

Utah State University
Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies
CMST 2110-002: Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2018, MWF
9:30-10:20, Old Main 203

Instructor: Mollie Murphy, PhD
Email: mollie.murphy@usu.edu
Office: Lundberg Hall 203
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday 10:30-11:20 or by appointment

Course Description

This course will cover theories and practices of communication as it occurs in two-person and small group settings. Primary concern will be given to understanding how an individual can use verbal and nonverbal communication to improve relationships and derive maximum social rewards. Topics covered will include (but are not limited to),

- The fundamental elements of the communication process.
- The role of culture in communication.
- The dimensions of verbal and nonverbal communication.
- The role of perception and emotion in the communication process.
- The dimensions of close relationships; how communication is defined in close relationships; and how communicators develop, maintain, and terminate close relationships.
- The moral and ethical implications of a variety of communication situations.

Students will apply core concepts in written work and in exams that contribute to the course grade.

Required Text

McCornack, S. *Reflect and relate (2016): An introduction to interpersonal communication.* Bedford/St. Martin's. (4th ed.)

You also need to purchase *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls. It will be available at the bookstore, but you can also purchase it for under \$5 (used) on Amazon. ISBN # 978-0743247542

Points Distribution

Exams	55% (exam one and two 17% each, third exam 21%)
Reading Quizzes	10% (6 total, lowest dropped)
Gratitude Paper	10%
Memoir Response	17%
In Class	8%
TOTAL =	100%

Grading Scale and Policies

Grading Scale

92.95-100%	A	72.95-76.94%	C
89.95-92.94%	A-	69.95-72.94%	C-
86.95-89.94%	B+	59.95-69.94%	D
82.95-86.94%	B	59.94% and below	F
79.95-82.94%	B-		
76.95-79.94%	C+		

*Grades are rounded to the nearest tenth. That means that an 89.95 is an A- and an 89.94 is a B+. This models the numerous courses that are out of 1,000 points, in which an 899.5 is an A- and 899.4 is a B+. This policy is non-negotiable and there will be absolutely no exceptions.

In order to uphold a fair and ethical course for all students, I do not change or reconsider a grade unless there has been a mathematical or clerical error. Earning your grade is your responsibility. To help you achieve your highest potential in this course, I offer detailed expectations of each assignment, make myself available to meet during office hours, and communicate via email. Other resources are also available to you on campus as well (e.g., the library).

Grades are considered final 48 hours after posting to Canvas.

Specific Course Assignments

Exams

Exams cover material found in the text and class discussion. Exams may involve multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions. Exams are non-cumulative. I will post study guides to Canvas for each exam. If you arrive to take our exam after someone else has already finished, your exam will be subject to a minimum 10% deduction. You will not receive extra time for the exam. No exam will be given early or at a different time unless changed by the University. Mark your calendars and make your travel plans accordingly.

Reading Quizzes

Quizzes will be given on Canvas. Quiz closing dates and times are listed on the syllabus. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to remind you to take a quiz or to allow you to make up a quiz should you forget. Like the exams, quizzes will direct your attention to important aspects of the readings and encourage you to critically engage with course material. Reviewing quizzes will help you to study for exams. There will be six quizzes total and your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Expressing Gratitude: Exercise and Reflection

As part of our discussion of emotions, you will engage in an exercise wherein you write a letter of gratitude to someone you are thankful for and read it out loud to them, either over the phone or in person. After doing this, you will write a review of the experience. This project will include a research component that will require you to locate and explain several peer reviewed sources about gratitude and mental health. Detailed guidelines will be provided on Canvas.

Memoir Response: *The Glass Castle*

Before our week focusing on family, you will read a popular nonfiction memoir about one woman's experience growing up in a highly nonconforming, neglectful family system. I will provide you with questions about the book that will prime us for our discussion of family. Your responses will need to clearly illustrate that you not only read the book, but also gave it some serious thought. I will provide detailed guidelines for this assignment to Canvas.

In-class

Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities to earn points through in-class free writes, activities, homework, and small groups discussions. You can only earn these points if you arrive to class on time, attend the entire session, and fully engage in the exercise. One of these assignments will be "dropped" from your final grade so that if you need to miss a day for whatever reason (or cannot provide documentation for an absence), your grade will not be adversely affected. These points can only be made up if an absence meets a number of criteria, which are outlined below (see "attendance").

Course Policies

Attendance

The penalty for missing class is a loss of any points related to activities, free writes, or discussions. Exceptions will only be made in the case of participation in a University-sanctioned event, observation of a religious holiday, or another extenuating, documentable circumstance that you could not have prepared for in advance. For absences related to participation in a University-sanctioned event or observation of a religious holiday, the instructor must be informed *in writing prior to the missed class*. In the case of serious illness or some other kind of extenuating circumstance, you must notify me as soon as possible of your absence, and you must be able to provide authoritative documentation. This may include a note from a medical professional (not stating the specifics of your situation, just that you are unable to attend class), obituaries or funeral programs, notes from a tow-truck driver, or any document signed by a person in a position to make a determination as to the validity of the cause of absence claimed by the student. If appropriate documentation is not received within two class periods following the absence, it will be considered unexcused. Note that if you cannot acquire documentation, one in-class exercise will be dropped.

Unacceptable excuses for missing class include (but are not limited to) family vacations, a crashed computer, traffic or parking, alarm clock issues, or other technical difficulties.

You cannot earn maximum points on in class exercises if you arrive late or leave early.

For missed classes, it is the student's responsibility to get class notes and other materials from a classmate. **The instructor does not provide notes for missed classes.**

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

In this class we will cover topics such as race, gender, culture, sexuality, etc. I expect all students to show respect; comments that are disrespectful will not be tolerated. College courses are a place to learn and grow. A comfortable, supportive environment is critical to everyone's success in the course.

Technology

Email: You may address me as Mollie, or as Dr. Murphy if you are more comfortable with a formal tone. If you write an email that is blatantly unprofessional and/or hostile, I will not reply. Write an email similar to how you would write a letter (include salutation: "Hello Dr. Murphy/Dear Mollie" sign your name "Regards, Nadia/Best, Miguel"). If you are providing information that does not necessitate a reply, I may not reply. I will reply if a question is asked. I'll also reply if there is a request for me to confirm receipt of your email. I will typically respond to an email within 24 hours. If you email me in the evening, expect that I will reply the following day. There is no set turn-around time on weekends. I would ask that you, too, check and respond to email in a similar time frame.

Cellphone/Computer Use: Although technology has its place, study after study shows 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). If you choose to use a laptop or tablet to take notes, please sit in the back of the classroom so as not to distract those sitting behind you.

Obviously, you should not use your cell phone during class.

Written Assignment Guidelines and Late Work

All written assignments must adhere to either MLA or APA style guide. Works Cited or References pages do not count as part of your paper's page limit, nor do heading material or title pages (if relevant). Additionally, all written assignments must:

- Be in Times New Roman, 12 point font
- Have standard margins (1" top, bottom, and sides).
- Have no extra white space between paragraphs (if you have trouble with this, check your format settings)

- Devote minimal space to heading material (no more than 3 single-spaced lines)

All papers are due to Canvas at the beginning of the class for which they are assigned. Work submitted after a ten-minute grace period will receive a 10% point deduction. An additional 10% will be deducted for every 24 hours it is not turned in.

Course Schedule

Note: This is a *general plan* for the course. Deviations may be necessary, and will be announced either in class or via email.

Day	Topic	Reading (done by this day)/ Major Assignment Info
Aug 27	Course intro	
Aug 29	Intro to IPC	Ch. 1 and syllabus
Aug 31	Intro to IPC	
Sept 3	Labor Day, no class	
Sept 5	The self	Ch. 2
Sept 7	The self	Quiz 1 due by 11:59PM (Ch. 1 & 2)
Sept 10	The self	
Sept 12	Others	Ch. 3
Sept 14	Others	
Sept 17	Others	
Sept 19	Emotions	Ch. 4
Sept 21	Emotions	Quiz 2 due by 11:59PM (Ch. 3 & 4)
Sept 24	Emotions	
Sept 26	Discuss gratitude paper	
Sept 28	Study day – no class	
Oct 1	Culture	Ch. 5
Oct 3	Culture	
Oct 5	Culture	Quiz 3 due by 11:59PM (Ch. 5)
Oct 8	EXAM 1	
Oct 10	Listening	Ch. 6
Oct 12	Listening	Quiz 4 due by 11:59PM (Ch. 6)

Oct 15	Verbal	Ch. 7 Gratitude paper due to Canvas by 11:59PM
Oct 17	Verbal	
Oct 19	Fall break, no class	
Oct 22	Verbal	
Oct 24	Nonverbal	Ch. 8
Oct 26	Nonverbal	Quiz 5 due by 11:59PM (Ch. 7 & 8)
Oct 29	Nonverbal	
Oct 31	Conflict/Power	Ch. 9
Nov 2	Conflict/Power	Begin reading <i>The Glass Castle</i> if you haven't already
Nov 5	Conflict/Power	
Nov 7	Discuss assignment re: <i>The Glass Castle</i>	
Nov 9	Study day – no class	
Nov 12	Exam 2	
Nov 14	Family	Ch. 11
Nov 16	Family	
Nov 19	Family	Response to <i>The Glass Castle</i> due by 11:59 pm
Nov 21	Thanksgiving break, no class	
Nov 23	Thanksgiving break, no class	
Nov 26	Romantic	Ch. 10
Nov 28	Romantic	
Nov 30	Romantic	Quiz 6 due by 11:59 PM (Ch. 10 & 11)
Dec 1	Friendship	Ch. 12
Dec 5	Friendship	
Dec 7	Friendship	
Dec 12 (Wednesday) 9:30 AM	FINAL EXAM *The final will not be given at an earlier or different time	

	unless changed by the university	
--	-------------------------------------	--