

**Communication 3620:
Introduction of Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2019**

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Office Hours: Weds 1-3pm and by appt.

Class Information: Tu & Th 3:55-5:15pm Lazenby Hall 021
Format: lecture

[Please put "Comm 3620" in the subject line when contacting us.]

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

Assignments & Their Point Values

Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
In-class assignments	50 points
Participation	10 points
Total	360 points

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 40 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 drop your two lowest scores 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 learning, 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 two activities without penalty. Each additional incompleteness will lower your participation score by 1 point. Activities cannot be made up.

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 Shannon Poulsen (poulsen.6@osu.edu).

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 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.

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), 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.

Mental Health: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. The Ohio State University offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. If you or someone you know are suffering from any of the aforementioned conditions, you can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via the Office of Student Life's Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) by visiting ccs.osu.edu or calling [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). CCS is located on the 4th Floor of the Younkin Success Center and 10th Floor of Lincoln Tower. You can reach an on call counselor when CCS is closed at [614-292-5766](tel:614-292-5766) and 24 hour emergency help is also available through the 24/7 National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

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.

Disability 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 immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. 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.

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 Canvas if and when any changes occur.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/8	Syllabus	Syllabus
	1/10	The communication process	Ch. 1
2	1/15	Culture	Ch. 2
	1/17	Culture	Ch. 2
3	1/22	Self and identity	Ch. 3
	1/24	Perception	Ch. 4
4	1/29	Perception	Ch. 4
	1/31	Language	Ch. 5
5	2/5	Nonverbal communication	Ch. 6
	2/7	Nonverbal communication	Ch. 6
6	2/12	Review class	Study guide 1
	2/14	Exam 1	
7	2/19	Emotion	Ch. 7
	2/21	Listening	Ch. 8
8	2/26	Developing and ending relationships	Ch. 9
	2/28	Developing and ending relationships	Ch. 9
9	3/5	Intimacy in relationships	Ch. 10
	3/7	Intimacy in relationships	Ch. 10
10	3/12	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	
	3/14		
11	3/19	Family communication	Ch. 11
	3/21	Review class	Study guide 2
12	3/26	Exam 2	
	3/28	Interpersonal influence	Ch. 12
13	4/2	Interpersonal influence; Interpersonal conflict	Ch. 13
	4/4	Interpersonal conflict	Ch. 13
14	4/9	In-class activity	
	4/11	Supportive communication	Ch. 14
15	4/16	Relationships in workplace	McCornack (available on Carmen)
	4/18	Review	Study guide 3

Final Exam: Monday Apr. 29 6:00PM – 7:45PM