

Online Bachelor Completion Program Pre-Syllabus

Communication Studies 411
Communicating with People with Disabilities
David M. Lucas, Ph.D.
Ohio University Southern
1804 Liberty Avenue
Riffe 250
Ironton, Ohio 45638
740.533.4577
lucasd@ohio.edu

Introduction: This course examines the implications of communication between the physically challenged and able-bodied individuals or groups. The course utilizes simulated exercises, video presentations, special assignments, assigned observation journeys and special guest presentations in order to give the student reasonable exposure to the disabled community.

Course Core: The course will examine ten special themes during the term. The thematic concentrations include an introduction to some theory and philosophy of communication and then a concentration on communicating with mobility impaired persons, visually impaired people, the hearing impaired, mentally impaired people, disease and physically impaired persons, people with speech impairments, the cognitively impaired, and the emotionally/psychologically impaired people. There will be a final review of items learned and a summary of communication responsibilities we ethically have concerning all citizens of the social spectrum.

Materials and assignments: Students will need to access streaming videos, web sites and reading materials from the web. Along with activities in the course content, students will be asked to do observations outside of class and submit reports as to their findings. There will be a mid-term and a final exam posted to the Blackboard site. Students will be required to read the entire text during the term.

Textbook: Smith, J. David, *In Search of Better Angels: Stories of Disability in the Human Family*, Corwin Press, 2003. ISBN-10: [0761938419](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0761938419) (paperback)