CMST 2110

Course Description

Communication Studies 2110: Interpersonal Communication examines how we perceive self and others, how we use information we gather about self and others to guide our interactions, and the essential role of communication in the development and maintenance of human relationships. Our goal is to better understand some of the factors affecting communication in relationships and to appreciate the impact of communication on our relational lives. In this course, we will work together to develop a theoretical understanding of human communication processes and focus on improving specific interpersonal skills and relationships.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. To enable you to critically examine interpersonal communication events, drawing on theories of communication and essential concepts in the literature.
2. To help you evaluate your own interpersonal communication skills and to provide you with opportunities to develop and demonstrate competency in interpersonal communication
3. To prepare you to work with communication research as needed in upper-division communication studies classes.

Instructor

Instructor: Cody Clayton
Office: Old Main 303
Office Hours: By appointment
E-mail: cody.clayton@usu.edu

Course Resources

under VitalSource Bookshelf, and charged to your student account, unless you opt out. This is the least expensive option.)

- **Auto Access eBook: Looking Out, Looking In eBook, 15e by Adler**

  This course requires all-inclusive digital materials that are provided to you at a lower price than traditional printed materials. These materials are paid for through an “Auto Access Digital Materials” charge placed on your student account when you registered for the course. **To access the materials, visit the Canvas course site.** For more details, including dates, deadlines, and opt-out info, visit your student Auto Access Portal: [https://portal.verba.io/usu/login](https://portal.verba.io/usu/login) (Links to an external site.)

- Any additional readings will be made available during the term on Canvas

**Course Guidelines**

The following are **not** permitted:

1. Any recording and transmission of classroom lectures and discussions by students without prior written permission from the class instructor (it is not a violation if student has an educational accommodation through the DRC).
2. Uploading any recordings of lectures and/or class presentations to publicly accessible web environments (e.g. social media, email, text messaging, and any other forms of mediated spaces).

**Evaluation Methods and Criteria**

**Course evaluation is based on the following assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments: 300 points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentations: 50 Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams/Papers: 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation: 150 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Scheme**

The following grading standards will be used in this class:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80.0 % to 77.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&lt; 77.0 % to 73.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>&lt; 73.0 % to 70.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&lt; 70.0 % to 67.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&lt; 67.0 % to 60.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 59.0 % to 0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24/7 Rule: If you are contesting a grade, take the opportunity to wait 24 hours after receiving the grade, and then you have 7 days to submit a written document detailing the area you would like re-graded. After this period of 7 days, all grades are final.

Late Work: Assignments turned in after the due date will be subject to a 10% per day point deduction. Please reach out to me as soon as possible if you will be turning in an assignment late.

Weekly Assignments (300 points):

In order to give you theoretical and practical understanding of communication and conflict, you will have weekly assignments to complete. Each assignment corresponds to a given chapter within the book (12 chapters = 12 assignments). These assignments are designed to help you develop your interpersonal skills. You will not be required to complete all 12 assignments. Because 'life' happens, you will only have to do 10 of the 12 assignments. You will be able to choose which 10 of the 12 to complete, so be sure to be strategic with your time. In addition, you cannot receive extra credit for doing all 12. Anything beyond the required 10 will be wasted effort.

Presentations (50 points):

At the end of the semester, we will have presentations based on the above mentioned weekly assignments. These presentations will be 3-5 minutes in length. You may use a PowerPoint or other presentation help to aid you, but it is not required. You will not be awarded points based on whether or not you used a visual aid.

Exams / Papers (200 points):

Because everyone learns and thinks differently, you will be able to choose between taking an exam or writing a paper for your midterm and final. You will be able to choose a paper OR an exam for the midterm, then will have the same choice for the final. The papers and exams are designed to assess your comprehension of key concepts and theories.

Exams: The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-6, and the Final Exam will cover chapters 7-12. Exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer (3-5 sentence) questions. The exams will be open note/open book. The exams will also be
timed, so it is important to study, review, and be organized before the exams begin. The exams will NOT be taken at the testing center.

Papers: Both papers will involve the analysis of a film from the Marvel Cinematic Universe (2 papers = 2 films). These films are popular, and we rarely think critically about popular media, so that is why you will be required to choose one of the movies from the Marvel Cinematic Universe to be the source for your paper. Once you have chosen your film, you will then watch the film with a critical interpersonal lens. For the midterm paper, focus on Chapters 1-6 to help you with your analysis. For the final paper, focus on Chapters 7-12. You will be required to draw on 3 concepts from the book to apply to your film critique. Some of these films have stronger examples of relationships than others, so be careful about which films you choose. These papers will be 3-4 pages in length, and will follow APA formatting. No sources other than the textbook will be required for these papers. Also note, you cannot choose the same film for the midterm that you do for the final. Additional information (including a complete list of films) can be found in the description under 'assignments'.

Again, you will have the choice of a paper OR an exam for both the midterm and the final.

Participation (150 points)

Participation is an essential component of individual and organizational success. You cannot be successful in this class or in any organization without participating. Successful participation in this class means doing what is necessary each day to ensure success. The several elements of your participation grade are outlined below:

Group and Individual Contributions: You will do work both in groups and individually in this class. Because of the nature of the class and the importance of class and group discussion for the learning that will take place here, a significant portion of the final grade will be determined by your participation in class discussion and group collaboration. Involvement is a necessary, important, and required part of this course. Showing up is the first step to class participation. However, good involvement is not equal to quantity of participation in class. Rather, I am looking for quality of involvement (i.e., not only engaging fully in class discussion, but also listening effectively to/with others, participating in activities, asking helpful questions, integrating the reading into class discussions, providing examples of course content, etc.).

Study Guides/Preparation Assignments: The purpose of meeting together as a class is to have experiences and conversations you cannot get on your own. Therefore, you must come prepared. To ensure that we are prepared to work together each day, you will be required to complete and turn in a reading guide (definitions and discussion questions) or preparation assignment each week. Study guides and preparation assignments must be typed and will be turned in before class the beginning of each week. Although submitted through canvas, you must be present in class to receive participation credit for the reading guide. No late work will be accepted for credit. Reading guides and preparation assignments will allow us to clarify and apply what you learn from your reading. In addition, these study guides will allow you to prepare for
your exams and IDP papers as you go along, rather than all at once. Therefore, this requirement does not ask you to do any additional work than what is expected in any course.

### Course Schedule/Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Introduction to Class and Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Overview of Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3</td>
<td>Why do we Communicate?</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 6</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS - LABOR DAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 8</td>
<td>Process of Communication</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Effective Communication</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>Mediated v Face to Face</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Influences on Mediated Comm</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Competence in Social Media</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 20</td>
<td>Communication and the Self</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 22</td>
<td>Impression Management</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Self-Disclosure</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>What is Perception?</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 29</td>
<td>Perception Process</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Perception Check</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 4</td>
<td>What are Emotions?</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 6</td>
<td>Expressing Emotions</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Managing Emotions</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11</td>
<td>Language is Symbolic</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Culture and Language</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS - FALL BREAK</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm Due by October 17</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>Characteristics of Non-Verbal</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 20</td>
<td>Types of Non-Verbal</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Interpreting Non-Verbal</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25</td>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 27</td>
<td>Challenge of Listening</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October 29  Responses to Listening  Chapter 8
November 1  Why do we form Relationships?  Chapter 9
November 3  Characteristics of Relationships  Chapter 9
November 5  Managing Relationships  Chapter 9
November 8  Family Communication  Chapter 10
November 10  Friendship Communication  Chapter 10
November 12  Romantic Communication  Chapter 10
November 15  Communication Climates  Chapter 11
November 17  Saving Face  Chapter 11
November 19  Defensiveness  Chapter 11
November 22  TBD
November 24  NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 26  NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 29  Nature of Conflict  Chapter 12
December 1  Relationship Conflict  Chapter 12
Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

A baseline assumption for this class is that you attend. I will take attendance everyday, and you will be penalized 0.5% of your total course grade for every class missed. You are allowed 3 absences without penalty. Please consider these days as “personal time off.” You can use these days when you are sick, out of town, overwhelmed with other schoolwork, or just want to go to the mountains. However, when you have used your personal time off, you have no more and each subsequent absence results in a deduction from your final grade. Also, please remember that attendance and participation are not the same thing.

I will be following Utah State University guidelines for excused absences: Excused Absence Policy (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Nonattendance Policy

Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. (This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.) This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see 2018-2019 General Catalog (Links to an external site.).)

Assumption of Risk
All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: http://www.usu.edu/riskmgmt/ (Links to an external site.)

Library Services

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at libguides.usu.edu/rc. (Links to an external site.)

Online Course Fee

A fee of $15 per credit is applied to all online courses to sustain current digital technologies and support services required for engaging and effective online learning.

Classroom Civility

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read Student Code Article V Section V-3 (Links to an external site.) for more information.

University Policies & Procedures

COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations

To ensure that you receive the appropriate accommodation for COVID-19 related challenges, the University requires you to fill out the COVID-19 Questionnaire (Links to an external site.). Upon doing so, the University COVID CARE Team (Links to an external site.) will contact you to determine your needs and how to support you. The CARE Team will also contact your instructors and provide important direction on how best to accommodate your needs. For additional reference, please see USU's Attendance and Excused Absence (Links to an external site.) policy and the COVID-19 Classroom Accommodations (Links to an external site.) page.
Reducing COVID-19 Risk

You can help keep classes, events, and activities happening in person this semester by following these steps:

1. **Get vaccinated if you're able.** Vaccines are the best available tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. They are safe, free, and easy to access.

2. **If you are vaccinated, let USU know.** Please upload your proof of full vaccination (Links to an external site.) to AggieHealth. If you are exposed to COVID-19, USU’s case containment will not require you to quarantine if they know you are vaccinated and you do not have symptoms.

3. **Stay home if you're sick** and get tested for COVID-19 if you have symptoms or have been exposed. It’s important to not bring any illness to campus.

4. **Wear a mask indoors.** Public health experts recommend that even vaccinated people wear masks indoors in high COVID-19 transmission areas, which includes most of Utah.

If USU’s COVID Case Containment team identifies an uncontained situation in the classroom, you will be notified of any temporary changes to your course delivery method through a Canvas announcement. Please make sure you are receiving immediate notifications of new Canvas announcements. The situation will be handled according to protocols on the [COVID Classroom Exposure (Links to an external site.)](#) page.

Class Seating Charts (For In-Person Classes)

In classes with more than 10 students, a seating chart will be used to track where you are sitting. After the first week of classes, your instructor will tell you how to enter your seat number in Canvas. **You must sit in the same seat for the rest of the semester.** This is extremely important for tracking cases of COVID-19 and helping classes remain in person.

Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. [Faculty Code Policy #403 (Links to an external site.)](#) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge: "I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize. A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:
• Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
• Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
• Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

Academic Dishonesty
The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University’s Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

• **Cheating**: using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  o Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”
  o Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  o Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
  o Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
  o Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
  o Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.

• **Falsification**: altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.

• **Plagiarism**: representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: [ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity](#)

Sexual Harassment/Title IX
Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and [USU Policy 339](#) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting. The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU’s [Office of Equity](#) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has
established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment ([USU Policy 305](https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity) (Links to an external site.)), and has designated the Office of Equity Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

**Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) ([Links to an external site.]) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn #101, (435) 797-2444, drc@usu.edu). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

Students who are at a higher risk for complications from COVID-19 or who contract COVID-19 may also be eligible for accommodations.

**Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: [https://studentaffairs.usu.edu](https://studentaffairs.usu.edu) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1712, student.services@usu.edu, TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: [https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services](https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326
- Access and Diversity: [http://accesscenter.usu.edu](http://accesscenter.usu.edu) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu, TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: [http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture](http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: [http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa](http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost’s Office Diversity Resources: [https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity](https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity) (Links to an external site.), (435) 797-8176
You can learn about your student rights by visiting:
The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode

**Grievance Process**

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: Article VII.

**Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:**

- Student Conduct
- Student Code
- Academic Integrity
- USU Academic Policies and Procedures
- Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy

**Emergency Procedures**

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.

**Mental Health**

Mental health is critically important for the success of USU students. As a student, you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. Utah State University provides free services for students to assist them with addressing these and other concerns. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Students are also encouraged to download the “SafeUT App” to their smartphones. The SafeUT application is a 24/7 statewide crisis text and tip service that provides real-time crisis intervention to students through texting and a confidential tip program that can help anyone with emotional crises, bullying, relationship problems, mental health, or suicide related issues.