COM 170.012 Interpersonal Communication
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Languages, Cultures and Communication

Year: 2020
Semester: Spring
Location: Ferguson 375, Wednesdays 2:30pm – 5:00pm

Instructor: Kathleen “Kathy” McGough
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Office: #436 in North Liberal Arts Building (next to Ferguson)
Phone: (936) 615-2803 cellphone
Office Hours: Mondays: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Tuesdays: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesdays: 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Thursdays: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Teaching Hours: Mondays: 1:00pm – 3:30pm and 4:00pm – 6:30pm
Tuesdays: 12:30pm – 1:45pm and 4:00pm – 6:30pm
Wednesdays: 2:30pm – 5:00pm
Thursdays: 12:30pm-1:45pm

Course Description:

Course Materials:

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes:
This class will provide theory and practice in interpersonal communication and analysis of communication as a function of interpersonal communication, as well as a practical resource to help students connect with their listeners and work toward creating and sustaining shared meaning. After completing COM 170 students will be able to demonstrate competence in logical and critical thinking, and will be able to recognize the central role of freedom of expression and inquiry in a diverse and democratic society and will meet or exceed the General Education Core Curriculum Objectives. For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes see the assessment resource page: http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp
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.

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

Instructor’s Expectations:
It should be understood by all students enrolled in this course that education is not a commodity. Course grades are based on achievement, not effort or time. Students must earn their score in this course based on mastery of the materials and the instructions provided.

Governing Policies: The following policies will apply toward classroom decorum.

1. Desire2Learn (D2L) is accessible at d2l.sfasu.edu using the same username and password as MySFA. To the extent that the instructor uses D2L, students will be accountable for accessing and using the online learning system.

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. MAKE UP AND LATE WORK: The university recognizes three types of absences that can be documented and presented to an instructor for consideration to make up work: 1) personal illness, 2) emergency, and 3) university sponsored event. It is the student’s responsibility to communicate with the course instructor and provide documentation. If the course instructor permits late work based on the merit of the documentation, then the student and instructor will develop a plan and new due date for the work to be completed.

8. ATTENDANCE: Attending and participating in communication courses is expected of all enrolled students as a part of the learning process. An attendance record is maintained of absences that impact students’ grades. Any student who misses 25% or more of scheduled class meetings is subject to course failure. Students taking this course who have perfect attendance will be rewarded. Simply put, students with no absences, when their bodies are physically present for each class period, from the beginning of class to the end of class, will receive 10 bonus points to the final total points.

**Evaluation:**

**Exams:** During the course of the semester students will complete exams with questions from our class discussions and information from the Textbook regarding the theories, concepts, and practices of interpersonal communication.

**Assignments:** During the course of the semester students will be expected to participate and complete various assignments/projects in and out of class. All assignments shall be turned in at the BEGINNING of class on the Due Date. Late work will not be tolerated. Since students know all of the assignments and dates ahead of time – there will be no Late Work allowed. Any work turned in after the Due Date will receive a ZERO. Students must keep all graded materials throughout the semester to have a basis for discussion and review.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotions Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Project</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1 Chapters 1 and 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2 Chapters 3, and 4</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam #3 Chapters 5 and 6</td>
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<td>Exam #4 Chapters 7 and 8</td>
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<td>Exam #5 Chapters 9 and 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #6 Chapters 11 and 12</td>
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**TOTAL POINTS: 1000 points**

**Grading:**

- 900-1000 points = A
- 800-899 points = B
- 700-799 points = C
- 600-699 points = D
- Below 600 points = Student will not pass