

**Communication 3620:  
Introduction of Interpersonal Communication  
Autumn 2016**

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**Office Hours:** Wed 1-3pm or by appointment

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**Office Hours:** Tu & Th 11-12pm or appointment

**Class Information:** Tu & Th 12:45 - 2:05pm Journalism Bldg 360

**Course Description:**

To be a competent participant in any relationship, we need to have an adequate understanding of ourselves, the other person, the relationship, and the process of interpersonal communication. This course is designed to provide students with the framework for a more comprehensive and deeper understanding of these things by teaching research-based pragmatic theories and principles which explain what happens, why it happens, and the consequences in our relationships and lives.

**Course Objectives:**

- Be able to articulate how perception and identity-management work
- Understand the relationship between verbal and nonverbal codes
- Comprehend effective ways to listen and manage conflict
- Understand the complexities of beginning, building, and ending relationships
- Gain insights into how individuals manage difficult, disruptive and problematic interactions

**Required readings will be available on Canvas.**

Solomon, D. H., & Theiss, J. A. (2013). *Interpersonal Communication: Putting Theory into Practice*. New York: Routledge.

Additional readings will be posted on CARMEN

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Make-Up Exams:** Make-up exams will not be given except in cases of extreme, unforeseen, and convincingly documented emergencies (notification within 24 hours of the exam time is required) or official University related absences (instructor must be notified at least two weeks in advance). Your instructor reserves the right to determine what qualifies as extreme and what documentation is required. Unacceptable excuses include, but are not limited to: having a cold, being emotionally distraught, being out of town, oversleeping, having to work, not being able to find a parking space, car trouble, and flight delays or cancellations.

**Attendance:** Attendance (both physical and mental) is key to your success in this class. Your grade is largely contingent on your continued presence in class. Listen, take notes, and ask questions. If you miss class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a classmate. Neither the instructor nor the teaching assistant will provide notes in any circumstance and slides are not posted on Carmen. If you miss class, you will not be able to make up any in-class work or extra credit opportunities.

**Research Participation:** This course is enrolled in the School of Communication's C-REP participant pool. C-REP is designed to give students direct exposure to the topics, goals, methods, and ethical issues of communication research. You can participate in C-REP studies to earn extra credits in the course. One research credit in C-REP corresponds to 2 points in this course; therefore, to receive the maximum possible 6 points you need to complete 3 research credits. You should definitely NOT wait until the last minute to sign up for participation because people tend to procrastinate and research opportunities will be limited. In fact, it is probably wise to complete your C-REP requirement as early as possible in the semester when you have more time. Note that the same C-REP participation cannot be counted for more than one course. To sign up for studies, go to the website <https://osucomm.sona-systems.com/>. If you have questions about C-REP, email Jessica Frampton at [frampton.22@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:frampton.22@buckeyemail.osu.edu).

**Disruptions:** Disruptions and distractions (including talking during lecture; text messaging or other phone use; non-class computer activity; or reading non-class materials), threatening behavior, and negative participation (e.g., use of inappropriate language or derogatory speech) will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in such behavior may be asked to leave class, suffer grade penalties, and be reported to the School of Communication Director, the Dean of Students, and/or University Police.

**Web/Email Policy:** For this course, you are required to have online access regularly (i.e., at least 2-3 times a week). Email should be used for quick administrative questions and emergency contact **only**. Additionally, emails should be written using standards of courtesy (address, proper tone, and signature) or they will be returned to you. If you have questions or concerns (e.g., about an assignment, material discussed in class or the text, your grade) make an appointment or drop by our office hours. Updates to the course schedule or readings will be announced in class and also on Carmen; it is your responsibility to stay apprised of these changes.

**Technology:** Students are NOT allowed to take photographs, record video, or record audio during class. Laptops and tablets should be used only for note taking and class related activities. Failure to comply with these policies will result in point deductions.

**Challenging a Grade:** We do not discuss individual grades in the classroom. To challenge a grade, you must meet the instructor or TA during office hours or make an appointment within one week of the grades being posted on Carmen. Please note that a challenge may result in grades being raised or lowered. Also note that grading is an exercise in professional judgment that we take very seriously. We spend large amounts of time developing and grading assignments, and we do not arrive at grade decisions

haphazardly. In this regard, do not challenge a grade unless you truly believe there is a legitimate problem with our decision.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student. I expect that you will know and follow the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. All students are subject to the student code of conduct (see [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)), including the student code of academic integrity. Violations of the code will result in severe penalties in this course and all violations will be reported to the School of Communication and the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Ignorance about plagiarism and cheating is NOT an acceptable excuse.

**Disability Accommodations:** If you anticipate the need for accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, please contact the Office for Disability Services, Pomerene Hall, Room 150, or phone (614) 292-3307. Students with documented disabilities can meet with me privately within the first three weeks of class to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

**Diversity:** The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

**Disclaimer:** The information provided in this syllabus constitutes a list of basic class policies. I reserve the right to modify this information when deemed necessary for any reason. You will be notified in class, via email, and/or on Carmen if and when any changes occur.

### Assignments & Their Point Values

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
In-class assignments	50 points
Participation	10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>360 points</b>

### Grade Break Downs (in percentage points):

93-100% = A	90-92.99% = A-	
87-89.99% = B+	83-86.99% = B	80-82.99% = B-
77-79.99 % = C+	73-76.99% = C	70-72.99% = C-
67-69.99% = D+	60-66.99% = D	below 60% = E

**Exams:** There will be three exams, each consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions. For the most part, the exams will NOT be cumulative. However, some major concepts discussed throughout the semester may appear on multiple exams. I will make a study guide available about a week before the exam. Please understand that the guide is meant to be just that—a guide. Although I try to stick to the information as presented on the study guide, I do consider all reading and lecture material to be fair game for exam questions.

**In-class assignments:** They are designed to assess your understanding of reading materials or reinforce content recently covered in the course. There will be a total of 7-8 in-class assignments throughout the semester. You will not know in advance which days we will have in-class assignments. *These in-class assignments cannot be made up outside of class. That is, you must be in class in order to earn these points.* I will only count your five highest scores and drop the rest providing you some cushion should you need to miss class on the day of an in-class assignments. Once in-class assignments are passed out and students begin them, I reserve the right to not pass out any additional quizzes. Students with late enrollments will have to accept the fact that missed assignments cannot be made up.

**Participation:** Participation will be graded upon your completion of in-class activities. To facilitate your own leaning, you will regularly be asked to complete tasks in pairs or in small groups. Tasks will be collected at the end of class. You can miss up to three activities without penalty. Each additional incomplection will lower your participation score by 1 point. Activities cannot be made up.

## Tentative Course Schedule

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
1	8/23	Syllabus	Syllabus
	8/25	The communication process	Ch. 1
2	8/30	Culture	Ch. 2
	9/1	Culture	Ch. 2
3	9/6	Self and identity	Ch. 3
	9/8	Self and identity; Perception	Ch. 4
4	9/13	Perception	Ch. 4
	9/15	Language	Ch. 5
5	9/20	Nonverbal communication	Ch. 6
	9/22	Nonverbal communication	Ch. 6
6	9/27	Review class	Study guide 1
	9/29	Exam 1	
7	10/4	Emotion	Ch. 7
	10/6	Listening	Ch. 8
8	10/11	Developing and ending relationships	Ch. 9
	10/13	<i>Fall Break</i>	
9	10/18	Developing and ending relationships	Ch. 9
	10/20	Intimacy in relationships	Ch. 10
10	10/25	Intimacy in relationships	Ch. 10
	10/27	Family communication	Ch. 11
11	11/1	Review class	Study guide 2
	11/3	Exam 2	
12	11/8	Interpersonal influence	Ch. 12
	11/10	<i>No class (Instructor at NCA)</i>	
13	11/15	Interpersonal influence; Interpersonal conflict	Ch. 13
	11/17	Interpersonal conflict	Ch. 13
14	11/22	In-class activity	
	11/24	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
15	11/29	Supportive communication	Ch. 14
	12/1	Relationships in workplace	McCornack (available on Carmen)
16	12/6	Review	Study guide 3
17	12/13	FINAL EXAM 2:00 -3:45pm	