



Division of Liberal Arts

SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication

3 Credit Hours

Semester: Fall 2023 (Section 101 – Mon., Wed, & Fri.) 9:00am – 9:50am

Instructor: Bethany Thompson, M.A.

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Office Hours:

Monday: 7:45am-8:45am/12:00pm-1:30pm

Tuesday: 8:15am-9:15am/12:30pm-1:30pm

Wednesday: 7:45am-8:45am/12:00pm-1:30pm

Thursday: 8:15am-9:15am/12:30pm-1:30pm

Friday: 7:45am-8:45am/12:00pm-1:30pm

Appointments for other time are available, just discuss it with me.

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:

Instructor will provide the course material at no additional cost to the student.

Core Objectives

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

- Critical Thinking Skills (CT) – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills (COM) – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Teamwork (TW) – ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.
- 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.
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.
3. Identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender, and age influences on human communication.
6. Demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and management techniques in dyads and/or groups.
7. Identify types of and barriers to effective listening.

Methods of Instruction

Methods of instruction in this course will include assigned readings, lectures, videos, demonstrations, and class discussions.

Student Requirements

Most assignments for this course will be submitted through Open LMS, 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 class in several ways. Attendance and participation are necessary to pass this class. Group work will play a large part in your grade. Group Work will be assessed by the professor and by your group-mates.

Component	Description	%
Assignments (CT, CS, PR)	Discussion boards, movie analysis	40%
Group Projects	Two official group projects	30%
Class participation (CT, CS, TW)	Cumulative In-Class Participation	10%
Midterm exam (CT, PR)	Covering first half of class	10%
Final exam (CT, PR)	Cumulative	10%
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 assignments throughout the semester. Pay attention to your professor and your OpenLMS site.
2. **Class Participation:** Learning in this course requires active participation. Meeting the course objectives will require everyone to be responsible for contributing meaningfully. This means completing the assigned readings and homework so you can be fully prepared for class. Attendance also affects participation and activity grades (you can't participate or do an activity if you're not here).

3. **Group Projects** There are two group projects. As this class is over Interpersonal Communication, you'll show your knowledge and apply what you've learned (and are actively learning) in a group setting.
4. **Midterm Exam:** The midterm exam will consist of objective questions, short answer, and an essay question. This exam is worth 10% of your course grade.
5. **Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of objective questions from Chapters 8 – 14 in our course textbook and lectures. The final exam is worth 10% of your course grade.

Course Policies

Please pay close attention to the following course policies:

1. **Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is essential as class participation benefits everyone.
2. **Speaking Schedule:** Speeches/Presentations are to be delivered on ***the assigned day***. Speakers who are absent on the assigned speaking day will receive a zero unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor. Speaking order will be assigned randomly unless decided otherwise.
3. **Make Up Policy:** If late work is accepted due to an emergency, you must communicate with the professor as soon as possible. Otherwise, most assignments will be turned in online and their late work will not be accepted.
4. **Cell Phone Policy:** Please turn your cell phones off during class. Inform your instructor if circumstances are such that require you to have access to your phone during class. **No texting** is allowed in class (wait until you walk out the door after class to send your messages.)
5. **Respect:** In this class, we will discuss speeches and communication techniques from people you may not agree with. Sensitive, divisive topics may come up. As adults, you are expected to treat your fellow classmates, instructor, and guests of the classroom with respect no matter if you agree with their opinions or stances on a topic. Being disrespectful to anyone will result in you being asked to leave and not receiving credit for class that day.

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 Clarendon College 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>.

Clarendon College COVID-19 Updates

Please click the following link to become informed about our campus responses to COVID-19:

<https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/CoronavirusUpdate>

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

Course Schedule

Weekday	Date	Content	Assignment/Reading due that day
Week 1			
Wednesday	8/16	Course and Class Introduction Team Building	Look at Open LMS
Friday	8/19	Lecture Introduce Important Conversation	Chapter 1 of Process of Communication
Week 2			
Monday	8/21	Lecture	Read Chapter 1 of Interpersonal Communication
Wednesday	8/23	Lecture Game	Read Chapter 6 of Process of Communication
Friday	8/25	Lecture Group discussions	Read Chapter 4 and 5 of Process of Communication Important Conversation Due
Week 3			
Monday	8/28	Lecture Johari's Window	Chapter 2 of Interpersonal Communication
Wednesday	8/30	No class meeting	Discussion Board: Choose a fictional character and analyze them through Self-Concept, Self Esteem, and Self-Efficacy
Friday	9/1	Lecture	Chapter 3 of Process of Communication Submit the name of a real person that you wish for us to discuss as a class. (Reminder, we are respectful and not here to judge others' political/religious beliefs)
Week 4			
Monday	9/4	Lecture	Chapter 10 of Process of Communication
Wednesday	9/6	Lecture	Chapter 11 of Process of Communication
Friday	9/8	No class meeting	Discussion board: Cultural Traditions
Week 5			
Monday	9/11	No class	No assignment due
Wednesday	9/13	Lecture	Chapter 12/13 of Process of Communication
Friday	9/15	Lecture	Chapter 3 of Interpersonal Communication
Week 6			
Monday	9/18	Group activity	Submit an episode clip to listen to in class. More instructions to come

Wednesday	9/20	Lecture on Communication Theories	Chapter 8 of Process of Communication
Friday	9/22	Continuation of Communication Theories	
Week 7			
Monday	9/25	Lecture	Chapter 9 of Process of Communication
Wednesday	9/27	Lecture	Chapter 4 of Interpersonal Communication
Friday	9/29	Lecture	Chapter 5 of Interpersonal Communication
Week 8			
Monday	10/2	Lecture	Chapter 6 of Interpersonal Communication
Wednesday	10/4	Watch movie/tv show (tbd)	
Friday	10/6	Watch movie/tv show (tbd)	
Week 9			
Monday	10/9	Watch Movie/tv show (tbd)	
Wednesday	10/11	Run through review of Midterm Receive Review Sheet	Come with any questions!
Friday	10/13	Jeopardy Midterm Review	Turn in review sheet
Week 10			
Monday	10/16	Midterm Exam in person	
Wednesday	10/18	Introduce Gender Communication Group Project Assign groups Explain rubric	
Friday	10/20	Meet with your classmates outside of class (No in person class today)	Submit subject/topic online
Week 11			
Monday	10/23	Meet with your classmates outside of class (No in person class today)	
Wednesday	10/25	Group Presentations	
Friday	10/27	Group Presentations	
Week 12			
Monday	10/30	Discuss what went well, what needs to go better next time	Turn in Group Peer Assessment
Wednesday	11/1	Introduce group project over theories New groups Rubric Work on group project	
Friday	11/3	Group work in class	Come to class with topic

Week 13			
Monday	11/6	Group Project	
Wednesday	11/8	Group Project	
Friday	11/10	Group Project	
Week 14			
Monday	11/13	Introduce final paper Intercultural scavenger hunt	Peer Reviews Due
Wednesday	11/15	Findings from scavenger hunt	
Friday	11/17	Activities/Team Building (see how you've improved)	
November 20 – 26, 2023: Thanksgiving Break – Enjoy Your Break!			
Week 15			
Monday	11/27	Discuss paper in groups and as class	Final paper due
Wednesday	11/29	Final Exam Review	Study for your final exam
Friday	12/1	Jeopardy	Study for your final exam
Week 16			
Monday	12/4	Final Exam	Take your exam online
Tuesday	12/5	Final Exam	Take your exam online
Wednesday	12/6	Course Closes	Course closes – Final grades submitted