

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Com 2110-04

Fall 2006

Class Meets:	TR	10:30am–11:45am	Instructor:	Randal Chase, Ph.D.
Office Hours:	MWF	10:00am–10:50am (By Appointment Only)		ECCLES 112 652-7990 Email chase@dixie.edu

Required Text: DeVito, Joseph A. (2000). The Interpersonal Communication Book (11th ed.). New York: Pearson Education/Allyn & Bacon.

Communication Handouts. Required packet of photocopied handouts. Available in the college center bookstore.

Suggested Add'l. Writing Tools: Strunk W., & White, E.B. The Elements of Style. New York: Macmillan Publishing. A collegiate size dictionary and a thesaurus

Course Objectives: **Practice:** Most of our happiness and success in life comes from our relationships with others—at home, in the workplace, and in other social settings. This course provides students with practical strategies for obtaining and maintaining functional, healthy relationships with other individuals. It also provides practical experience in applying those strategies.

Theory: To be a competent participant in any relationship, some insight is necessary into (1) ourselves, (2) the other person, (3) the relationship, and (4) the process of interpersonal communication. This course provides the framework for an accurate understanding of these things by teaching research-based pragmatic theories and principles which explain what happens, why it happens, and the consequences in our relationships and lives.

Relationship Paper and Journals: During this semester you will be required to write five (5) journal papers about an interpersonal relationship of your choice. Then, at the end of the semester, you will write an analytical paper which describes how the principles and practices learned in this class have (or have not) affected the relationship's quality and progress.

Group Role Play: During this semester you will also be required to participate in a group role play demonstration (in class) of one or more interpersonal communication concepts or practices. Your instructor will provide an assignment sheet in advance, defining the criteria by which your presentation will be graded.

Exams: Chapter Quizzes	Approximately bi-weekly	Reading/discussions up to that date
Mid-Term Exam	Thursday, October 5 th	1st Half of Semester Course Material
Final Exam	Tuesday, December 12 th	2nd Half of Semester Course Material

CLASS SCHEDULE

Wk	Dates:	Topics and Group Activities:	Reading:	Papers/Assignments:	Pts:
1	Aug 22 Aug 24	Course Introduction, Definitions, Goals & Approaches Nature, elements, axioms of Interpersonal Comm	<i>Chapter 1</i>	Biographical sketches	
2	Aug 29 Aug 31	<u>Paradigms:</u> • Ways of understanding human behavior <u>Pragmatics:</u> • System Theory & Human Communication	<i>Handouts</i>		
3	Sep 5 Sep 7	<u>Psychology:</u> • Self; Self-Concept; Types of Others • Perception Stages, Processes, Accuracy	<i>Chapter 3</i> <i>Chapter 4</i>	Quiz #1 –Chp 1,3,4	10
4	Sep 12 Sep 14	<u>Context:</u> • Physical Context: Types, Functions, Impact • Social Context: Types, Functions, Influences <u>Culture:</u> • Influence of Culture; Intercultural Comm • VIDEO: "Four Seasons"— Context analysis	<i>Chapter 12</i> <i>Chapter 2</i>	Journal 1 Due	60
5	Sep 19 Sep 21	<u>Listening:</u> • Stages and Styles of Listening <u>Language:</u> • Messages; Meaning; Reflexivity	<i>Chapter 5</i> <i>Chapters 6-7</i>	Quiz #2 –Chp 12,2,5 Journal 2 Due	10 60
6	Sep 26 Sep 28	<u>Social Action:</u> • Nonverbal Communication • Interaction; Conversation; Social Meaning • Communication Styles; Adaptability	<i>Chapter 8</i> <i>Chapter 9</i> <i>Handouts</i>	Quiz #3 –Chp 6–9	10
7	Oct 3 Oct 5	Review for Mid-Term Exam MID-TERM EXAM		Journal 3 Due	60 100
8	Oct 10 Oct 12-13	<u>Relationships:</u> • Characteristics; Stages; Technology • VIDEO: Knapp's Staircase; Up/Downs SEMESTER BREAK – No classes	<i>Chapter 10</i>	Roll Plays Explained	
9	Oct 17 Oct 19	• Strategies for Starting Relationships – Rituals; Small Talk; Scripts; Patterns Roll Play Groups Organized - Group Meetings (Tuesday)	<i>Chapter 11</i>		
10	Oct 24 Oct 26	• Strategies for Maintaining Relationships – Commitment; Emotions; Negotiation – Self-Disclosure; Tests; Strategies Group Meetings		Quiz #4 –Chp 10–11	10
11	Oct 31 Nov 2	• Strategies for Terminating Relationships – Types; Factors; Residues – Termination Strategies Group Meetings		Journal 4 Due	60
12	Nov 7 Nov 9	• Conflict Management – Principles; Stages; Strategies Group Meetings	<i>Chapter 13</i>		
13	Nov 14 Nov 16	• Power in Interpersonal Relationships – Patterns; Compliance; Empowering ROLE PLAYS: Groups #1, #2 Discussion of concepts after each role play	<i>Chapter 14</i>	Quiz #5 –Chp 13–14	10 100

CLASS SCHEDULE (Cont'd.)

Wk Dates:	Topics and Group Activities:	Reading:	Papers/Assignments:	Pts:
14 Nov 21	ROLE PLAYS: Groups #3, #4	Discussion of concepts after each role play		100
Nov 23	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – No Classes today			
15 Nov 28	<u>Comm Ethics:</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definitions; Principles; Consequences • VIDEO: "Don't Blame Me"; Victims; Accountability • Ethics of interpersonal communication 	Journal 5 Due	60
Nov 30				
16 Dec 5	Discussion of course: Analysis and application of concepts		Makeup Quiz–Ethics	10
Dec 7	Review for Final Exam		Final Paper Due	100
Dec 14	FINAL EXAM - In This Classroom - Tuesday, December 12th, 9:30–11:30am			100

REGULATIONS

1. **Written Work:** All written work must be typewritten or word processed, double spaced, and on one side only of 8 ½ x 11 inch plain white paper. Every page of each assignment must bear your name, a page number (except the first page), and the assignment title. Do NOT bind your papers in any way, other than to staple pages together. Place your stapled paper into a file folder with your name on the tab and submit the folder to your instructor. Please remove any previously graded papers from the folder.
2. **Timeliness of Papers:** Papers are due immediately at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. If your paper is turned in after this time, it will be considered late. There is a one-grade deduction for late papers, and an addition grade deduction for each week thereafter that it is late.
3. **Grading of Papers:** Written assignments will be graded against professional business standards rather than against the performance of other students in the class. A paper deemed NOT to meet professional standards will be graded at a "D" or below level. A paper which meets professional standards with some revision will be graded at a "C" level. Better quality papers, requiring less editing and demonstrating above average critical analysis will receive higher grades. Mechanical correctness is required, and one point will be subtracted for each spelling, grammatical, and/or usage error. Factual correctness is also required, and major errors in fact will be penalized significantly.
4. **Exams and Chapter Quizzes:** Exams and chapter quizzes must be taken in class on the day they are administered. No make-up quizzes or exams will be given. For this reason, attendance in class on those dates is essential to your success. Carefully reading your assignments is important since you may be quizzed on any material assigned and/or discussed prior to that date. The final exam will not be comprehensive.
5. **Academic Dishonesty:** Plagiarism (claiming somebody else's work or ideas as your own), submitting another person's work as your own, and/or cheating on exams will not be tolerated. At best, these will result in a failing grade on the assignment or test involved. More likely, they will result in a failing grade and dismissal from the class.

REGULATIONS (Cont'd.)

6. **Accommodation for Disabilities:** If you are a student with a medical, psychological, or learning disability or think you might have a disability and would like accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center (652-7516) in the Student Services Center. The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility of the student requesting special services and determine the appropriate accommodation related to their disability.
7. **Office Hour Appointments:** As shown on the front page of this syllabus, your instructor has set aside time for office appointments each week. However, if you wish to meet with the instructor during this time, you must make an appointment in advance. If no appointments have been made, the instructor cannot guarantee his presence in the office on any day for which advance appointments have not been made.
8. **Adjustments to Class Schedule:** The instructor reserves the right to alter the class schedule or grading system shown in this syllabus, depending on his assessment of the progress and needs of the students.

GRADING

1. **SCHEDULE OF POINTS:**

5 Relationship Journals @ 60 pts each	300 pts.
Final Relationship Analysis Paper	100 pts.
Group Role Play Presentation	100 pts.
5 Chapter Quizzes	50 pts.
Mid-Term Examination	100 pts.
Final Examination	<u>100 pts.</u>
TOTAL POSSIBLE:	750 pts
2. **ADJUSTMENT FOR DIFFICULTY:** Your instructor does not grade on the curve; therefore, to guard against the rare possibility of exams being too difficult for all students, grades on exams will be adjusted to insure a median score of 75%. For example, if 100 points are possible and the median score is 70, all students who took the exam will receive an additional 5 points. Final grade points will be similarly adjusted. No such adjustment will be made for pop quizzes.
3. **PARTICIPATION GRADE:** Because this class necessarily involves class discussions and evaluations, attendance and participation are essential to our success. Roll will be taken daily. Participation will be evaluated as a plus (+), a null (0), or a minus (-), and your instructor reserves the right to adjust your final grade by as much as a half-grade, based on your participation rating. To earn a plus (+) you must **(a)** have no more than two tardies and two absences; **(b)** consistently do assigned reading as evidenced by an 60% or better average on pop quizzes; and **(c)** make regular, significant and helpful contributions to class discussions. A minus (-) will be given if, in the instructor's opinion, you are frequently absent or tardy, or if you engage in disruptive conduct. The average student will earn a null (0) on participation and will be unaffected.
4. **FINAL GRADES:** After any adjustments for difficulty and participation, final grades will be assigned according to the following schedule:

713+ points (95%)	A	555+ points (74%)	C
675+ points (90%)	A-	525+ points (70%)	C-
653+ points (87%)	B+	503+ points (67%)	D+
630+ points (84%)	B	480+ points (64%)	D
600+ points (80%)	B-	450+ points (60%)	D-
578+ points (77%)	C+	Below 450 points	E