COMM 554: Studies in Risk Communication
Instructor: Dr. Thomas Barker, Professor

Delivered Online

Course Description
Risk communication is a relatively new field of professional practice and scholarship that has implications for research and study in social sciences, technical communication, and communication studies. Students in communication, public policy communication, and related fields can benefit in project design and research and communication skills by pursuing organized study in risk communication theory and practice.

This course is designed to introduce communication-oriented graduates students to the theory, research, and practice of risk communication. This course will introduce models of risk communication and risk assessment in various contexts such as environmental issues, public health and safety, occupational hazards, and consumer products. Course content is organized around the case: an accessible, real-life situation that involves issues of risk communication and has been the subject of scholarly investigation and other reporting. Applying the study of risk communication theory and practice in exemplar cases will allow us to investigate, in depth, issues of responsible citizenship, professional practice and projects in science, engineering, technology, and communication, and the development effective professional research, communication, and management skills.

Learning Objectives
- **Apply research.** Be able to choose a suitable risk communication theory for analysis, research, and policy development. Be able to approach a policy or communication situation by investigating the body of research knowledge surrounding risk communication, technical communication, and risk communication studies. Report.
- **Communicate effectively.** Build business cases and present examples of workplace and student information effectively in reports, proposals, and instructional presentations. Identify a quality risk communication research study, extract the relevant principles, and apply it to a variety of public and policy personnel training situations. Self-Reflective Course Portfolio.
- **Manage communications projects.** Design or manage a risk assessment and communication effort. To design a research or best practice studies analysis of a risk assessment and communication situation using theories of public engagement. Proposal.

Delivery Format and Resources

This course will be delivered online. Materials will include a readings package. Online articles and reference to relevant web sites will be provided. Pre-reading will be required. For more information contact Susan Petruszczak at (780) 492-1538 or susan.petruszczak@ualberta.ca

Enrollment is limited to 20. Registration available via Bear Tracks.