Description: What is “good” organizational communication? How does communication “work” in organizations and when and for whom is it “good”? These questions are answered in different ways in the various models of organization. This course introduces you to the models and their attendant assumptions about organizational communication as well as to topics like socialization, decision-making, social support, and technologies. The goal of the course is to study how common assumptions and habits of communication organize our work lives.

Objectives:
1. Introduce dominant models of organization and organizational communication.
2. Discuss topics in organizational communication and worklife experience
3. Reflect on personal assumptions about organizations and communication

Assignments:
Weekly quizzes; Weekly discussion group notes; Two papers (5 pages typed)

Requirements:
I welcome your constructive input on the development of this course. The schedule I propose here is flexible and we may alter it depending on circumstances and our collective interests. I will hold office hours faithfully and encourage you to come in, call me, or send me email regarding any aspect of your involvement in this course. I expect you to document your sources carefully, especially electronic sources. Plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students. I ask that you attend class regularly; after three absences, your grade will be affected.

I adhere to the university’s accommodation policy: “MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (72212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action office (73310).”

Schedule
June 6 Introduction
June 7 Chap. 1 Changing nature of work
June 8 Chap 2 Situating Organizational Communication
June 9 Quiz & FMN discussion (Chap 13, Organizational Realignments, 414-443)
June 12 Chap 3, Founding perspectives (classical)
June 13 Founding perspectives continued (HR)
June 14 Chap 4, Systems (Weick)
June 15 Chap 5, Culture
June 16 Quiz & FMN discussion (Chap 2, Making It, 27-52 or Chap 7, The Compulsion to Perform, 191-220)
June 19  Chap 5, Culture continued
June 20  Chap 6, Critical
June 21  Critical continued
June 22  Chap 7, PoMo
June 23  Quiz & FMN discussion (Chap 8, Controlling & Resisting, 221-272)
        *First paper assignment

June 26  Chap 8, Socialization/Assimilation
June 27  Chap 8, Stress
June 28  Relational Contexts (superior-subordinate, peers, leadership)
June 29  Relational Contexts (intimacy)
June 30  Quiz & FMN discussion (Chap 3, Leadership, 53-90 or Chap 12,
        Personal Alignments, 367-413)
        *Second paper assignment

July 3   Chap 10, Teams
July 4   Break
July 5   Chap 10, Networks
July 6   Chap 11, Image & Strategy
July 7   Quiz & FMN discussion (Chap 5 & 6, 129-190 or Chap 14, International, 443-490)

July 10  Chap 11, Technology
July 11  FMN discussion (Chap 11, Hazards, 329-366 or Chap 4, Ethics, 91-128 or
        Chap 15, Environment, 491-517)
July 12  Quiz & final papers