Communication 170.009
Interpersonal Communication
TR 2:00-3:15 pm in FERG 477 – Spring 2018
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Communication
College of Liberal and Applied Arts
Stephen F. Austin State University

Instructor: E. Spradley, Ph.D.
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Teaching Hours: TR 9:30-10:45; 11:00-12:15; 12:30-1:45; 2:00-3:15
Department: Languages, Cultures and Communication

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 toward classroom decorum.

1. Desire2Learn (D2L) AND ONLINE COURSEWORK: ALL students are expected to use D2L in this course to engage content modules, perform and keep up with graded activities and scheduled readings, complete exams and participate in the course. Students should sign in at d2l.sfasu.edu using the same username and password as MySFA.

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](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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp)

7. **ATTENDANCE, MAKE UP AND LATE WORK:** Students must attend all face-to-face classes. No more than 2 absences for any reason are permitted. After two absences, students lose 25 points (or 2.5% of their course points) for each absence. After a student misses 25% of class or more, the student automatically fails. Attendance is recorded by the instructor on D2L. It is the student’s responsibility to let the instructor know if he or she is tardy on the day of the tardy so that the marked absence can be correct on the same day.

All due dates are final. Students should complete work as assigned through the semester. Graded activities not turned in on time result in a ZERO for the activity. Students missing work due to documented illness, University sponsored event or family emergency must provide acceptable documentation prior to making up any work that is schedule to be completed within a single allotted timed event. Most graded activities are to completed over a multiple day window, such graded activities will not be accepted past the scheduled due date unless there is a documented medical emergency that is signified in writing from a medical doctor that the student was incapacitated during the entire time window of dates.

**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 throughout the semester will provide additional instructions.

**Assignments/discussion activities** instructions are in either their respective Discussion or Dropbox Assignment. The three discussions each require an original discussion post and 3-5 well-developed replies to classmates. Read the instructions carefully and fulfill all requirements. The participation packet is an ongoing accumulation of materials given to you by your instructor and completed by you to promote learning and reflection. The participation packet is submitted during the week before final exams to the Dropbox and graded based on completeness.

- **Discussion 1:** 100 points
- **Discussion 2:** 100 points
- **Discussion 3:** 100 points
- **Participation Packet (submitted through the Dropbox):** 100 points

Discussion Activities will combine to be worth a total of 400 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.**

**Quizzes and Exams:** There will be 4 multiple-choice, timed quizzes. Make sure to log in and take them on the assigned days and times announced IN CLASS. There will be two exams: **Exam 1 at mid-term and the Final Exam during finals** this semester. Both exams will be multiple-choice and will be completed via D2L on the assigned date during class time. Students should study all assigned readings and content modules meticulously to prepare for exams. Exams will test the depth of students' mastery of the content. The final exam is comprehensive.

**Exam 1 at Mid-term is worth 100 points.**
**Comprehensive Final Exam is worth 100 points.**
**Exams and Quizzes are worth a total of 400 points.**

**Critical Thinking Assignment: Core Assessment**
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 100 points.**

**The course will be worth a total of 1000 points.**

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**

1/16  Introduction, syllabus, submitting work in APA
1/18  Communication Studies: What is communication? What is interpersonal communication?
Communication Studies: field, sub-disciplines, professional organizations, journals, career opportunities

*Friday, January 19th is the last day to add/drop, change schedule.

1/23 IPC ch. 1
1/25 Discussion 1 (must have submitted post and replies prior to class time ending)

1/30 IPC ch. 2
2/1 culture and identity

*Wednesday, January 31st is the 12th class day.

2/6 IPC ch. 3, perception, self
2/8 Library Assignment

2/13 IPC ch. 4, verbal
2/15 continued

2/20 IPC ch. 5, nonverbal
2/22 Discussion 2 (must have submitted post and replies prior to class time ending)

2/27 IPC ch. 6, listening
3/1 continued

3/6 EXAM 1 (mid-term) on D2L during class time
3/8 Critical Thinking Essay

*Wednesday, March 7th is mid semester.
*Saturday, March 10th through Sunday, March 18th is Spring Break holiday

3/20 IPC ch. 8, personal information
3/22 Module: Tackling Challenges in Interpersonal Interactions

*Wednesday, March 21st is the last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university without a WP or WF.

3/27 IPC ch. 9, understanding and experiencing conflict
3/29 Easter Holiday for students and faculty

4/3 Module: Delving into Intimate Relationships
4/5 IPC ch. 10, intimacy, relational stages, love languages, romance

4/10 Discussion 3 (must have submitted post and replies prior to class time ending)
4/12 IPC ch. 11, family context, stories/identity

4/17 Family conversation Patterns
4/19 friend context
*Monday, April 23rd is the last day to withdraw from the university.

4/24   Interpersonal Communication at Work
4/26   Interpersonal Communication at Work

5/1    Appreciative Inquiry, Reflection
5/3    Participation Packet

*Finals week is 5/7-5/11.

Comprehensive Final Exam is available from May 3rd at 8 am until May 8th at 11 pm.