

CMST 210: Interpersonal Communication

Summer 2013

M-Th 11:30am-1:20am; Room C168

Instructor: Whitney Anspach

Office Hours: By appointment

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REQUIRED READINGS

Adler, R. B., & Proctor III, R. F. (2010). *Cengage Advantage Books: Looking Out/Looking In* (13th Ed.). Independence, KY: Cengage Learning.

Free Student Resource Site: http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=9780495796213&discipline_number=10&token=

Note: The assigned readings are critical to your understanding and appreciation of course concepts. I have tried to select a textbook that will introduce you to important theoretical concepts and provide concrete examples of issues related to interpersonal communication. In some cases, the reading will provide valuable background for issues we will discuss further in class. At other times, the readings will supplement what we discuss in class by addressing issues and concepts that we do not have time to cover in class sessions. **Please complete the day's listed readings prior to coming to class.**

LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course focuses on interpersonal communication in relationships. Students explore perception, language, self-concept, self-disclosure, listening, and conflict resolution management, and experience the concepts through class activities.

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Define the process of communication and describe the specific qualities found in interpersonal relationships.
2. Explain the relationship between perception, self-concept, and communication.
3. Describe the characteristics of a competent communicator and the methods of improving language, nonverbal communication, and listening skills.
4. Identify the common stages of interpersonal relationships and discuss the recommendations for improved relationship initiation, maintenance, and termination.
5. Explain the influence of gender and culture in the interpersonal communication process.
6. Discuss the nature of conflict and explain the effectiveness of the various approaches to conflict management.

COURSE FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS

Format:

You will be engaged in activities and discussions designed to aid your understanding of the concepts explored in this class. **Computer use is required for access to additional materials on Canvas.** Lectures by the instructor will be kept to a minimum. Given this format, students need to commit to being active participants in this class. In addition, this area of study contains complex theories and difficult social science jargon. I will do my best to assist you, **but a college reading level and college writing level in English is needed to succeed in this course.**

Expectations:

Your active participation in the learning process is expected and valued. We will address a variety of topics, many involving controversies that touch upon our personal values and beliefs. I encourage you to share your thoughts, concerns, and opinions in class—we will have a stimulating learning environment and a richer learning experience if we can discuss a wide range of perspectives. At the same time, the issues we will address can be highly emotional ones and we won't always agree with one another. It is vital that everyone feels safe to air her or his ideas and opinions. Please be sensitive and respectful to other viewpoints when making comments and contributing to discussion.

LEARNING ASSESSMENT

In order to earn a passing grade in this course you will need to submit **all** of the assignments listed below and take all exams. Submission of all assignments and exams constitutes a necessary, but insufficient condition for passing the course. I will not offer incompletes for this course.

Assignments

'Essay' Assignments (4 x 100)	400
Exams (2 X 100 pts)	200
<u>Your Choice</u> - Final Project OR Final Exam	200
Class Engagement, Assignments, & Attendance	200

Total: 1000

Grading Scale:

94-100	= A	73-75	= C
90-93	= A-	70-72	= C-
86-89	= B+	66-69	= D+
83-85	= B	60-65	= D
80-82	= B-	0-59	= F
76-79	= C+		

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Class Engagement, In-Class Assignments, & Attendance (200 Points):

Please **turn off** all cell phones, pagers, Blackberries, iPods, etc. before class begins.

You may not use a computer during class.

You may earn 100 points for satisfactory completion of the in-class assignments. The other 100 points may be earned through active engagement in activities and for regular attendance.

Students will be evaluated on the quality of their contributions to class discussion in class. Students are expected to come to class prepared. This means: having read all required reading assignments for that meeting, bringing to each class meeting the course textbook, and being ready to share relevant and constructive information with the class.

Bellevue College's standard attendance policy will be utilized for this course (see <http://bellevuecollege.edu/artshum/policy.html>). To summarize this policy, any student missing more than 20% of total class meetings will automatically fail this course. Twenty percent of our class meetings equal five (5) absences. More than five absences will cause you to earn an 'F' for this course. In addition, one letter grade will be deducted from your participation grade for the second absence. There is no deduction for the first absence. Being more than 5 minutes late to class will be counted as an absence.

'Essay' Assignments (4 x 100 points) [Submitted via Canvas]

See details for each of these assignments on Canvas.

The reason that the title of this assignment is in quotes is that you may use a variety of formats for these assignments. You are allowed to submit these assignments in the following formats:

- *Essay* - 3-5 pages: typed, double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font
- *Video* – 5-15 minute short film (please post your video on YouTube as an unlisted video)
- *Audio* – 5-15 oral essay/skit/etc.
- *Comic book* – 2-6 page comic book (note that a short strip will not suffice for these assignments)

No matter what format you choose to use, it is your responsibility to *submit it via Canvas on-time* in a *file format* that I can open (i.e., doc, docx, rtf, pdf, mp3, and wmv). Any file that I cannot open will be considered missing. In other words, you will earn a late penalty for each day that passes before you submit a file that I can open.

Exams (2 X 100 pts):

These exams are designed to test your knowledge of course concepts and your ability to critically apply them to real-life communication scenarios. You will all receive an exam review/study guide at least one

week prior to the exam due date. *You will be required to use a Scantron form for these exams.* You may purchase a pack of Scantron forms at the Bookstore.

Final – Your Choice, Project or Exam (200 pts):

Option 1 – Project [Submitted via Canvas]:

You may use the same formats for this project that were permitted for the 'essay' assignments.

You have two (2) options for this final project assignment. The topic of this assignment will depend on whether you opt to complete this project working by yourself or with one (1) other classmate.

Solo Assignment

If you choose to work on this project by yourself, your task is to do the following:

You must analyze your own interpersonal communication competence. Within this analysis, you must incorporate and discuss at least six topics (e.g., conflict resolution, language, or listening) from class in your submitted project. Please put these topics/concepts in italics and cite specific page references within your project. Remember that you must clearly demonstrate your understanding of communication competence.

Note: when I say/write topics, I am not referring to concepts. You must review all relevant concepts within an analysis of a topic (e.g., listening).

Partner/Dyad Assignment

Read a minimum of two popular advice books on the topic of effective communication between romantic partners, or between men and women in general. Your project should do the following: (1) Identify and evaluate the credentials of each author as an expert on intimate communication; (2) Summarize communication principles advocated in the books; (3) Relate communication principles and theories covered in this course to those advised by the authors of popular advice books; and (4) Evaluate the value of each book.

Option 2 – Final Exam

As the name implies, this will be a comprehensive exam that will test your knowledge of the key concepts we have studied throughout the quarter. The exam will include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and an essay question. An exam review guide will be made available one week before the day of the exam.

GENERAL POLICIES

Late Assignments:

For purposes of equity and fairness for all students, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to complete all written assignments. Deadlines for all assignments will be announced on the course website calendar and are listed in the syllabus.

Please note: You are responsible for ensuring that any assignment submitted as an attachment is capable of being opened (i.e., not a corrupted file). I will evaluate **any corrupted files** as being an incomplete assignment – in other words, **you will earn a zero** for that assignment.

In the event that you do not turn in your assignment on the day/time it is due, you will be assessed the following academic penalty: *late assignments will receive a one point grade reduction for every day – including weekends - they are late (e.g., B+ to C+)*.*

Statement on Academic Integrity:

You should know that plagiarism is a serious violation of your contract as a student and will be treated severely. It is important for you to understand that plagiarism is *any* representation of another person's words or ideas in a manner that makes it seem as if they were your own, in either oral or written form. Obviously, this means that you may not copy another person's papers. **Students caught cheating on an exam or assignment will not receive any credit for that portion of the class and will be reported to the Dean of Student Programs.**

If you do not know what constitutes plagiarism, please check out this handy [game](#)/guide.

Special Needs:

If you need course modifications /adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). The Disability Resource Center is located in B132 and can be reached at 425-564-2498. Please meet with me if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC: All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the Computing Services site - <http://ac.bcc.ctc.edu/LabsInfo/ComputerLabs.aspx>

Public Safety: The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is [425.564.2400](tel:425.564.2400). The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	Mon June 24	Introduction to Course	None
	Tues June 25	Communication Models Communication Competence	Chapter 1
	Wed June 26	Self-Concept Identity Management	Chapter 2
	Thurs June 27	Identity Management Continued	None
2	Mon July 1	Perception <i>Essay #1 Due</i>	Chapter 3
	Tues July 2	Perception Continued Emotions	Chapter 4
	Wed July 3	Emotions Continued	None
	Thurs July 4	<i>Holiday – No Class</i>	
3	Mon July 8	<i>Exam #1</i>	
	Tues July 9	Language & Culture	Chapter 5 & Online: Extinct Languages & Modern Languages
	Wed July 10	Language & Gender <i>Essay #2 Due</i>	Online: Tannen's & Troemel-Plotz's Essays
	Thurs July 11	Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 6
4	Mon July 15	Nonverbal & Culture	None
	Tues July 16	Listening	Chapter 7
	Wed July 17	Listening Continued	None
	Thurs July 18	Relationships	Chapter 8 & Online: <i>Digitally Dumped: She's Just Not That N2 U</i>
5	Mon July 22	Relationships Continued <i>Essay #3 Due</i>	None
	Tues July 23	Intimacy & Self-Disclosure	Chapter 9 & Online: <i>How Facebook Ruins Friendships</i>
	Wed July 24	Communication Climate	Chapter 10
	Thurs July 25	Communication Climate Continued	None
6	Mon July 29	Conflict Resolution	Chapter 11 & Online
	Tues July 30	Conflict Resolution Continued	
	Wed July 31	Film for Essay 4	None
	Thurs Aug 1	<i>Exam #2</i>	
7	Mon Aug 5	Course Wrap-Up <i>Essay #4 Due</i>	None
	Tues Aug 6	Exam Review/Draft Reviews	None
	Wed Aug 7	Exam Review/Draft Reviews	None
	Thurs Aug 8	<i>Final Project Due on Canvas BEFORE 1:20pm OR Final Exam In-Class at 11:30AM</i>	