Communication 170.004
Interpersonal Communication
MWF 11:00-11:50 am in Ferguson 373 – Fall 2018

Communication Studies Program
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication
Stephen F. Austin State University

Professor: Elizabeth Spradley, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies

Contact: espradley@sfasu.edu
936.468.7095

Office: LAN 416
Office Hours: MWF 8:45-10, F 11:50-1,
Virtual Hours: T 9:30-noon via D2L pager or as posted on D2L
Class Times: MWF 10-10:50; 11-11:50; 1-1:50; MW 12-12:50

Professor Spradley is available at other times for appointment. Please schedule appointments through her SFASU email. Do not use D2L email or phone to schedule appointments.

Course Description: A study of communication in the one-to-one situation leading to development of interpersonal communication skills. Emphasis is on positive mental attitude and personal growth.

Course Materials
Students will be expected to purchase the following materials.

University Core Curriculum Program Learning Outcomes:
Critical Thinking Skills - to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
Communication Skills - to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
Teamwork - to include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
Personal Responsibility - to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Student Learning Outcomes:
Develop an understanding of different models of communication and how those models shape how we talk about and study interpersonal communication. Develop an understanding of various interpersonal communication theories and how to apply those communication theories in practice. Increase knowledge and communication competencies across a variety of relational contexts to address such issues as diversity, conflict, emotions, mindful listening, and perception formation.
Better understand **how technology is changing interpersonal communication** and increase communication technological competence.

**Communication Studies Program Learning Outcomes:**

**Objective 1—Theory Knowledge:** Students majoring in Communication Studies should display comprehension of major communication theories.

**Objective 2—Theory Application:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.

**Objective 3—Research Methods:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical, humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in communication.

**Objective 4—Diversity and Freedom of Expression:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global community.

**Objective 5—Constitutive Nature of Communication:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the constitutive nature of communication, which includes forces that enable and constrain communication such as technology, ethics, and organizational life.

**Objective 6—Higher Order Thinking:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.

**Governing Policies:** The following policies will apply to the classroom.

1. **Desire2Learn (D2L) AND ONLINE COURSEWORK:** **ALL** students are expected to use **D2L** in this course to engage content, perform and keep up with graded activities and scheduled readings, complete the exam, and participate in the course. Students should sign in at **d2l.sfasu.edu** using the same username and password as **MySFA**. All announcements regarding the course and professor’s schedule are made via D2L. Virtual office hours are conducted via D2L pager.

2. **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
3. COURSE ADAPTATIONS: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

4. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

6. GRADE WITHHELD POLICY (Semester Grades A-54): II. Withheld Grades: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average. http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp

7. ATTENDANCE, MAKE UP AND LATE WORK: Students are expected to arrive on time so that they attend and participate in each class meeting. An absence is marked in a column on D2L, and it is the student’s responsibility to correct the attendance record on the class day in question (i.e. a student who is tardy needs to inform the professor of his(er) attendance at the end of class). For an online class meeting, an absence is indicated by lack of an assignment/discussion post.

- If a student is texting, surfing the web, sleeping during class, etc…, the student is marked absent.
- If a student misses 25% of the class regardless of excused/unexcused absence status, the result will be an F in the course. On the 3rd
absence (excused or unexcused), students will be penalized by having 2% deducted from their final course grade. On the 4th absence, 5% is deducted from their final course average. On the 5th absence, 8% is deducted from their final course average. On the 6th absence, 10% is deducted from their final course average. On the 7th absence, 12% is deducted from their final course average. On the 8th absence, 15% is deducted from their final course grade. On the 9th absence, 18% is deducted from their final course grade. On the 10th absence, 20% is deducted from their final course grade. On the 11th absence, 22% is deducted from their final course grade. On the 12th absence, 25% is deducted from their final course grade. An absence is an absence.

Deadlines for coursework are posted in advance, and it is the responsibility of each student to complete his/her work and submit it either early or on time. The University recognizes three types of documented excuses that may permit a student to make up work: 1) University Sponsored Event, 2) unavoidable emergency, and 3) personal illness. Your instructor will not hear or recognize oral excuses for missed course material. Your instructor is the exclusive decision maker on approving or denying an excused absence request in order to make up work in the class. Acceptable documentation includes: doctor/medical paperwork, written acknowledgement of participation in a university sponsored event, notification disseminated from the Judicial Office, and family emergency records. Acceptable documentation of an absence to make up coursework must be turned into the professor within one week of returning to class.

Evaluation: In addition to attendance, students will be evaluated using an exam and written work. Each evaluated activity must be completed and turned in by the scheduled time. Your professor will provide additional instructions.

**Six assignments/discussion activities** will be assigned throughout the semester to promote critical thinking and dialogue about theoretical constructs and real world application of course readings. Students will be graded on overall quality and participation for assignments and within each discussion connected to the content from readings/lectures. Students are expected to give thorough and well developed responses to each assignment/discussion prompt before stated due dates. For discussion posts, students are expected to provide strong responses to previous student posts that are not repetitive of other student responses. This grade will be an overall grade of all discussion posts and dialogue provided by each student. Students are expected to provide a minimum of two **peer responses** to posts in each discussion thread as well as their original posting. Simply, each student will have at least a total of three posts for each of the discussion threads throughout the semester. Original posts should conform to the requirements in the instructions. Peer responses should be 100 words. All posts are due during the specified class time. See D2L for further information.
Assignment/Discussion 1: 50 points  
Assignment/Discussion 2: 100 points  
Assignment/Discussion 3: 100 points  
Assignment/Discussion 4: 100 points  
Assignment/Discussion 5: 100 points  
Assignment/Discussion 6: 100 points  
Discussion Activities will combine to be worth a total of 550 points.

APA Library Assignment: This assignment is designed to make sure you know how to use APA style and can conduct research using the library’s databases prior to completing a reflection paper or having to complete a researched discussion post. The assignment is available in the Dropbox. Follow the instructions in the Dropbox, and submit it as a Word document. **APA Library Assignment is worth 100 points.**

Comprehensive Final Exam: There will be one exam this semester. The exam will be multiple-choice and will be completed via D2L on the assigned date before 11pm. Students should study all assigned readings and content modules meticulously to prepare for the exam. The exam will test the depth of students’ mastery of the content. The exam is comprehensive. There is a review. **Comprehensive Final Exam is worth 200 points.**

Reflection Paper: There will be one reflection paper this semester that will require each student to apply course concepts to a particular communication event. The paper will:

- offer definitions of key terms/concepts/theories,
- provide explanation of the personal event,
- use terms/concepts/theories to analyze the event, and
- generate a series of communication lessons learned that could be applied to future communication situations.

Papers will be turned in via D2L Dropbox on the assigned dates provided in the course timeline. **Papers are due at 11pm on the assigned date.** Students should use **APA formatting** to write the papers and submit them as attachments in the Dropbox under the appropriate paper assignment title. Papers should always include a cover page that indicates your name and contact information. In addition to the cover page and reference list, the paper should be three complete double-spaced pages (see APA Style Guide for margins, font, etc.). **At least FOUR sources must be cited within the paper:** the module/lecture, the textbook, and TWO journal articles. **Specific instructions for the paper’s content is available in the Dropbox on D2L.** The Reflection Paper will be worth 100 points.
Critical Thinking Assignment
The purpose of this essay is to apply critical thinking about interpersonal communication to observed interpersonal interactions.

View a television program or movie that depicts interpersonal interactions. Using the observed interpersonal interactions between the characters in the program or movie, write a 2-3 paragraph essay that accomplishes the following: a) introduces the interpersonal interaction and the purpose of the essay, b) identifies and defines at least two different concepts from the textbook relevant to the interpersonal interaction, c) analyzes the interaction based on the concepts making evaluations about the interactions. **As the concepts are introduced, the textbook and other relevant sources must be cited.** The essay should clearly reach a conclusion regarding the quality of the interpersonal interaction.

The essay should be submitted to both the Dropbox and Live Text as an attachment.  
The essay is worth 50 points.

The course will be worth a total of 1000 points. No bonus outside what is made available for all students will be offered. No grades are **bumped.** At any point in the semester, you may “average” your grade by dividing your earned points by the total possible points for those assignments.

1000-900 points is an A.  
899-800 points is a B.  
799-700 points is a C.  
699-600 points is a D.  
Anything below 600 points is a F.

Calendar

Week 1:
8/27  Introduction to Interpersonal Communication  
8/29  Chapter 1: Definitions, Models  
9/31  Chapter 1: Principles

Week 2:
9/3  Labor Day  
**9/5  Discussion Post 1**  
9/7  Chapter 2: Culture

Week 3:
9/10  Chapter 2: Culture
9/12 Chapter 2: Identity
9/14 Library Assignment

Week 4:
9/17 Chapter 3: Perception
9/19 Chapter 3: Perception
9/21 Chapter 3: Self

Week 5:
9/24 Chapter 4: Verbal Communication
9/26 Chapter 4: Verbal Communication
9/28 Chapter 4: Verbal Communication

Week 6:
10/1 Chapter 5: Non-verbal Communication
10/3 Chapter 5: Non-verbal Communication
10/5 Discussion Post 2

Week 7:
10/8 Chapter 6: Listening
10/10 Chapter 6: Listening
10/12 Chapter 6: Listening

Week 8:
10/15 Discussion Post 3
10/17 Chapter 7: Emotions
10/19 Chapter 7: Emotions

Week 9:
10/22 Chapter 8: Disclosures
10/24 Chapter 8: Disclosures
10/26 Critical Thinking Essay

Week 10:
10/29 Chapter 9: Conflict
10/31 Chapter 9: Conflict
11/2 Reflection Paper

Week 11:
11/5 Chapter 10: Close Relationships
11/7 Chapter 10: Close Relationships
11/9 Discussion Post 4

Week 12:
11/12 Chapter 11: Family
11/14  Chapter 11: Romantic Partners
11/16  Chapter 11: Friends

Week 13:
11/19  Discussion Post 5
11/21  Thanksgiving Holiday
11/23  Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14:
11/26  Interpersonal Communication & Interviews
11/28  Interpersonal Communication & Work/Life Issues
11/30  Interpersonal Communication & Technology at Work

Week 15
12/3   Discussion Post 6
12/5   Review
12/7   Review

Week 16 Final Examinations
12/10-15 The final exam is available from 12/8 through 12/12 at 11 pm

Important University Dates:

- Last Day to Register: 8/30
- Twelfth Class Day: 9/11
- Begin Applying for Graduation for May 2019: 9/15
- Mid-semester: 10/17
- Last Day to Drop or Withdraw without WP or WF: 10/24
- Last Day to Apply for Graduation for May 2019: 11/15
- Last Day to Withdraw from the University: 11/26
- Finals Week: 12/10-12/15