

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION STUDIES 2110 – Spring 2016
Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-2:45

Professor: Elizabeth Dorrance Hall

Email: edh@usu.edu

Office: Old Main 073 (through the Intensive English Language Institute in 069)

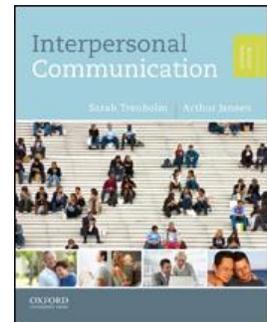
Office Hours: Tues 11:45-1:30pm and by appointment

COURSE READINGS:

Trenholm, S. & Jensen, A. (2013). *Interpersonal communication* (7th ed.).

New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Additional readings and materials will be posted on Canvas.



COURSE OVERVIEW:

Effectively communicating with others is essential to achieving success in our personal and professional lives. However, communicating with others can be challenging and leave us feeling frustrated, confused, or disappointed. This course is designed to help you increase your knowledge and develop the skills needed to effectively communicate in interpersonal contexts. Specifically, the course objectives are to:

1. Develop an awareness of the role interpersonal communication plays in managing social identities and relationships - *especially in your own life!*
2. Learn interpersonal communication terminology, methods, trends, principles, and theories.
3. Increase your communication competence through the development and refinement of your verbal and nonverbal communication skills. Apply these skills to assess and solve interpersonal relationship problems.
4. Introduce you to scholarly research in the field of interpersonal communication.

RESOURCES:

1. Textbook Companion Website: <http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199827503/student/>
2. Utah State University Writing Center: <http://writing.usu.edu/>
3. Communication Studies Library Services: <http://libguides.usu.edu/cmst>

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance and tardiness. You are expected to attend class and stay for the entire session. Doing so provides you the best opportunity to learn the concepts taught in this course through discussion and activities. Your presence will provide you a chance to learn from other students' perspectives and give them an opportunity to learn from yours. I will also provide important information about assignments, quizzes and exams during class.

Meeting deadlines. Submit assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted for a grade.

Reading assignments. Read assigned chapters and articles **before** class meetings. We will not cover all the materials from the book or supplementary readings during lecture but command of all material will enrich class discussion and facilitate mastery of the lecture content. Exams and quizzes will include content from reading assignments, even when that material has not been discussed in class.

Participation. Actively participate in class! This includes listening when others speak, sharing your opinion (respectfully) and actively taking part in discussion, completing any in-class activities with enthusiasm, etc. Simply coming to class and sitting silently will not be considered participating.

Courtesy and professionalism. Please respect yourself, one another, and me. This means that you should not text message, browse the internet, read the newspaper, etc. during our class meetings. You should not need to use a laptop or tablet during our class. Also, please do not pack up materials before class has ended.

Academic integrity. Academic dishonesty, in any form, will not be tolerated in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, excessive collaborating, plagiarism, falsification, deceit, ghost-written papers, copying, etc. Academic misconduct will be handled according to University procedures. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for additional information regarding academic honesty: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/student-code/article6.cfm>

Students with disabilities. Students who need special accommodations should speak with me at the beginning of the semester. Students with special needs are encouraged to register with Utah State University's Disability Resource Center at <http://www.usu.edu/drc/students/gettingstarted/>

Campus emergencies: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Discussion Questions, Quizzes, and Participation (200 points)

Discussion questions will be due the night before most classes (by 11:59pm) on our Canvas discussion board. The questions (2-3 per reading) should reflect thoughts or connections you made while reading the assigned chapter or article due the following class period. In addition, up to 10 short quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. These quizzes will cover reading and lecture material. Approximately 4 out-of-class activity worksheets will be assigned over the semester to practice class concepts along with in-class assignments you must be present for to receive points. *Discussion questions and activity worksheets cannot be made up. Failure to turn them in on time will result in a zero. There are no makeup quizzes. Students who are late and miss a quiz will not be allowed to make the quiz up. If a student leaves before the end of class, his/her quiz points will be forfeited.*

Podcast Assignment (200 points)

Draft Script 75, Script Rewrite 50, Recorded Podcast 75

Individually or in pairs you will write and record a podcast episode about a course concept or topic that you find especially interesting. You will examine this topic in depth and do outside research to help create your podcast script. We will go over more details of this assignment in class.

To receive credit papers and podcasts must be submitted to Canvas on time. No late work will count toward your grade. You scripts must be typed, double-spaced, and free of spelling, grammatical, typographical, and punctuation errors. Scripts and podcasts should display a clear understanding of the concept under examination that goes beyond what we read/talked about in class.

Case Studies (100 points)

As part of a small group, you will be responsible for presenting and leading discussion for 1 case study this semester. On days other groups are presenting their case study you will be expected to have read the case before class, answered case questions, and actively participate in the discussion. You will be evaluated based on the quality and quantity of your comments. More details about this assignment are on Canvas.

Exams (500 points)

Two mid-semester and a final exam (3 total) will be given online and will consist of short answer, true/false, and multiple choice items drawn from readings and lectures. The final exam will include a cumulative section, and will be given during the University-assigned final exam period. All materials presented in the textbook, assigned readings, and class meetings are fair game for our exams.

GRADING:

Grading in this course is based on a points system. Each assignment is worth an assigned point value. All assignments add up to 1,000 points.

| <u>Assignment</u> | <u>Points</u> | Grading Scale | |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Exam 1 | 150 | A | 920 - 1000 points |
| Exam 2 | 150 | A- | 900 - 919 |
| Qs, Quizzes, & Participation | 200 | B+ | 870 - 899 |
| Podcast Assignment | 200 | B | 820 - 869 |
| Case Studies | 100 | B- | 800 - 819 |
| Final Exam | 200 | C+ | 770 - 799 |
| Total: | 1,000 | C | 720 - 769 |
| | | C- | 700 - 719 |
| | | D+ | 670 - 699 |
| | | D | 620 - 669 |
| | | D- | 600 - 619 |
| | | F | 599 and below |

* Grades will NOT be curved or rounded up. In general, grade changes will only be made due to a calculation error.