



Division of Liberal Arts

SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication

3 Credit Hours

Semester: Fall 2023 (Online and Dual Credit classes)

Instructor: Corey S. Blais

Office location: Remote

Phone: Provided in Open LMS

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Office Hours: Available via phone call, text or email. Zoom meetings can also be arranged as needed.

Course Description:

Application of communication theory to interpersonal relationship development, maintenance, and termination in relationship contexts including friendships, romantic partners, families, and relationships with co-workers and supervisors.

Statement of Purpose

Interpersonal Communication partially satisfies the requirements for the Associate Degree at Clarendon College and is designed for transfer to a senior college or university.

Required Instructional Materials:

Textbook: Instructor will provide the course materials.

Core Objectives

This course meets four of six core objectives as established by the State of Texas:

1. Critical Thinking Skills (CT) – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills (COM) – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
3. Teamwork (TW) – ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
4. Personal Responsibility (PR) – ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles (Assesses CT, COM, and PR through written assignments and exams).
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts (Assesses CT, COM, PR, and TW through discussion boards and written assignments).
3. Identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others (Assesses COM, TW, and PR through discussion boards).
4. Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments (Assesses CT, COM, PR through written assignments).
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender, and age influences on human communication (Assesses CT, COM, TW, and PR through discussion boards).
6. Demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and management techniques in dyads and/or groups (Assesses CT, COM, and PR through exams).
7. Identify types of and barriers to effective listening (Assesses CT, COM, TW, and PR through discussion boards and written assignments).

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction in this course will include assigned readings, powerpoint lectures, and class discussions, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Student Requirements

Most assignments for this course will be submitted through OpenLMS, so you will need computer access to submit most of your assignments. Also, be sure to check your Clarendon College email regularly.

Grading Policies and Course Assessments:

You will be assessed in this course in four ways: (1) homework assignments, (2) class participation and activities, (3) midterm exam, (4) final exam. Your overall grade in this course is calculated as follows:

| Component | Description | % Of Grade |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Assignments (CT, CS, PR) | Chapter assignments | 50% |
| Discussion and responses (CT, CS, TW) | Discussion forums & responses to others | 25% |
| Midterm exam (CT, PR) | Covering Chapters 1 – 7 | 10% |
| Final exam (CT, PR) | Covering Chapters 8 – 14 | 15% |

Cumulative Course Total = 100%

The final semester grades will be figured as set in the current catalog:

| Grade | Percentage |
|-------|------------|
| A | 90 — 100% |
| B | 80 — 89% |
| C | 70 — 79% |
| D | 60 — 69% |
| F | 0 — 59% |

Assessment Details

1. **Assignments:** Students will be asked to complete various exercises throughout the semester. The purpose of these is to help you learn (there is no such thing as “busy-work” in this class). Complete the exercises and submit them as instructed. There will be approximately one homework exercise each week. All assignments combined are worth 50% of your course grade.
2. **Discussions and Responses:** You are required to post to the discussion forum and respond to others’ posts throughout the semester. This is also a significant part of your grade. Quality participation in discussions is worth 25% of your overall course grade.
3. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will consist of objective questions from Chapters 1 – 7 in our course textbook and lectures. This exam is worth 10% of your course grade.
4. **Final Exam:** The final exam will be a comprehensive exam that measures what you learned throughout the course. The final exam is worth 15% of your course grade.

Required Enrollment Verification Activity (EVA)

Students must complete the Syllabus Agreement EVA (located in the “Class Orientation” section of our online OpenLMS) by the official census date (August 31, 2023) in order to continue in the course. Failure to do this could result in you being dropped from the course or receiving a failing grade for the course, **so please make sure to do this by Wednesday August 30, 2023 at 11:59pm.**

Course Policies

Please pay close attention to the following course policies:

1. This is a performance course, so regular attendance is essential. Attendance is measured by activity in the class (participation in weekly discussions and submitting assignments).
2. Approved participation in Clarendon College sponsored activities is excused and will not count against you. Remember, though, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor **prior** to a school sponsored activity and turn in assignments and/or take scheduled exams **prior** to an absence.
3. It is expected that you read the chapters in our textbook by the due dates listed in the Course Schedule. Failure to do this can result in extra homework.
4. **All assignments are due on their assigned day.** If you fail to submit your assignment by the due date, your assignment will receive a **zero** unless **prior** approval is granted the instructor. The key to success with your instructor is to **communicate!** It is ultimately your responsibility to communicate with your instructor.
5. **As a rule, late work is not accepted.** Extreme circumstances will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, as determined by the instructor.

Online Attendance Policy

Regular weekly attendance is mandatory in all online courses. Specific activities will be identified on the course schedule that must be completed in order for students to be considered in attendance.” Attendance will be posted to the Student Portal. Failure to complete these assignments can result in forfeiture of Financial Aid and failure of the class.

Prof. Blais’ personal attendance policy

For this course, I will submit an attendance report the day after the attendance activities are due and on the census date. Students who are following the online attendance policy are marked “present.”

College Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Clarendon College is committed to a philosophy of honesty and academic integrity. It is the responsibility of all members of the Clarendon College community to maintain academic integrity at Clarendon College by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will be regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense.

Academic dishonesty violations include, but are not limited to: (1) obtaining an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise by stealing or collusion; (2) discovering the content of an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment before it is given; (3) observing the work of another during an examination or providing answers to another during the course of an examination; (4) using an unauthorized source of information during an examination, classroom activity, laboratory exercise, or homework assignment; (5) entering an office, classroom, laboratory, or building to obtain unfair advantage; (6) taking an examination for another person; (7) completing a classroom activity, laboratory exercise, homework assignment, or research paper for another person; (8) altering grade records; (9) using any unauthorized form of an electronic communication device during an examination, classroom activity, or laboratory exercise; and/or, (10) plagiarism. (Plagiarism is defined as the using, stating, offering, or reporting as one's own, an idea, expression, or production of another person's work without proper credit. This includes, but is not limited to, turning in a paper purchased or acquired from any source, written by someone other than the student claiming credit, or stolen from another student.)

Students are responsible for reporting known acts of academic dishonesty to a faculty member, the program coordinator, the associate dean, and/or dean. Any student with knowledge of a violation who fails to report it shall him/herself be in violation and shall be considered to have committed an act of academic dishonesty. Additionally, any student who reports him/herself in violation of this code before it is likely that another might consider this possibility will be understood as repentant and acting in good faith. Though the confession will not excuse the student for the violation, the confession will be considered and the violation should not result in suspension from school except in the most extreme cases.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each individual faculty member, teaching assistant, and/or laboratory instructor is responsible for classroom management and for maintaining ethical behavior within the classroom and/or laboratory. Faculty who discover or suspect a violation should discuss the matter with the suspected violator(s) and attempt to resolve the case at that point. In cases of convincing evidence, the faculty member should take appropriate action. The faculty member and student should complete a Counseling Sheet regarding the violation. (The Counseling Sheet should contain at a minimum the date and time of the violation, the course, the instructor's name, the student's name, an explanation of the infraction or facts of the case, and the resolution to the incident.) This form should be signed by the student, faculty member, program coordinator, and the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to the Dean of Students, it remains his/her prerogative to do so. Additionally, if the faculty member and the accused student cannot reach a resolution or if the faculty member believes that suspension from school is the only fair sanction, the case should immediately be reported by the faculty member, in writing, to the Dean of Students. If the Dean of Students observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Dean is responsible for notifying all faculty members involved, for contacting the student(s) involved, and after consultation with the faculty member(s) involved for taking the appropriate action. The Dean of Students is responsible for the timely notification (normally within two weeks) to all parties of an action taken.

Students wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision involving academic integrity or acts of academic dishonesty may do so through the Student Appeals and Grievance Procedure.

Withdrawing from (Dropping) the Course

If you decide that you are unable to complete this course or that it will be impossible to complete the course with a passing grade, you may drop the course and receive a "W" on your transcript instead. (The last day to drop a course is available on the Academic Calendar, located at the Student link on the Clarendon College website.) Withdrawal from a course is a formal procedure that you must initiate. If you do not go through the formal withdrawal procedure, you will receive whatever grade you have earned.

Whether to drop a class or not requires a lot of thought. According to Texas state law a student is only allowed to drop the same class twice before he/she will be charged triple the tuition amount for taking the

class a third time or more. Furthermore, beginning with the Fall 2007 semester, students in Texas may only drop a total of 6 courses throughout their entire undergraduate career. After the 6th dropped class, he/she will no longer be able to withdraw from any classes.

Accommodations Statement

Clarendon College provides reasonable accommodations for persons with temporary or permanent disabilities. Should you require special accommodations, notify the Dean of Student Services. We will work with you to make whatever accommodations we need to make.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at:

<http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Student%20Services/StudentRightsResponsibilities.pdf>.

Note – Depending on the needs of Clarendon College, and/or unforeseen circumstances, this syllabus and course schedule are subject to change.

Course Schedule

| Content | Assignments |
|---|--|
| Week 1: August 16 – 20 | |
| Course and Class Introductions Start Chapter 1 | Read through the syllabus & introductory material Complete the Syllabus EVA Begin reading through Chapter 1 |
| Week 2: August 21 – 27 | |
| Chapters 1 & 2 | Finish reading through Chapter 1 Read Chapter 2 Week 2 Discussion & Assignment due by 8/27 at 11:59pm |
| Week 3: August 28 – September 3 | |
| Chapter 3 | Read Chapter 3 Week 3 Discussion & Assignment due by 9/3 at 11:59pm |
| Week 4: September 5 – 10 | |
| Chapter 4 | Read Chapter 4 Week 4 Discussion & Assignment due by 9/10 at 11:59pm |
| Week 5: September 11 – 17 | |
| Chapter 5 | Read Chapter 5 Week 5 Discussion & Assignment due by 9/17 at 11:59pm |
| Week 6: September 18 – 24 | |
| Chapter 6 | Read Chapter 6 Week 6 Discussion & Assignment due by 9/24 at 11:59pm |
| Week 7: September 25 – October 1 | |
| Chapter 7 Review for Midterm Exam | Read Chapter 7 Study for your midterm exam Midterm Exam due by 10/1 at 11:59pm |
| Week 8: October 2 – 8 | |
| Chapter 8 Lecture & Discussion | Read Chapter 8 Week 8 Discussion & Assignment due by 10/8 at 11:59pm |

| Content | Assignments |
|---|---|
| Week 9: October 10 – 15 | |
| Chapter 9 Lecture & Discussions | Read Chapter 9 Week 9 Discussion & Assignment due 10/15 by 11:59pm |
| Week 10: October 16 – 22 | |
| Chapter 10 Lecture & Discussions | Read Chapter 10 Week 10 Discussion & Assignment due 10/22 by 11:59pm |
| Week 11: October 23 – 29 | |
| Chapter 11 | Read Chapter 11 Week 11 Discussion & Assignment due 10/29 by 11:59pm |
| Week 12: October 30 – November 5 | |
| Chapter 12 | Read Chapter 12 Week 12 Discussion & Assignment due 11/5 by 11:59pm |
| Week 13: November 6 – 12 | |
| Chapter 13 | Read Chapter 13 Week 13 Discussion & Assignment due 11/12 by 11:59pm |
| Week 14: November 13 – 19 | |
| Chapter 14 | Read Chapter 14 – No homework this week. |
| November 20 – 26: Thanksgiving Break – No Classes | |
| Week 15: November 27 – December 3 | |
| Final Exam Review | Study for your final exam |
| Week 16: December 4 – 6 | |
| Take your final exam (online) | Take your final exam (online). The exam closes at 11:59pm on TUESDAY (12/5/23) |
| December 6, 2023 – End of Course – Grades are finalized and sent to the Registrar | |