Instructor: Michala Zilkey; please feel free to call me Michala
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Email: Michala.zilkey@usu.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2-3 p.m. via zoom (Or by appointment)


Course Description:
Interpersonal communication examines our perception of self and others, gives insight on how we use and gather information, and discusses the essential role of communication to develop and maintain interpersonal relationships.

Course Topics and Learning Objectives include:
Understanding…
- The elements of the communication process
- The role of culture in communication
- The verbal and nonverbal dimensions of communication
- The role of perception and emotion in the communication process
- The morals and ethics within communication
- Apply communication theories and concepts

Point Distribution
Reading quizzes 100 Points
Discussion posts (8) 80 Points
Interpersonal Development Project 300 Points
In-class participation 70 Points
TOTAL= 550

Grading Scale and Policies
A 92.95-100%
A- 89.95-92.94%
B+ 86.95-89.94%
B 82.95%-86.94%
B- 79.95-82.94%
C+ 76.95-79.94%
C 72.95-76.94%
C- 69.95-72.94%
D 59.95-69.94%
F 59.94% and below
*Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth. This means that an 89.95 is an A- and an 89.94 is a B+. This is a non-negotiable policy with no exceptions.

*24/7 Rule: If contesting a grade, you must wait until 24 hours after the received grade and have 7 days to reach out to discuss the grade. After this time, all grades are final.

*Late Work: All assignments are due on their assigned day, by 11:59 p.m. The assignments will be accepted for the next three days, with a 10% deduction for each day late (i.e. 3rd day late = 30% off grade). Assignments will not be accepted three days past due date. If there is an emergency that prevents you from completing an assignment, please reach out to me. Quizzes will not be accepted past their due date.

**Course Assignments and Assessments**

**Participation:**
You are expected to engage in class discussions, relate to course content, and be respectful of your peers, me, and yourself.
Involvement is a necessary, important, and required aspect of this course. Please note that attendance and participation are not the same thing.

**Canvas Discussion Posts:** Most weeks will have discussion posts that are worth 10 points each. Weekly discussion posts will be due by 11:59 p.m. on Fridays. To receive full credit for discussion posts, please write two things you learned or found thought-provoking during class discussions, and respond to two of your peers.

**Quizzes:**
Weekly reading quizzes will be given on Canvas, and due by 11:59 p.m. on Fridays. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and cover the reading material from the week. Quizzes are open-note and open-book, but timed. There will be 9 quizzes over the course of the semester. The best score from all quizzes will be put in as an additional quiz, equaling a 100 available quiz points.

**Interpersonal Development Project:**
To give practice to theoretical understanding of communication and conflict, you will conduct a semester project. The IDP is designed to develop your interpersonal skills, and will consist of a proposal paper, academic annotated bibliography, and three practical application papers. We will discuss the IDP in greater detail during class.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance:**
Role will be taken throughout the semester, and you are allowed to miss three days without penalty. Please consider these days as personal days off, as we all need a break sometime.
However, more than three absences will result in your grade being docked 0.5% for each absence. Also, please remember that attendance and participation are not the same thing, and not coming to class but not engaging will result in reductions to your participation grade. In case of extenuating circumstances that require you to miss class, email me prior to the missed class and be prepared to showcase ample evidence for missing class. I will not provide missed class materials, i.e. notes or lecture content, outside what is posted to Canvas.

Technology:

Email: You may address me as Michala, or Ms. Zilkey if you are more comfortable with a formal tone. I have not yet completed my Ph.D. so please refrain from calling me Dr. Zilkey. If you write an email that is blatantly aggressive or unprofessional, I will not respond. Write emails similarly to how you would write a letter (include salutation: “Hello Michala”, sign your name “Best, Miguel/Regards, Shelby”). If you are giving information that does not require a response, I may not respond. If a question is asked, I will most likely respond within 24 hours during the weekday. If you email me in the evening, expect a response the next day. There is no set turnaround time on weekends. I ask that you extend similar courtesy, and respond to emails in a similar time frame.

Cellphone/Computer Use: Although technology, has it’s uses, studies continually show that students who do not use laptops or technology in class consistently and significantly outperform their peers (See Faria, Weston, & Cepeda, 2013; Fried, 2008; Reyol, 2012). Therefore, I ask that you do not use laptops/tablets during class. If you choose to use technology to take notes, I ask you sit in the back of the class to not distract those sitting behind you. Obviously, you should not use your cell phone during class.

Plagiarism:

Students must complete their own work and give credit to any outside sourced used to complete an assignment. Lack of knowledge of the academic policy is not a reasonable explanation for any form of academic misconduct. Plagiarism includes—but is not limited to—copying and pasting another person’s work, failing to give credit to information derived from another person’s work, paraphrasing another persons’ work in a way that misrepresents the original claims, having another student complete your work, and completing another student’s work. Questions related to the course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Learning Accommodations: Any student who needs special accommodations for learning or who has particular needs is invited to share these concerns or requests with me as soon as possible. Disabilities must be documented through the Disability Resource Center; it is your responsibility to contact the DRC and fill out the necessary paperwork. Formal requests for accommodations must be completed before the scheduled assignment.
Respect and Etiquette:
This class will require use to cover sensitive topics pertaining to family, race, gender, culture, sexuality, etc. I expect all students to show respect, empathy, and compassion. College courses are a place of growth, and during life you will encounter people with different life experiences and opinions than you. Please use our class as practice for learning to appreciate and celebrate difference. A comfortable, supportive environment is critical to everyone’s success.

Course Schedule

Aug. 31 & Sept. 2
   Week One: Intro to IPC
   • Syllabus
   • Introducing IPC
   • Ch. 1

Sept. 7 & Sept. 9
   Week Two: IPC and social media
   • Ch. 1 continued
   • Ch. 2
   • Quiz 1 & Discussion Post 1 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.

Sept. 14 & Sept. 16
   Week Three: Identity
   • Ch. 3
   • Quiz 2 and Discussion Post 2 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.
   • IDP Proposal due Friday @ 11:59 pm

Sept. 21 & Sept. 23
   Week Four: Perception
   • Ch. 4
   • Quiz 3 and Discussion Post 3 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.

Sept. 28 & Sept. 30
   Week Five: Emotion
   • Ch. 5
   • Annotated Bibliography due @ 11:59 p.m.

Oct. 5 & Oct. 7
   Week Six: Language
   • Ch. 6
   • Quiz 4 and Discussion post 4 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.
Oct. 12 & (Class Canceled Oct. 14th)
   Week 7: Nonverbal Communication
   • Ch. 7
   • Interaction Analysis #1 due @ 11:59 p.m. Oct 12th
   • No quiz/discussion post due Friday

Oct. 19 & Oct. 21
   Week 8: Nonverbal Communication & Listening
   • Ch 7 & Ch. 8
   • Quiz 5 and Discussion post 5 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.

Oct. 26 & Oct. 28
   Week 9: Communication and Relational Dynamics
   • Ch. 9
   • Quiz 6 and Discussion post 6 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.

Nov. 2 & Nov. 4
   Week 10: Close Relationships
   • Ch. 10
   • Quiz 7 and Discussion post 7 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.
   • Interaction Analysis #2 due @ 11:59 p.m.

Nov. 9 & Nov. 11
   Week 11: Communication Climates
   • Ch. 9
   • Quiz 8 and Discussion post due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.

Nov. 16 (Class canceled Nov. 18)
   Week 12: Interaction analysis discussion
   • Interaction Analysis #3 due at 11:59 p.m. on Friday

Happy Thanksgiving! No Class Tuesday, November 23rd

Nov. 30 & Dec. 2
   Week 13: Conflict
   • Ch. 12
   • Quiz 9 due Friday @ 11:59 p.m.
Dec. 7 & Dec. 10
  Week 14: Semester recap
  • In class discussions in lieu of final examination
    
    *Yay!*