

Comm 3667: Nonverbal Communication

T/R, 3:55 pm - 5:15 pm, Mendenhall Lab 191

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<http://cogcommscience.com/>

363C Journalism

Office Hours: T 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm and by appointment

Enrollment in this course constitutes an agreement to this syllabus and the general course structure. Some aspects of the course may change as necessary.

Course Description:

As social animals, humans use communication to interact with and exchange meaningful messages with others in our everyday lives. Nonverbal communication can clarify meaning, emphasize key ideas, provide insights into emotional states, indicate relational status, signify group affiliation, and so on. In many ways, humans are natural experts at sending and receiving interpretable nonverbal communication messages. However, sometimes we read into nonverbal communication a little too much. Popular online articles ask “What Your Sleep Position Says About Your Relationship” (hint, not much), or offer a Body Language Decoder (spoiler alert, not accurate).

The goal of this course is to move beyond these misunderstandings by systematically investigating nonverbal communication from a social scientific perspective. As a student, you will learn the major theories and latest research findings in the field of nonverbal communication. This class adopts a learn-by-doing style where you will take an active role in educating yourself as well as your fellow classmates.

Textbooks:

Burgoon, J. K., Guerrero, L. K., & Floyd, K. (2010). *Nonverbal Communication*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

Guerrero, L. K. & Hecht, M. L. (2008). *The nonverbal communication reader: Classic and contemporary readings*, (3rd ed.). Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Additional Readings: Supplementary readings are posted on Carmen (<https://carmen.osu.edu/>).

Course Objectives:

At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Articulate the difference between verbal and nonverbal communication.
2. Understand how social and contextual factors contribute to the interpretation of nonverbal forms of communication.
3. Explain how nonverbal communication is used to achieve specific communicative goals (or functions).
4. Design, conduct, analyze, and interpret a nonverbal communication research study.
5. Use audio/visual media to explain key findings in nonverbal communication research.

Grade Distribution:

This class has 100 possible points. Exams and assignments are weighted as follows:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
“Conference” Presentation	15%
Research Instrument Design	15%
Research Data Analysis	15%
Research Presentation	15%

Letter Grade Distribution:

You must attempt each assignment and exam in order to receive a grade. Your final grade will be determined based on the combined score of the course exams and assignments. The grading distribution is as follows:

≥ 93.0	A	73.0 - 76.9	C
90.0 - 92.9	A-	70.0 - 72.9	C-
87.0 - 89.9	B+	67.0 - 69.9	D+
83.0 - 86.9	B	60.0 - 66.9	D
80.0 - 82.9	B-	≤ 59.9	E
77.0 - 79.9	C+		

Exams:

Bring a #2 pencil to each exam. The exam dates are noted on the course schedule (see below). Each exam will include multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams are cumulative in the sense that the course material builds on concepts from previous weeks. However, each exam will only focus on lecture and reading materials for the given time period. A study guide is not available, but the lecture slides for each week will be posted to Carmen.

Assignments:

This class requires that you complete several assignments. These are two-person “group” assignments. You will work in the same group throughout the semester. Your grade on each assignment will be determined by the overall quality of your output and both members in the group will earn the same grade. Therefore, it is critical that each of you work hard on each project. **Detailed instructions for each assignment are posted to Carmen.**

“Conference” Presentation: You are required to give a 15-minute “conference” presentation. You and a partner will present one of the assigned research chapters in the Guerrero & Hecht (2008) book. The presentation must cover the following topics: rationale, methods, results, implications, and future research directions. A 5-minute question and answer session will follow each 15-minute presentation. This is a two-person “group” assignment.

See the “Class Schedule” section below for acceptable “Conference” Presentation chapters from Guerrero & Hecht (2008) as well as a list of presentation dates (either T or R for the week). One “group” should present each chapter. I will give the first two presentations as an example of what is expected.

Research Study: As a class we will seek to replicate and extend a key finding in the nonverbal communication literature (Affi & Johnson, Reader Ch. 24). We will conduct key aspects of a scientific research study including: instrument design, data collection, data analysis, and a presentation of the results.

Instrument Design: Successful research studies begin with careful planning. It is important to develop specific hypotheses and design research instruments that allow for precisely recording the exact information you require. In this assignment, you will: (1) develop a codebook that enables you to replicate the Affi & Johnson study and (2) develop new questions that you will ask research subjects.

Data Analysis: Once your data are collected, you need to organize the data in such a way that makes it suitable for statistical analysis. This assignment requires you to: (1) participate in data collection, (2) tabulate your data in a standardized way for analysis, and (3) participate in the lab sessions where you will learn how to statistically analyze your data.

Research Presentation: Reporting your research findings is a crucial step in advancing scientific understanding of human communication phenomena. You will give a 10-minute “data blitz” presentation detailing: (1) what you found, (2) how it conforms to what you expected, and (3) what it means for nonverbal communication research.

Extra Credit:

Participate in a Research Study: Conducting scientific research is crucial to the mission and purpose of the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. You can earn 1 point of extra credit for each 0.5 hours of research participation (up to 4 points total) that you complete in School of Communication research studies. You must sign up for studies at: <https://osucomm.sona-systems.com/>. Be sure to read the detailed instructions on the SONA site. An alternative assignment is available if you do not wish to participate in a research study. Importantly, missing your research appointment or quickly clicking through surveys and giving researchers fake data will not earn participation credit. A non-research participation alternative is available if you wish to earn extra credit, but do not want to participate in a research study.

How to Succeed:

Show up: My lectures may touch on some of the course readings, but most will focus on material that is not in the readings. It would be boring (and an insult to your intelligence) if you read a chapter only to hear me explain it to you again in lecture. You will be tested on material that is only covered in lecture.

Do the readings: Since my lectures will not focus on material not covered in the readings, it is critical that you do the class readings. The exams will include questions that are only discussed in the assigned reading.

Don't fall behind: We will cover a large amount of material this semester. You will quickly fall behind if you miss lectures or skip readings. Study as you go; do not try to cram before the exam.

Take good notes: Copying PowerPoint slides word-for-word is not effective! Just because you copied the definition of a key term does not necessarily mean that you understand this term. I will provide

examples and context to help you understand the bigger picture. Jot these examples down and synthesize what these slides mean in your own words. To help, I will post my slides to Carmen after each lecture.

Ask questions and participate: This is an interactive class where you will learn from me, your peers, and by playing an active role in producing scientific knowledge. OSU students are smart and I know you have valuable insights to share with the class. You might not always agree with what I say. EXCELLENT! Speak up and voice your opinion. An honest and frank discussion of ideas is what makes science better (and fun)!

Academic Integrity:

All work must be the original work of the student and not turned in to any other course prior to this one. Cheating on exams is unacceptable and will result in: (1) a zero grade, and (2) a formal report to the School of Communication and the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term academic misconduct includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities:

Requesting Accommodations:

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know via email immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

School of Communication Diversity Statement:

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.

Title IX:

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, attitleix@osu.edu

Student Academic Services:

Arts and Sciences Advising and Academic Services website provides support for student academic success. Information on advising issues such as tutoring, transfer credits, academic standing, and contact information for Arts and Sciences advisors can be obtained through this website. The site is: <http://advising.osu.edu/welcome.shtml>

Student Services:

The Student Service Center assists with financial aid matters, tuition and fee payments. Please see their site at: <http://ssc.osu.edu>

Policy on Selling Course Materials:

Course materials (excluding examinations which may *never* be shared) and the intellectual content of the course itself are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0; <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>) license. This means that you are free to:

Share: Copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format.

Adapt: Remix, transform, and build upon the material.

At the same time, you must follow these terms:

Attribution: You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

ShareAlike: If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

NonCommercial: You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

Policy on Late Assignments or Missed Exams:

Each assignment will require a combination of in-class and out-of-class work. Assignments build on each other and it is crucial that you have these assignments completed by the due date. Accordingly, assignments turned in after the due date will receive a zero grade. Failure to complete one assignment will also result in a failure to complete future assignments. Therefore, you must complete all assignments, even if you do not turn in all assignments for class credit.

Students are expected to attend class on all posted exam dates. Make-up exams are not allowed, except under the following circumstances: illness, death in the family, participation in an official University activity, or another documented emergency. In such circumstances, the student is required to provide official documentation for the emergency or conflict. In absence of such documentation, missed exams will result in a grade of zero points.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class.

Week	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Aug 22: Introduction & Class Schedule• R Aug 24: Introduction to Nonverbal Communication• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 1• Conference Presentation: None
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Aug 29: Bio-Evolutionary Approaches to Nonverbal Communication Part 1• R Aug 31: Bio-Evolutionary Approaches to Nonverbal Communication Part 2• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 3; Floyd, 2006• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 5(Dr. Huskey)
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Sep 5: Socio-Cultural Approaches to Nonverbal Communication Part 1• R Sep 7: Socio-Cultural Approaches to Nonverbal Communication Part 2• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 2; Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 12• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 35(Dr. Huskey)
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Sep 12: Research Methods and Human Subjects• R Sep 14: Lab Session Instrument Design• Reading: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 24• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 25(T)
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Sep 19: Lab Session Instrument Design• R Sep 21: Proxemics and Haptics• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 6• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 22(R), 26(R)
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Sep 26: Kinesics• R Sep 28: Vocalics• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 5; Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 11, 17• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 14(T), 15(T), 19(R)• IMPORTANT: Instrument Design Assignment Due Friday at 11:59pm
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Oct 3: Review Session• R Oct 5: Exam 1• Reading: None, study for your exam• Conference Presentation: None
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Oct 10: Appearance and Attractiveness• R Oct 12: Autumn Break, No Class• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 4; Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 7, 9• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 8(T), 10(T)
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T Oct 17: The Functional Approach in Nonverbal Communication• R Oct 19: Emotion• Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 8, 11, Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 44, 45• Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 36(T), 43(R)

Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Oct 24: Deception • R Oct 26: Methods, Content Analysis in Communication Research • Reading: Burgoon & Levine, 2010; Levine et al., 2011 • Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 16(T)
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Oct 31: Lab Session, Data Tabulation • R Nov 2: Lab Session, Data Reliability • Reading: Messinger, 2012 • Conference Presentation: None • IMPORTANT: Data Analysis Assignment Due Friday at 11:59pm
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Nov 7: Intimacy and Affection • R Nov 9: Synchrony • Reading: Burgoon et al. Ch. 12; Floyd & Generous, 2014; Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 52 • Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 39(T)
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Nov 14: New Directions in Nonverbal Communication Research • R Nov 16: Lab Session, presentation workshop • Reading: Weber, Eden, Huskey, Mangus, & Falk, 2015 • Conference Presentation: Guerrero & Hecht Ch. 23(T)
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Nov 21: Lab Session, statistical analysis of study data • R Nov 23: No Class, Thanksgiving • Reading: None, work on your data analysis • Conference Presentation: None
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Nov 28: Presentation Day 1 • R Nov 30: Presentation Day 2 • Reading: None, work on your presentations • Conference Presentation: None
Week 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Dec 5: Review Session • F Dec 13: FINAL EXAM (4:00 - 5:45pm)