

1318*901/921



Division of Liberal Arts
SPCH1318 – Interpersonal Communication 3 Credit Hours
Semester: Spring 2026*901/921 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50
Instructor: Bethany Thompson, M.A.
Office location: Instructional Building – 111
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Email: bethany.thompson@clarendoncollege.edu

Office Hours:
Monday: 8:00am-9:00am, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Tuesday: 8:00am-10:00am
Wednesday: 8:00am-9:00am, 12:00pm-2:00pm
Thursday: 8:00am-10:00am
Friday: 8:00am-9:00am, 12:00pm-2:00pm
*Appointments for other times 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.

This class is face to face.

It is the policy of the Liberal Arts Division at Clarendon College that any student enrolled in a face-to-face Liberal Arts course must remain in the scheduled face-to-face course through the end of the semester unless the student chooses to drop the course. No student may choose to transition from face-to-face to remote or online. Extenuating circumstances that warrant a transition to online learning can override this policy if determined by the Vice President of Academic Affairs in consultation with the Division Chair and the course instructor. This transition will be communicated in writing to all parties: student, instructor, Division Chair, and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

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.

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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, various papers, other assignments	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%

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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)

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.

1. **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.
2. **Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of objective questions over the semester and can be found in our course textbooks 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. This also includes showing up on time. If you show up to class more than ten minutes after start time (with few exceptions), you will be marked absent for that day.
2. **Late Policy:** As students, you learn about life. Part of life is learning that things unfortunately occur outside of your control and I understand and respect that, which is why I try to allow time for you to complete your assignments within reason. If something happens and you are unable to complete and turn in your assignments on time, my late policy is as follows;
 - Up to 48 hours late – no penalty
 - 2 days to a week late – starts at 10 point penalty
 - A week or more late – 20 point penalty

3. **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.)
4. **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.
5. **Academic Resilience:** College throws curveballs at us, as life is known to do. I understand that things happen and you may have to miss class because of family emergencies, prolonged illnesses, things that are wholly unplanned and I respect that. I ask that you make the decision to jump back in and try to catch up the best you can. Your resilience relies on your willpower. I will do my best to ensure you succeed – but you have to meet me there.

College Policies

STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CLASSROOM ETHICS

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 an 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 activity; 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 vice president, 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.

While academic integrity and honesty are the responsibility of the individual student, each

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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 Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Vice President of Academic Affairs will maintain a file on all violations. If a faculty member prefers to report the case directly to Vice President of Academic Affairs, 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs. If the Vice President of Academic Affairs observes any trends in student behavior which involve more than one violation or act of academic dishonesty, the Vice President of Academic Affairs 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 Vice President of Academic Affairs 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

Students desiring to make schedule changes after their initial registration each semester must do so during the designated "Drop and Add" period as scheduled in the College Catalog. Students will be required to pay tuition and fees applicable to any class(es) added to their schedule.

Official withdrawal from a course is initiated in the Office of the Registrar. However, each student should consult with his/her academic advisor or the Associate Dean of Enrolment before officially withdrawing from a course. A student who stops attending a class without officially dropping it may receive a grade of "F" for that class.

Grievance/Appeals

If you have a dispute concerning your grade or policies in this class, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor to discuss the matter. Should things remain unresolved, please follow the procedures described in the Clarendon College Student Handbook or College Policy Manual.

Final Exams

The schedule of final exams times is published at the beginning of the semester. You can find the schedule for final exams

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Final%20Exam%20Schedules%2024-25.pdf>

Do not make plans to leave school before your scheduled final exam. Faculty members cannot on their own authorize a student to take a final exam early. In exceptional circumstances if a student needs to take a final exam early, he/she may request early final exams by filling out the form

at: <https://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Admin/Request%20for%20Early%20Final%20Exams.pdf>

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Accommodation Statement

REQUIREMENTS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, any student who feels that he or she may need any special assistance or accommodation because of an impairment or disabling condition should contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services at 806-874-4837 / janean.reish@clarendoncollege.edu or visit the Clarendon campus at Clarendon College. It is the policy of Clarendon College to provide reasonable accommodation as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Associate Dean of Enrollment Services.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Clarendon College, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

It is the policy of Clarendon College not to discriminate based on gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, or sexual orientation.

Harassment of a student in class, i.e., a pattern of behavior directed against a particular student with the intent of humiliating or intimidating that student will not be tolerated. The mere expression of one's ideas is not harassment and is fully protected by academic freedom, but personal harassment of individual students is not permitted.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Student Rights and Responsibilities are listed on the College website at:
[www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA\(LEGAL\).pdf](http://www.clarendoncollege.edu/Resources/Legal/24-25/FLA(LEGAL).pdf)

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<u>Course Schedule - Interpersonal Communication Section 101 Spring 2026</u>			
Weekday	Date	Content	Assignment/Reading due that day
Week 1			
Monday	1/19/2026	No class - MLK Jr. Day	
Wednesday	1/21/2026	Introduction	Look over OpenLMS
Friday	1/23/2026	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Human Communication/Learning Styles Activity	Read Chapter 1
Week 2			
Monday	1/26/2026	Chapter 2 – Overview of Interpersonal Communication/Activity	Read Chapter 2
Wednesday	1/28/2026	Chapter 3 – Intrapersonal Communication	Read Chapter 3
Friday	1/30/2026	Chapter 6 – Cultural	Read Chapter 6, do discussion post and reply by the end of the week (Sunday 2/1)
Week 3			
Monday	2/2/2026	Chapter 4 Verbal/Chapter 5 Nonverbal Communication / Introduce Expressing Thanks	Read Chapters 4 and 5
Wednesday	2/4/2026	Chapter 7 Talking/Listening and Activity	Read Chapter 7
Friday	2/6/2026	Expressing Thanks Activity	(Expressing Thanks and Gratitude – have the conversation done by now, essay due Sunday)
Week 4			
Monday	2/9/2026	Chapter 8 – Building and Maintaining Relationships	Read Chapter 8
Wednesday	2/11/2026	Chapter 9 - Conflict in Relationships	Read Chapter 9
Friday	2/13/2026	Activity	No reading required Discussion Post and Reply due by Sunday
Week 5			
Monday	2/16/2026	Activity	No reading required

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Wednesday	2/18/2026	Chapter 10 - Friendship Relationships	Read Chapter 10
Friday	2/20/2026		
Week 6			
Monday	2/23/2026	APA Lesson	
Wednesday	2/25/2026	APA Lesson and Activity	
Friday	2/27/2026	Introduce Group Project	Have a chosen topic to tell Ms. Thompson by end of class
Week 7			
Monday	3/2/2026	Friendship Group Project Workday (meet in class)	Have a chosen topic to tell Ms. Thompson by end of class
Wednesday	3/4/2026	Friendship Group Project Workday (meet in class)	Be working with group
Friday	3/6/2026	Friendship Group Project Workday (meet in class)	
Week 8			
Monday	3/9/2026	Friendship Group Project Workday (meet in class)	
Wednesday	3/11/2026	Midterm Review	
Friday	3/13/2026	Midterm Exam	
SPRING BREAK			
SPRING BREAK	3/16-3/22		
Week 9			
Monday	3/23/2026	Present Group Projects	Turn in peer assessments and projects online
Wednesday	3/25/2026	No class	
Friday	3/27/2026	Finish presenting group projects	Turn in peer assessments and projects online
Week 10			
Monday	3/30/2026	Movie and analysis/Introduce Self-Improvement Essay	
Wednesday	4/1/2026	Movie and analysis	
Friday	4/3/2026	Movie and analysis	
Week 11			
Monday	4/6/2026	Chapter 11 Family and Marriage Relationships	Read Chapter 11

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Wednesday	4/8/2026	Chapter 13 Coworker relationships	Read Chapter 13
Friday	4/10/2026	Chapter 12 Communication in Media	Read Chapter 12 / Discussion Post and Reply due by Sunday
Week 12			
Monday	4/13/2026	Chapter 14 Dark Side of Communication	Read Chapter 14
Wednesday	4/15/2026	Introduce Relationship Maintenance Group Project	
Friday	4/17/2026	Group Project Workday	
Week 13			
Monday	4/20/2026	Group Project Workday	
Wednesday	4/22/2026	Present Group Projects	
Friday	4/24/2026	No class - Ms. Thompson out of town	
Week 14			
Monday	4/27/2026	Present Group Projects	
Wednesday	4/29/2026	Present Group Projects	
Friday	5/1/2026	Present Group Projects	Self-Improvement Essay due Sunday Group project presentations must be uploaded
Week 15			
Monday	5/4/2026	Catch up	
Wednesday	5/6/2026	Final Exam Review and Game	Study for your final exam
Friday	5/8/2026	No class - Commencement Ceremonies	
Week 16 (Final Exams Week)			
Monday	5/11/2026	Final Exam 1:20pm-3:20pm	Online exam (2 hours during exam time)
Thursday	5/14/2026	Course Closes	Course closes – Final grades submitted