**COMM 302-Communication Research Methods I**

**Dr. Socha**

Mini Assignment #1

**The Field and I**

***Description***: Communication researchers make and support descriptive, explanatory, and/or predictive claims or arguments about the many aspects of communication. As a new student-communication-researcher, this assignment asks you to begin to think about the kinds of claims that you’d like to being to make.

***Instructions:***

1. Read the Introduction and Chapters 1 & 2 in Treadwell (and review the class slides)
2. Complete each section below by providing the information requested. Type in your responses on this form, then print it the pages that contain your answers, and submit it (hard copy) on date due.

COMM 302

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**The Field and I**

Your Name:

Your UIN:

Date Submitted:

***Honor Pledge***: By submission of this assignment I certify that it has been completed in full compliance with the Old Dominion University Honor Code. Signature:

1. **Research topics**

List three communication research topics that **you** are interested in exploring that pertain in some way to the semester theme of “***Communication, Belongingness and Love***,” and write ONE substantive reason that justifies why each topic would be worth studying (provide a preliminary warrant) [2 pts for each topic that is clearly about communication and 2 pts for each substantive reason].

NOTE: Topics must focus on ***communication and be related to the semester theme.*** To make sure your topics focus on communication, draw the communication model and try to locate the question in the model. You should be able to see the topic in the model somewhere. Does it pertain to message production? Message interpretation? Messages themselves? Also, **substantive reasons** are not your personal reasons. They are reasons that would likely be accepted by many people. That is, of what importance is studying the topic **to others**? Who can be helped if we better understand this topic?

Example: **Topic**—Senior Citizens use of social media and feelings of loneliness

**Reason to study**: Due to moving populations, changing family configurations and mobility problems, many seniors in the U.S. today may be isolated and experience reduced opportunities for meaningful interpersonal contact. Seniors use of social media may (or may not) reduce seniors’ loneliness in situations of physical isolation..

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***Communication Topic 1*:**

***Reason to study topic 1*:**

***Communication Topic 2***:

***Reason to study topic 2:***

 C***ommunication Topic 3*:**

**R*eason to study topic 3:***

1. Choose ONE communication research topic from #1 above that most interests

 you at this point (you can change this later if need be, but think of something that

 will likely hold your interest over the course of the term). Be sure that is it is a

communication topic.

**My Communication Topic is:**

1. For this topic (in section 2) write three **descriptive** research questions. They can

 pertain to any aspect of the topic you’d like (2 pts for each correctly worded RQ).

**Example**—What obstacles prevent senior citizens from using social media?

**RQ#1:**

**RQ#2:**

**RQ#3:**

1. For this topic (in section 2), write three **explanatory or predictive** claims in

hypothesis format (2 pts. for each correctly worded H). These can be 1-tailed or 2-tailed. When building a hypothesis you will use one variable (e.g., frequency of telling jokes) to explain another variable (e.g., need to belong). For example: The frequency with which a person tells jokes is positively related to a person’s need to belong. (2 pts each)

**Example—**The frequency of social media use (weekly) by senior citizens is negatively related to measures of senior’s perceived loneliness.

**H1:**

**H2:**

**H3:**