHALLENGES LIKE MISINFORMATION AND PRIVACY CONCERNS.

# FUNDAMENTAL COMMUNICATION THEORIES

TO DEEPLY UNDERSTAND COMMUNICATION, SCHOLARS HAVE DEVELOPED VARIOUS THEORIES THAT EXPLAIN HOW MESSAGES WORK AND WHY THEY SUCCEED OR FAIL.

### THE SHANNON-WEAVER MODEL

OFTEN CONSIDERED THE FOUNDATION OF COMMUNICATION THEORY, THIS MODEL VIEWS COMMUNICATION AS A LINEAR PROCESS INVOLVING A SENDER, MESSAGE, CHANNEL, RECEIVER, AND POTENTIAL NOISE THAT DISTORTS THE MESSAGE. IT EMPHASIZES THE TECHNICAL ASPECT OF TRANSMITTING INFORMATION EFFECTIVELY.

#### TRANSACTIONAL MODEL

Unlike linear models, the transactional approach sees communication as a dynamic, two-way process where both parties send and receive messages simultaneously, influencing each other's responses. This model highlights the importance of feedback and context.

## AGENDA-SETTING THEORY

THIS THEORY EXPLORES HOW MEDIA DOESN'T JUST REPORT NEWS BUT SHAPES WHAT TOPICS PEOPLE CONSIDER IMPORTANT. IT REVEALS THE MEDIA'S ROLE IN INFLUENCING PUBLIC OPINION BY PRIORITIZING CERTAIN ISSUES.

## USES AND GRATIFICATIONS THEORY

FOCUSING ON THE AUDIENCE'S PERSPECTIVE, THIS THEORY SUGGESTS PEOPLE ACTIVELY SELECT MEDIA CHANNELS AND CONTENT TO SATISFY SPECIFIC NEEDS, SUCH AS ENTERTAINMENT, INFORMATION, OR SOCIAL CONNECTION.

# PRACTICAL SKILLS GAINED FROM COMMUNICATION STUDIES

STUDYING COMMUNICATION ISN'T JUST THEORETICAL; IT EQUIPS YOU WITH REAL-WORLD SKILLS THAT APPLY ACROSS CAREERS AND LIFE SITUATIONS.

- EFFECTIVE WRITING AND SPEAKING: CRAFTING CLEAR, PERSUASIVE MESSAGES TAILORED TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES.
- ACTIVE LISTENING: UNDERSTANDING NOT JUST WORDS BUT UNDERLYING EMOTIONS AND INTENTIONS.
- NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION: INTERPRETING BODY LANGUAGE, FACIAL EXPRESSIONS, AND TONE TO GRASP FULL MEANING.
- CRITICAL THINKING: EVALUATING MESSAGES CRITICALLY, RECOGNIZING BIAS AND UNDERLYING AGENDAS.
- MEDIA PRODUCTION: CREATING CONTENT FOR DIGITAL PLATFORMS, UNDERSTANDING TECHNICAL TOOLS AND STORYTELLING TECHNIQUES.

# APPLICATIONS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

WHETHER YOU REALIZE IT OR NOT, COMMUNICATION STUDIES INFLUENCE MANY ASPECTS OF DAILY LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTS.

#### PERSONAL GROWTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

BY LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNICATION STYLES AND BARRIERS, INDIVIDUALS CAN NAVIGATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS, BUILD TRUST, AND FOSTER MORE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

#### WORKPLACE EFFICIENCY AND LEADERSHIP

CLEAR COMMUNICATION CAN IMPROVE COLLABORATION, REDUCE CONFLICTS, AND ENHANCE LEADERSHIP EFFECTIVENESS.

ORGANIZATIONS BENEFIT FROM PROFESSIONALS SKILLED IN NEGOTIATION, PRESENTATION, AND TEAM COMMUNICATION.

#### SOCIAL CHANGE AND ADVOCACY

ACTIVISTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS USE COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES TO RAISE AWARENESS, MOBILIZE SUPPORT, AND INFLUENCE POLICIES. UNDERSTANDING MEDIA FRAMING AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT IS CRUCIAL IN THESE EFFORTS.

### MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Brands rely on communication experts to craft compelling messages that resonate with target audiences, build loyalty, and manage reputations.

## EMERGING TRENDS IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

AS SOCIETY EVOLVES, SO DOES THE STUDY OF COMMUNICATION, ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES AND TECHNOLOGIES.

### IMPACT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND AUTOMATION

Al-driven communication tools are transforming customer service, content creation, and data analysis. Exploring ethical considerations and human-Al interaction is becoming a growing research area.

#### VIRTUAL AND AUGMENTED REALITY

IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES OFFER NOVEL WAYS TO COMMUNICATE EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION, OPENING FRESH AVENUES FOR EDUCATION, ENTERTAINMENT, AND SOCIAL INTERACTION.

#### GLOBALIZATION AND CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

WITH MORE MULTICULTURAL INTERACTIONS, UNDERSTANDING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN COMMUNICATION STYLES AND NORMS IS CRITICAL FOR DIPLOMACY, BUSINESS, AND SOCIAL COHESION.

#### COMBATING MISINFORMATION

THE SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS AND DISINFORMATION POSES SERIOUS CHALLENGES. COMMUNICATION STUDIES PLAY A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING MEDIA LITERACY PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE TRUTHFUL DISCOURSE.

NAVIGATING THE LANDSCAPE OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES REVEALS NOT JUST HOW WE SHARE MESSAGES BUT WHY THOSE MESSAGES MATTER. IT INVITES US TO BECOME MORE MINDFUL COMMUNICATORS AND CRITICAL CONSUMERS OF INFORMATION, SKILLS THAT ARE INVALUABLE IN OUR INTERCONNECTED WORLD. WHETHER YOU ARE CONSIDERING A CAREER IN THIS FIELD OR SIMPLY WANT TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN INTERACTION BETTER, THE INSIGHTS GAINED FROM AN INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### WHAT IS COMMUNICATION STUDIES?

COMMUNICATION STUDIES IS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE THAT EXPLORES THE PROCESSES, METHODS, AND EFFECTS OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION IN VARIOUS CONTEXTS, INCLUDING INTERPERSONAL, GROUP, ORGANIZATIONAL, AND MASS COMMUNICATION.

# WHY IS COMMUNICATION STUDIES IMPORTANT IN TODAY'S SOCIETY?

COMMUNICATION STUDIES IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT HELPS INDIVIDUALS UNDERSTAND HOW MESSAGES ARE CREATED, TRANSMITTED, AND INTERPRETED, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE INTERACTION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, WORKPLACES, MEDIA, AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS.

#### WHAT ARE THE MAIN TYPES OF COMMUNICATION COVERED IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES?

THE MAIN TYPES INCLUDE INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION, GROUP COMMUNICATION, ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION, PUBLIC COMMUNICATION, INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION, AND MASS COMMUNICATION.

#### HOW DOES COMMUNICATION STUDIES INTEGRATE THEORY AND PRACTICE?

COMMUNICATION STUDIES COMBINES THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS THAT EXPLAIN HOW COMMUNICATION WORKS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS SUCH AS PUBLIC SPEAKING, WRITING, MEDIA LITERACY, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE REAL-WORLD COMMUNICATION EFFECTIVENESS.

#### WHAT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES CAN A DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES LEAD TO?

A DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION STUDIES CAN LEAD TO CAREERS IN PUBLIC RELATIONS, MARKETING, JOURNALISM, MEDIA PRODUCTION, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, HUMAN RESOURCES, COUNSELING, AND EDUCATION, AMONG OTHERS.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES: EXPLORING THE DYNAMICS OF HUMAN INTERACTION

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES SERVES AS A FOUNDATIONAL GATEWAY INTO UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEX PROCESSES THAT UNDERPIN HUMAN INTERACTION ACROSS DIVERSE CONTEXTS. AS AN ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE, COMMUNICATION STUDIES INVESTIGATES THE WAYS INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND SOCIETIES CREATE, TRANSMIT, AND INTERPRET MESSAGES. THIS FIELD ENCOMPASSES A BROAD SPECTRUM OF COMMUNICATION FORMS—FROM INTERPERSONAL DIALOGUE TO MASS MEDIA DISSEMINATION—MAKING IT AN INDISPENSABLE AREA OF INQUIRY IN TODAY'S INTERCONNECTED WORLD.

Communication studies integrates theories and methodologies from social sciences, humanities, and even technology, reflecting its interdisciplinary nature. It is a dynamic field that adapts continually to societal changes, technological advancements, and cultural shifts. Whether examining the nuances of nonverbal cues or analyzing the impact of digital platforms on public discourse, communication studies offers vital insights into how meaning is constructed and shared.

# THE SCOPE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

AT ITS CORE, COMMUNICATION STUDIES SEEKS TO UNRAVEL THE MECHANISMS THROUGH WHICH INFORMATION IS EXCHANGED AND

UNDERSTOOD. THIS INVOLVES NOT ONLY THE CONTENT OF MESSAGES BUT ALSO THE CONTEXTS IN WHICH COMMUNICATION OCCURS, THE CHANNELS UTILIZED, AND THE EFFECTS PRODUCED. BY DOING SO, IT PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCING CLARITY, REDUCING MISUNDERSTANDINGS, AND FOSTERING EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE IN PERSONAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND PUBLIC ARENAS.

ONE OF THE CRITICAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES IS ITS EXAMINATION OF COMMUNICATION MODELS. FROM THE LINEAR TRANSMISSION MODEL TO MORE INTERACTIVE AND TRANSACTIONAL MODELS, THESE FRAMEWORKS HELP SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS DISSECT THE FLOW OF COMMUNICATION, IDENTIFYING ROLES SUCH AS SENDER, RECEIVER, MESSAGE, CHANNEL, NOISE, AND FEEDBACK. UNDERSTANDING THESE COMPONENTS IS ESSENTIAL FOR DIAGNOSING COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWNS AND OPTIMIZING MESSAGE DELIVERY.

Moreover, communication studies addresses the role of culture and identity in shaping communication patterns. Cross-cultural communication, for example, highlights how cultural backgrounds influence interpretation and expression, a vital consideration in an era of globalization. The study of communication ethics and media literacy further underscores the discipline's commitment to responsible and informed communication practices.

#### KEY AREAS WITHIN COMMUNICATION STUDIES

THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES CAN BE BROADLY CATEGORIZED INTO SEVERAL INTERRELATED SUBFIELDS, EACH FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATION:

- INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION: ANALYSIS OF FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTIONS, FOCUSING ON VERBAL AND NONVERBAL BEHAVIORS, RELATIONAL DYNAMICS, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION.
- Organizational Communication: Exploration of communication processes within and between organizations, including leadership communication, corporate culture, and internal communication strategies.
- MASS COMMUNICATION: STUDY OF HOW MASS MEDIA CHANNELS—SUCH AS TELEVISION, RADIO, NEWSPAPERS, AND DIGITAL MEDIA—DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO LARGE AUDIENCES AND INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION.
- INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION: INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNICATION ACROSS DIVERSE CULTURAL CONTEXTS, EMPHASIZING UNDERSTANDING AND NAVIGATING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.
- **COMMUNICATION THEORY:** Development and critique of theoretical frameworks that explain how communication functions and its effects.
- MEDIA STUDIES: EXAMINATION OF MEDIA CONTENT, PRODUCTION, AND CONSUMPTION, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF MEDIA EFFECTS AND THE ROLE OF NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES.

EACH SUBFIELD EMPLOYS DISTINCT RESEARCH METHODS RANGING FROM QUALITATIVE APPROACHES LIKE ETHNOGRAPHY AND DISCOURSE ANALYSIS TO QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES INCLUDING SURVEYS AND EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNS. THIS METHODOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ENRICHES THE DISCIPLINE'S ANALYTICAL CAPACITY.

### THE EVOLUTION OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The advent of digital communication technologies has profoundly transformed the landscape of communication studies. Social media platforms, instant messaging, video conferencing, and other online tools have redefined how individuals and institutions connect and share information. Consequently, contemporary communication studies increasingly focus on digital literacy, online identity construction, and the socio-political implications of digital communication.

FOR INSTANCE, RESEARCH INTO SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION EXAMINES PHENOMENA SUCH AS VIRALITY, ECHO CHAMBERS, AND MISINFORMATION DISSEMINATION—ISSUES WITH SIGNIFICANT SOCIETAL RAMIFICATIONS. SIMILARLY, THE STUDY OF DIGITAL COMMUNICATION ETHICS ADDRESSES PRIVACY CONCERNS, CYBERBULLYING, AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE, HIGHLIGHTING THE NEED FOR EQUITABLE AND RESPONSIBLE COMMUNICATION PRACTICES IN VIRTUAL SPACES.

## BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES OF STUDYING COMMUNICATION

Understanding communication processes offers numerous advantages, both professionally and personally. Effective communication skills are critical in leadership roles, marketing, counseling, journalism, public relations, and countless other fields. Communication studies equip individuals with the ability to craft persuasive messages, navigate conflicts, and foster collaborative environments.

HOWEVER, THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION ALSO PRESENTS CHALLENGES. AMBIGUITY, CULTURAL DIFFERENCES, TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIERS, AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS CAN IMPEDE MESSAGE CLARITY AND RECEPTION. MOREOVER, THE RAPID PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION REQUIRES ONGOING ADAPTATION AND LEARNING WITHIN THE FIELD.

#### PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

THE PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES EXTEND ACROSS VARIOUS DOMAINS:

- 1. **CORPORATE COMMUNICATION:** DESIGNING EFFECTIVE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT.
- 2. **HEALTH COMMUNICATION:** PROMOTING PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGNS AND IMPROVING PATIENT-PROVIDER INTERACTIONS THROUGH TARGETED MESSAGING.
- 3. **POLITICAL COMMUNICATION:** ANALYZING CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES, MEDIA FRAMING, AND PUBLIC OPINION TO UNDERSTAND ELECTORAL DYNAMICS.
- 4. **EDUCATION:** DEVELOPING PEDAGOGICAL METHODS THAT INCORPORATE COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLES TO IMPROVE LEARNING OUTCOMES.
- 5. **Conflict Resolution:** Applying negotiation and mediation techniques grounded in communication theory to resolve disputes.

THESE APPLICATIONS DEMONSTRATE THE VERSATILITY OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES AND ITS RELEVANCE ACROSS SECTORS.

EXPLORING COMMUNICATION STUDIES REVEALS NOT JUST THE MECHANICS OF MESSAGE EXCHANGE BUT ALSO THE INTRICATE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FABRICS THAT SHAPE HUMAN INTERACTION. AS COMMUNICATION CONTINUES TO EVOLVE IN COMPLEXITY AND SCOPE, THE INSIGHTS DERIVED FROM THIS FIELD REMAIN CRUCIAL FOR FOSTERING UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED WORLD.

# **Introduction To Communication Studies**

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political and social experiences referred to in this book. Beginner students majoring in Communication Studies as well as those who are studying towards various degrees or qualifications where communication is a prerequisite, will find this book useful. In addition to interpersonal, group and mass communication, there is an extensive chapter on public speaking which takes into account that many professionals today have to address their colleagues and business associates in order to succeed in their profession. Public speaking in this sense is a skill required by most graduates in any job or profession and the chapter is pitched at these requirements as well as at speaking to larger audiences. The book is divided into two parts. The first part provides students with a strong foundation of communication, while the second focuses on the areas of specialisation within Communication Studies. In addition, each chapter starts with the learning outcomes and a short overview of the chapter. Students may monitor their learning with the summary and 'test yourself' questions at the end of every chapter, and the definitions highligted in the text assist students in their navigation of the terminology. Scenarios provide examples of how the theory can be applied in practice. This makes for a learner-friendly and accessible book which will indeed prove useful to students and professionals alike.

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the usual brief, broad overview of a large number of theories, readings in Communication Theory focus on traditional and contemporary touchstones that have made significant contributions to the field of communication. The book provides students with theoretical and methodological exemplars of communication research, and allows students to learn about these exemplars from the original sources. While focusing on specific readings and their impact on how communication is studied, the book takes an interdisciplinary approach to the actual reading selections. These include readings on rhetoric, media studies, interpersonal, small group and organizational communication. The material addresses topics ranging from relationship development to video-games. Selections include the work of Charles R. Berger, Richard J. Calabrese, Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, John Fiske, Marie Hochmuth Nicols, Sarah Tracey and Erik King Watts. Communication Theory: Traditional and Contemporary Readings gives students a well-rounded, thorough, and engaging introduction to the topic. Robert Alan Brookey Ph.D., University of Minnesota, is a Professor in the Department of Communication at Northern Illinois University where he teaches classes in rhetoric and media, as well as an Introduction to Communication Studies course for which this book is designed. He has published two books and over 25 articles and book chapters. His most recent book, Hollywood Gamers: Digital Convergence in the Film and Video Game Industries was published by Indiana University Press. He has served on the editorial boards of Critical Studies in Media Communication, The Journal of International and Intercultural Communication, and The Western Journal of Communication. Betty H. La France Ph.D., Michigan State University is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication at Northern Illinois University where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in communication theory, research, and interpersonal communication. She is a communication scientist whose expertise is in social influence. Her specific interest area is the way intimacy is communicated in interpersonal relationships including those of a sexual nature. This anthology is an expression of her expertise, as well as a re-envisioning of the applicability of communication theory in daily life. Her publications have appeared in academic journals such as Communication Monographs, Communication Quarterly, Southern Communication Journal, Communication Reports, and Communication Studies.

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