

10-29-2021

INT 312: Collaborative Communication OER Curation

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ScholarWorks Citation

Bowley, Chealsye, "INT 312: Collaborative Communication OER Curation" (2021). *Curated OER Collections*. 2.

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INT 312: Collaborative Communication OER Curation

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Overview

Scope Notes

The requestor is interested in replacing current materials with OER, using OER to supplement existing course materials, and potentially redesigning the course around the right OER. The requestor likes the current readings for the course, because they prompt students to reflect on meaningful communication, especially “through the lens of building a more democratic society based on mutual respect and collaboration.” However, the texts are ultimately one-sided. The instructor most wants to replace Palmer’s Healing the Heart of Democracy text with an open educational resource that isn’t one-sided. Additionally, although the World CCafe is a great model for building effective communication, the requestor would be interested in another text that is more recent and includes how currently technology plays a role in communication.

Current textbooks and materials

Don Miguel Ruiz, *The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom* (A Toltec Wisdom book, Amber-Allen Publishing, 1997). ISBN: 9781878424310 \$12.95

Juanita Brown and David Isaacs, *The World Cafe: Shaping Our Futures through Conversations that Matter* (Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2005). ISBN: 9781576752586 \$25

Parker Palmer, *Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* (Jossey-Bass, 2014). ISBN: 978-0470590805 \$18



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Search Notes

There is an abundant amount of communication OER, and are included as potential resources for a general textbook or supplemental reading. There are many potential options to replace Parker with numerous political science and communication related OER available, and a revised search based on faculty feedback could narrow down a better replacement OER. Additionally, text to replace or supplement World Cafe with more modern technology and communication examples were readily found.

OER sources that were searched included OpenStax, OER Commons, BCCampus, Open Textbook Library, Merlot, and Rebus. The Open Textbook Library had many great options that fit this course.

Gap Analysis

Replacing the current, popular reading text is more difficult. The current Four Agreements does not have an obvious OER companion, and is typically one of the most affordable class books to purchase. Most OER is designed for classroom consumption rather than the more popular, self-help style similar to some of the current primary textbooks.

OER options to replace Parker

Promising Options

Building Democracy for All

- Robert W. Maloy and Torrey Trust, Building Democracy for All: Interactive Explorations of Government and Civic Life (EdTech Books, 2020).
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
- Ebook PD, online interactive text
- CC BY-NC-SA
- This text is originally designed for K-12 inspiration, however it could be great supplemental material to replace the Parker text. The textbook includes instructional ideas, interactive resources, and multicultural content. The text focuses on the importance of community engagement and social responsibility. One “flaw” for the context it will be used in the Collaborative Course is that there is a heavy focus on Massachusetts due to the authors of the text and satisfying the Massachusetts 8th Grade Curriculum Framework. The text does not need to be used in whole, and perhaps only one chapter may be the ideal supplemental reading and be utilized. If there is desire to re-mix the textbook that is permitted, but requires the new materials to be licensed similarly.

Communicative Figurations

- Andreas Hepp, Andreas Breiter and Uwe Hasebrink, *Communicative Figurations: Transforming Communications in Times of Deep Medization* (Springer, 2018).
- [Merlot](#) / [Springer OA](#)
- Ebook PDF, website
- CC BY (chapters may vary)
- This open access volume addresses the change medium environment, and will help solve the concern about current readings not addresses or including modern technology and its impact on communication. The approach is not media-centric though. Chapters provide an introduction to the changing media environment and its transformative capacity, then focuses on collectives and movement, and finally discusses how institutions and organizations transform journalism, religion, politics, and education. The readings are exciting ranging from “Living Together in a Mediatized City” to “Chaos Computer Club,” and *Relating Face to Face: Communicative Practices and Political Decision-making.* This resource appears to potentially be a rich one for intriguing readings that address concerns about current materials.

Stretch Options

Popular Culture and World Politics

- Federica Caso and Caitlin Hamilton, *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies* (University of Queensland, 2019).
- [Merlot](#) / [Springer OA](#)
- Ebook PDF, website
- CC BY-NC
- This edited collection covers the overlap of popular culture and politics. It promises a holistic view, which helps address the concerns over one-sided texts previously used. The collection addresses geopolitics, political identities, and political communication and covers film, videogame, art and music. It may not be the right fit to replace Parker, but some readings from it could complement the course and spark discussion.

Speaking of Culture

- Nolan Weil, *Speaking of Culture* (Utah State University, 2018).
- [Rebus](#)
- ebook
- CC BY-NC
- This open access book that explores culture is a potentially useful resource. Chapter 5: *Culture as Thought and Action* and Chapter 7: *Group Membership and Identity* appears to be the most relevant to collaborative communication, and would be suggested the instructor examines these two options first to determine if this resource is a good fit.

OER options to replace World Cafe

Promising Options

Interpersonal Communication

- John S. Wrench, Narissa M. Pynyanut-Carter, and Katherine S. Thweatt, *Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships* (OpenSUNY, 2020).
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
- PDF ebook
- CC BY-NC-SA
- This open textbook contains 14 chapters geared toward undergraduate interpersonal communication courses discussing family interactions, interpersonal dynamics, language, listening, relationships, friendships, and self-compassion. The text was purposefully written in an informal tone to engage undergraduate readers, and could be a great text to be used for the Collaborative Communication course whether in whole or in part as supplemental material. The chapters may be individually used. However, re-mixing any chapters into a new course reader or publication would require the material be licensed similarly.

Intercultural Communication

- Shannon Ahrndt, *Intercultural Communication* (University of Missouri St Louis, 2020).
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
- Ebook PDF
- CC BY-NC-SA
- This textbook examines cultural as a variable in interpersonal and collective communication with chapters covering how communication is affected by social categorization, beliefs, values, race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and socialization. Additionally, the text explores both the opportunities and problems arising from similarities and differences in communication - and may help address the requestor's concerns about having one-sided texts. This text could potentially be quite fruitful for class reflection and discussion. However, it is not a comprehensive text for a catch-all single course textbook. It will be best used in conjunction with other texts, or selecting certain chapters as supplemental material.

Stretch Options

The Seven Challenges Workbook

- Dennis Rivers, *The Seven Challenges Workbook: Cooperative Communication Skills for Success at Home and at Work* (New Conversations, 2015).
- [Seven Challenges Website](#)
- PDF
- CC BY NC
- This is an openly licensed communication workshop that could potentially make for a class or homework exercise for both personal reflection and potentially to spark classroom discussion. The workbook covers communication topics, such as active listening, conversational intent, clear expression, and cooperative communication skills. The workbook is intended for both personal and workplace communication improvement.

General Resource Options

Organizational Behavior

- J. Stewart Black et. al, *Organizational Behavior* (OpenStax, 2019).
- [OpenStax](#)
- Ebook, Book, Online reading
- CC BY
- This is a textbook geared toward business, management, and organization behavior courses. However, there are many sections that deal with communication, such as Chapter 9 “Group and Intergroup Relations” and Chapter 11 “Communication.” This textbook could be a great asset for the course, and help as a supplemental material that modernizes class discussions. The instructor may pick and choose which chapters they want to link to students, or additionally due to the CC BY license the applicable portions of the text could be “remixed” in a class-specific reader with the only requirement being providing attribution to the authors, publisher, and original textbook.

Language and Culture in Context

- Robert Godwin-Jones, *Language and Cultural in Context: A Primer for Intercultural Communication* (Virginia Commonwealth University, 2020).
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
- Ebook, PDF, Word, and Book
- CC BY-NC
- The text introduces key concepts in intercultural communication. It is a candidate for supplemental material, such as a chapter reading. The text was authored for a specific

communication course, but broadly introduces concepts and reflects on how humans interact with their environments given the complexity of language and culture.

Stretch Options

Stand Up, Speak Out

- Stand up, Speak out: The Practice and Ethics of Public Speaking (University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, 2016).
- [Open Textbook Library](#)
- PDF, Online, Ebook, XML
- CC BY-NC-SA
- This is a public speaking textbook. The entire textbook will not be applicable for this course, but certain chapters may be applicable for the course. Some potential chapters to investigate are Chapter 2: Understanding the Ethics of Public SPEaking, Chapter 5: Audience Analysis, and Chapter 13: The Importance of Language.

Media, Society, Culture, and You

- Mark Poepsel, Media, Society, Culture, and You: An Introductory Mass Communication Text (Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018).
- [Rebus](#)
- Multiple ebook options
- CC BY
- This approachable introductory mass communication text with a primary focus on digital culture. The text could be useful to identify supplemental course material that relates to modern technology and communication. With the course's object of the relationship between democracy and the practice of dialogue, the chapter 10 on propaganda may be of particular interest and chapter 7 on superbug media may be of more contemporary communication interest to current students.