SPCH 1318.510
Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2020; Online
Communication Studies

Instructor: Jim Towns, Ph.D.
Email: jtowns@sfasu.edu (preferred mode of communication)
Office: Liberal Arts North 411
Phone: 936.468.1084
Class Times: Online
Office Hours: Meeting times are available M-F by appointment.
Department: Languages, Cultures, and Communication
College: College of Liberal and Applied Arts

This is an online course, but the university has a mask policy. As you may be on campus and attending some events or classes, please follow the following policy:

COVID-19 MASK POLICY

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


COM 170 Interpersonal Communication

SPCH 1318 “Interpersonal Communication” (3 credits) meets once, twice, or three times a week for a total of 150 minutes per week for a total of 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Online delivery contains extensive written content as well as audio-visual presentations and exercises that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture course receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. Activities include lectures, extensive reading,
compositions, presentations, and written exams. These various activities average a minimum of 6 hours of work each week to be prepared to engage in face-to-face class meetings or online activities.

Required Course Materials:

*Inter-Act (14th edition) by Verderber, MacGeorge, and Pruim*

*The book is available through SFA bookstores and a variety of other means.

**You will be asked to do assignments and assessments that require you to use specific pages in the book. Plus, quizzes come from content in the book. Please use your textbook and read carefully.

Student Learning Outcomes (Course Objectives)

Students in COM 170 Interpersonal Communication should be able to:

1. Recall, differentiate, and apply interpersonal communication theories and concepts from perceptions, self/identity, culture, verbal, nonverbal, conversations, listening, emotions, conflict, and dark side issues.
2. Recall, differentiate, and apply interpersonal communication and competencies to relational contexts including friends, family, romantic relationships, and workplace relationships.
3. Interact with peers using course vocabulary accurately.
4. Reflect and apply relevant interpersonal concepts/theories to their personal lives through writing assignments.

Program Learning Outcomes (* indicates that it is assessed in this course)

1. **Theory Knowledge:** Students majoring in Communication Studies should display comprehension of major communication theories.
2. **Theory Application:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.
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.*
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.
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.
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. 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.

2. CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Students are expected to appreciate the learning environment and to prevent unnecessary distractions. All phones, MP3 players and PDAs must be off and out of sight during class, unless instructed otherwise. Laptops and tablets may be used; however, it is expected these devices will only be used for taking notes. Disruptive electronic use will result in the entire class losing the privilege to use them for the remainder of the semester.

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
5. D2L/ONLINE COURSEWORK: **ALL** students are expected to use **D2L** in this course to perform and keep up with graded activities and scheduled readings. Students should sign in at [http://d2l.sfasu.edu](http://d2l.sfasu.edu) using the same username and password as MySFA. **All graded activities will be turned in or completed via D2L.**

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. MAKE UP WORK: Students are expected to manage time and submit all work on time. If a university sponsored activity, illness or emergency arise and conflict with a due date, the student must contact the instructor via jtowns@sfasu.edu with documentation to make up work. Technical errors should be avoided, but in the event that they occur, they should be documented with screen shots or other evidence. Contact your instructor immediately in the event that you cannot submit work on time.

---

**Evaluation**

This course is worth a total of 1000 points. You earn points on activities/assignments, quizzes, a midterm, two reflection papers, a final paper with oral presentation component. Extra credit is built into the course already; therefore, do not ask for additional opportunities. Your points are your points. There is no “bumping” up to the next grade REGARDLESS of how close it is. The grade scale is as follows:

- 1000-900    **A**
- 899-800    **B**
- 799-700    **C**
- 699-600    **D**
- 599 and below is failing

**Dropbox**

390 points

You submit several shorter reflective writing assignments via the Dropbox in D2L. All instructions are on D2L.

- Reflection Paper 1  140
- Listening Styles Essay  50
- Listening Skills Exercise  50
- Conflict Management  75
- Beauty of Conflict  75
### Quizzes 260 points

Quizzes directly correspond with modules and assigned chapters. They are multiple choice questions. Each quiz has 10 questions each worth 20 points total for each quiz.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiz</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Final Exam 100 points

The final exam is a multiple choice exam on D2L that is comprehensive.

### Discussions 250 points

Discussion post instructions are on D2L. Follow instructions regarding posts and peer replies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussion Post</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>