
Communication 3620 – Interpersonal Communication

Summer 2016 – TR 9:00-12:10pm – 238 Denney Hall

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Office Hours: TR 12:30am-2:30pm or by appointment

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Interpersonal communication refers to the way people interact with one another in a variety of situations. The expectations people form prior to a conversation, the messages that they produce using language and nonverbal cues, and the ways in which they attach meaning to the behaviors of others are all part of interpersonal communication.

Throughout this course, you will learn about both the scientific study of interpersonal communication as well as the art of becoming a competent interpersonal communicator. We will explore what communication theories and research tell us about how people relate to one another. This course is highly interactive and we will use our own experiences to practice and develop a deeper understanding of what it means to engage in effective interpersonal communication.

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the theories, principles, and ethical considerations of interpersonal communication
- Describe the behaviors and dynamics that unfold in interpersonal interactions
- Apply what you have learned about interpersonal communication to your day-to-day experiences in order to become a more competent communicator

REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS

Solomon, D. H., & Theiss, J. A. (2013). *Interpersonal Communication: Putting Theory into Practice*. New York: Routledge. **ISBN:** 978-0415807524

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Scale

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

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

Graded Activities

Your grade in this course will be determined according to your performance on the following:

<i>In-Class Activities/Participation</i>	15%
<i>Response Papers</i>	30%
<i>Writing Assignments (2)</i>	25%
<i>Exams (2)</i>	30%
TOTAL	100%

If you wish to earn extra credit in the course, you may a) participate in studies via C-REP or b) complete alternative written assignments provided via C-REP. You may earn up to five credits worth up to 3% of the course grade. Information on how to sign up for the C-REP pool will be provided in class and will also be available on Carmen. Please direct any questions regarding C-REP or requests for alternative assignments to Aysenur Dal at dal.1@osu.edu .

In-Class Activities/Participation

Participation is required. While sickness and unexpected emergencies will arise from time to time, you should expect that if you are regularly absent your grade will be negatively affected. We are only meeting 11 times this semester, so it is imperative that you attend most if not all class sessions in order to effectively learn the material.

Your participation will be evaluated through contributions to class discussions and via in-class activities and assignments, many of which will allow you to practice interpersonal communication by working with your classmates. **These grade points cannot be made up outside of class. There are no exceptions to this policy, even for “legitimate” class absences.** This component of your grade reflects the importance of actively engaging with the material and interacting with one another as we study interpersonal communication.

In-class activities will be based on the reading assigned for that day, so make sure to come prepared by reading the materials prior to class. Also, please bring something to write with and something to write on to each class session, as in-class activities will frequently be handwritten on your own paper.

Response Papers

In order to prepare for each class session, you will write a response to the assigned chapter that includes summarizing key points, relating the material to your own experiences, and creating questions for class discussion. A more detailed description of this assignment will be handed out and posted on Carmen.

You will write a response paper for each chapter, beginning with Chapter 3, for a total of 10 response papers over the course of the semester. Each response paper is worth up to 5 points and your response paper grade will be computed by

adding your response paper scores across all 10 assignments (up to 50 points total). The grading scheme for the response papers is as follows:

A	45+ pts	B	36-38.9 pts	C	27-29.9 pts	D	18-20.9 pts
A-	42-44.9 pts	B-	33-35.9 pts	C-	24-26.9 pts	E	Below 18 pts
B+	39-41.9 pts	C+	30-32.5 pts	D+	21-23.9 pts		

Response papers must be typed and submitted on paper in class for full credit. You will bring a hard copy of your response paper to each class to use in class discussion. If you cannot attend class, you may receive half (50%) credit for your response paper by submitting it online to the Carmen dropbox by **1:00pm the day it is due.** Please save online submissions with the filename "Response Paper Chapter X".

Writing Assignments

In order to help you more deeply connect with the information in the course, you will be required to complete a short writing assignment in three of the four sections of the course. In these short reports, you will have an opportunity to explore interpersonal communication on a topic and report on the insights you have gained. You will have multiple options to choose from for each writing assignment, involving activities such as watching a film and writing reactions to it or observing and reporting on real-world interpersonal interactions.

Two writing assignments will be given and each assignment will be posted a week before it is due. The writing assignments must be submitted to the Carmen dropbox by **1:00pm the day they are due.** Each assignment is worth 12.5% of your final grade.

Due dates for the writing assignments are:

- Writing Assignment #1 – Wednesday, May 25
- Writing Assignment #2 – Friday, June 10

Exams

You will take two online exams that require recall and application of material from the course readings and lectures. Each exam involves 25 multiple choice or true/false questions and each is worth 15% of your final grade.

- Exam 1 covers Chapters 1-6, will be posted at 5:00pm on Thursday, May 26, and is due by **5:00pm Monday, May 30.**
- Exam 2 covers Chapters 7-14, will be posted at 5:00pm on Thursday, June 16, and is due by **5:00pm Friday, June 17.**

COURSE POLICIES:

Technology Use and General Politeness

This course is a lecture/discussion format and requires you to pay active attention and interact with your classmates. Research indicates that learning is hampered by the use of technology during class, not just for the student using it

but also for other students around him/her. Therefore, cell phones, laptops, tablets, music players, and other electronic devices **must be turned off and out of sight during class**. Violation of this policy will result in a 2 point reduction of your final grade per incident (taken from your In-Class Activity/Participation grade).

This is a discussion-based course, and much of our learning will take place through dialogue with one another. To maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, please be courteous to other members of the class and treat them with the dignity and respect that you expect from others.

Email and Carmen

Throughout the semester, expect to receive emails from me regarding the course. As such, it is important that you check your OSU email account regularly and make sure that course emails are not going to your junk folder.

Assignments and lecture PowerPoints will be made available on Carmen. The Carmen dropbox will be used for electronic submission of writing assignments. The exams will be taken using the Carmen quiz system and the Respondus LockDown Browser.

The best way to contact me is via email. I check my email frequently; however, please allow 24 hours for a response during the week or 48 hours on the weekend.

Late Work and Punctuality

As adults, you are expected to meet assigned deadlines. **No credit will be given for any assignment submitted after its deadline.**

Computer/technology problems will **not** be considered an acceptable justification for late work. If you are having difficulties with Carmen, you may email me your assignment **before** the deadline to receive credit.

You are expected to arrive to class on time and to attend class for the duration of each meeting. Failure to do so will result in a reduction of your In-Class Activity/Participation grade.

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 (a C- or higher is required for Communication and Journalism majors). There will **NOT** be opportunities for you to re-take exams or re-complete assignments in order to raise your grade. It is your responsibility to ensure that you receive a passing final grade by working diligently and responsibly throughout the semester. **No exceptions will be made.**

On Learning Strategies

There is a lot of reading in this course and we will cover a lot of information. *It won't be easy.* Yet there are a few strategies that are likely to bring success. One of the best ways to understand any subject is to actively try to make connections between a new topic and information you already have stored in memory. The more you can make connections between the new material you encounter in this class and what you already “know” (such as things you’ve experienced, seen, or learned in other classes), the better you will be able to remember and apply it.

The ultimate goal is “knowledge integration” – connecting the dots between what at first might appear to be disparate concepts, but are in fact ideas that fit together into a bigger picture, thereby providing a broader context for understanding. The best ways to achieve knowledge integration are to:

- Make sure you do all of the readings before class, actively connecting the readings to things you already know or previous experiences.
- Participate actively in class, challenging the propositions and evidence provided in the chapters, by the instructor, or by other students, and asking questions about things you may not understand. *Disagreement is good!*
- Discuss the readings during class, at office hours, or informally with fellow students and/or the instructor.
- Review the readings again in doing assignments and preparing for the exams.
- *Think. Talk. Think. Talk.* The more times you engage with the material in this course – and talk to others about it – the more successful you will be.

Academic Misconduct

Students in this course accept responsibility for being held to the highest of academic standards as set forth by The Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs. As such, academic dishonesty (also known as cheating) of any kind is unacceptable. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work previously used or that of another person, and tampering with the academic work of other students. All instances of alleged academic dishonesty will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct, which is responsible of investigating or establishing procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/pdfs/csc_12-31-07.pdf)

Reasonable Accommodations Policy

If you have a documented disability, please register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your

accommodations, so they may be implemented in a timely fashion. If you have any questions about this process, please contact Disability Services at 614-292-3307 orslds@osu.edu.

Tentative Readings and Course Schedule

Week 1

Thursday, May 12 – Chapter 1: What is interpersonal communication? (skim)

Chapter 2: Culture and interpersonal communication

Week 2

Tuesday, May 17 – Chapter 3: Identity and interpersonal communication

Response Paper Chapter 3 due in class

Thursday, May 19 – Perception and interpersonal communication

Response Paper Chapter 4 due in class

Week 3

Tuesday, May 24 – Chapter 5: Language and interpersonal communication

Response Paper Chapter 5 due in class

Wednesday, May 25 – **Writing Assignment #1 due to Carmen dropbox by 1:00pm**

Thursday, May 26 – Chapter 6: Nonverbal communication

Response Paper Chapter 6 due in class

Week 4

Monday, May 30 – **Exam 1 completed on Carmen by 5:00pm**

Tuesday, May 31 – Chapter 7: Emotions and communication

Response Paper Chapter 7 due in class

Thursday, June 2 – Chapter 8: Listening

Response Paper Chapter 8 due in class

Week 5

Tuesday, June 7 – Chapter 9: Developing and ending relationships

Response Paper Chapter 9 due in class

Thursday, June 9 – Chapter 10: Intimacy and interpersonal communication

Chapter 12: Interpersonal influence

Response Paper Chapter 10 & 12 due in class

Friday, June 10 - **Writing Assignment #2 due to Carmen dropbox by 1:00pm**

Week 6

Tuesday, June 14 – Chapter 11: Communication in families
Response Paper Chapter 11 due in class

Thursday, June 16 – Chapter 13: Interpersonal conflict
Chapter 14: Communicating support and comfort
Response Paper Chapter 13 & 14 due in class

Friday, June 17 – **Exam 2 completed on Carmen by 5:00pm**
