

**COMM 3620: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIETY  
(hybrid version)**

Autumn 2018

Wednesdays 2:20 pm -4:10 pm; JR 360

Professor:

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Office Hours: by appointment

**REQUIRED READINGS**

1. DeVito, J. A. (2017). *Interpersonal messages*. (4<sup>th</sup> ed). Boston: Pearson
2. Readings available on Canvas
3. Readings available via hyperlink (provided on this syllabus)

\*Other editions of the textbook should be fine. A copy of the textbook will be available at the Main Library.

This syllabus is available in alternative formats upon request. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner. Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. Please contact the office for disability services at 292-3307 in room 98 Baker Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course analyzes the role that interpersonal communication plays in beginning relationships, achieving intimacy, sustaining a certain relational status, and terminating relationships.

**LEARNING GOALS**

- To gain knowledge of interpersonal communication: Gain awareness of diversity of interpersonal messages, and of responses to interpersonal communication; Gain awareness of implications of interpersonal communication for relationship development; Acquire knowledge

of theories about interpersonal communication; Acquire knowledge on research on interpersonal communication

- To engage in abstract thinking and theory application: Apply theoretical concepts to real-world interpersonal situations, connecting abstract information to real world situations; Derive decisions from theoretical frameworks.

- To practice critical thinking and writing skills: Analyze theories of and concepts in interpersonal communication research, acknowledging strengths and weaknesses; Reflect on your own interpersonal communication patterns and their implications for behaviors and relationships; Think critically about how interpersonal messages may influence others; Exercise writing and critical thinking skills.

## GRADING

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
In-Class Assignments	15%
Canvas Assignments	40%
<u>Reflective Writing Assignment</u>	<u>5%</u>
TOTAL	100 %

The grading scale for this course will follow the standard OSU grading scheme, which is:

A = 93-100%	C+ = 77-79%
A- = 90-92%	C = 73-76%
B+ = 87-89%	C- = 70-72%
B = 83-86%	D+ = 67-69%
B- = 80-82%	D = 60-66%
	E = 0-59%

Exams. There are two exams in this class. The exams will cover the material discussed in lecture and the readings. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions. It is important to note that the lectures will contain information not covered in the readings, and that not all the readings will be discussed in lecture. Thus, it is important to attend all of the lectures and do all the readings.

In-Class Assignments: Assignments will be completed during class throughout the semester. These assignments may require group work, taking a quiz, and/or writing a solo reflection. All work must be completed in class and cannot be made up outside of class. I will drop the lowest

two grades. In-class assignments are designed to encourage students to further reflect on and apply class material.

Canvas Assignments: There are 8 Canvas assignments in this class. These assignments are designed to help you process the content more deeply and to prepare for the next class meeting. The assignments will typically require you to read something and/or watch a video, and then to respond to some questions. All assignments should be typed and submitted to the Canvas Dropbox by 2:20 p.m. on the day of class. No late work will be accepted. Each assignment is worth 5 points. The assignment descriptions are posted on Canvas.

Reflective Writing Assignment: Students will complete an end-of-semester writing assignment that is designed to encourage reflecting thinking and analysis. Students may use their notes and readings while completing the assignment. The assignment is designed to allow students to 1) demonstrate their comprehension of the material; and 2) reflect on and integrate the knowledge they've gained throughout the semester. This assignment is worth 5 points and is due to the Canvas Dropbox by 2:20 p.m. on December 5, 2018.

## **POLICIES**

Exams. Both exams are to be taken on the designated exam dates. It is your responsibility to note the day/time of exams now and make sure you will be able to attend all the exams. If you have any schedule conflicts, you should either rearrange your schedule so that you can complete all of the work or drop the class. No make-ups are allowed except in the case of an extreme emergency. In the rare event that an emergency arises, it is the student's responsibility to 1) inform the instructor prior to the exam time, and 2) provide the instructor with written documentation of the emergency (e.g., medical note from certified physician). Please note that make-up exams may be of a different format or cover course content in a different ratio than the original.

Use of Email and Canvas: You are responsible for all information sent to you via your OSU email account and/or posted on the Canvas website. Therefore, it is important for you to check your OSU email account regularly and be sure to purge your account of unneeded email so that new messages can get through. Similarly, check the Canvas website regularly for any updates or announcements. Supplementary materials may be posted to Canvas throughout the semester.

Class absences. Students are expected to come to class each day. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the notes from a classmate. The professor will not provide lecture notes.

Respect for Fellow Students and Professor: Please turn off phones during class. If you choose to come to class, you should give your full attention to any person who is speaking (whether it is the professor or another student). During class, avoid reading newspapers, sending text

messages/email, working on social media, sleeping, talking while others are talking, etc.

***Students engaging in these or other disruptive behaviors during class will be asked to leave.***

A general note: Graduating seniors (and other students) who “need” this course to graduate should work especially hard to ensure that they will pass this class. There will NOT be opportunities for students to re-take exams or re-complete assignments in order to raise their grade. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that he or she receives a passing final grade by working diligently and responsibly throughout the semester. Exceptions will NOT be made.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic misconduct, such as plagiarism or fabrication, will not be tolerated. The Ohio State University’s *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process,” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct at [http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp).

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). If COAM determines that you have violated the University’s *Code of Student Conduct*, the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University. If you have any questions about this policy or what constitutes academic misconduct, please contact the instructor or visit the COAM web page at <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>.

## **COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS, READINGS, AND IMPORTANT DATES**

(schedule subject to change, with notice;  
students are responsible for all changes announced in class)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
Aug 22	Introduction Reading: Course syllabus posted on Canvas
Aug 29	Interpersonal Communication: General Approaches Readings: Chapter 1 from DeVito book; “Psych Perspectives on IP Communication” reading on Canvas <b>ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE TO CANVAS</b>
Sept 5	Interpersonal Communication & Culture Reading: Chapter 2 from DeVito book; “Intergenerational Communication” reading on Canvas <b>ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE TO CANVAS</b>
Sept 12	Culture and Interpersonal Communication Reading: Blog on intercultural communication and weight at <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/magazine/30lives-t.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/30/magazine/30lives-t.html</a> ; Also, watch Ted Talk at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMMyofREc5Jk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMMyofREc5Jk</a> <b>ASSIGNMENT 3 DUE TO CANVAS</b>
Sept 19	The Self and Interpersonal Communication Reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 51-58) from DeVito book; “Self-presentation and Facebook” reading on Canvas; “Self-disclosure and Facebook” reading on Canvas <b>ASSIGNMENT 4 DUE TO CANVAS</b>
Sept 26	Perception and Interpersonal Communication Reading: Chapter 3 (pp. 59-74) from DeVito book; Read “Downplaying Positive Impressions” article on Canvas; Read blog post on politeness at: <a href="http://tcbdevito.blogspot.com/2009/03/communication-functions-of-politeness.html">http://tcbdevito.blogspot.com/2009/03/communication-functions-of-politeness.html</a> <b>ASSIGNMENT 5 DUE TO CANVAS</b>
Oct 3	<b>EXAM 1</b>

- Oct 10                    Listening and Interpersonal Communication  
Readings: Chapter 4 and 8 from DeVito book; Watch  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTQEsTYOcu8>
- ASSIGNMENT 6 DUE TO CANVAS**
- Oct 17                    Continue with Listening; Verbal & Nonverbal Communication  
Reading: Chapters 5 and 6 from DeVito book; Watch  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-Mh1QhMc>; Read  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/eye-contact-can-be-overwhelming/>
- ASSIGNMENT 7 DUE TO CANVAS**
- Oct 24                    Interpersonal Communication  
Reading: Chapter 9 from DeVito book
- Oct 31                    Interpersonal Communication  
Reading: Chapter 10 from DeVito book
- Nov 7                     Conflict Management  
Reading: Chapter 11 from DeVito book; Read  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/surviving-your-childs-adolescence/201003/sibling-conflict-in-adolescence>; Read  
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/surviving-your-childs-adolescence/201308/varieties-family-conflict-in-adolescence>;  
Read “Forgiveness” handout on Canvas
- ASSIGNMENT 8 DUE TO CANVAS**
- Nov 14                    Catch-up & Review
- Nov 21                    Thanksgiving Break – no class today
- Nov 28                    **EXAM 2**
- Dec 5                     Integration of class ideas and themes  
Review materials posted on Canvas for this week  
**Reflective Writing Assignment due**