

COMM 2110: Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2018

Instructor:	Dr. Kaitlin Phillips
Class Meetings:	MFW, 12:30-1:20, Old Main Hall 203
Course Website:	usu.instructure.com (Canvas)
LearnSmart Website:	https://connect.mheducation.com/class/k-phillips--spring-2018-mwf-1230-120
Required texts	Floyd, K. (2017). <i>Interpersonal communication</i> (3rd. ed.). Boston, MA: McGraw-Hill. <i>Additional required readings are available on our Blackboard website.</i>
Recommended Resources	Purdue OWL APA formatting guide: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/

Course Objectives

The overall objective of this course is to provide you with both a theoretical and a practical introduction to interpersonal communication, including but not limited to:

- Define interpersonal communication and distinguish it from other forms of communication.
- Identify and understand the different views of interpersonal communication and the benefits and drawbacks of each approach.
- Articulate and discuss interpersonal communication concepts, theory, research, and practical application.
- Describe and engage in competent (i.e., effective and appropriate) communication with others based on interpersonal communication theories.
- Apply interpersonal communication theory and behaviors to a variety of contexts, such as friendships, families, and at work, and explain how these processes might help improve the quality of your interpersonal relationships.
- Demonstrate appropriate interpersonal communication skills such as managing conflict, self-disclosing, and active listening inside and outside the classroom.

Expectations

This course is designed with the expectation that you will come every class period prepared to participate. This means, reading and critically engaging the material both in- and outside of class. I understand that many students prefer to take notes on their computers; however, you must still be respectful of those around you and use any technology you have in a way that is conducive to the learning objectives of the whole class. In other words, not only do I expect you to be physically present in class, but also mentally present. In this course you will be expected to participate in discussions, both in small groups and with the whole class, and complete in class application exercises. This class will function like a small discussion, as this is an interpersonal communication course and so we should all be interacting with each other! Much of what you learn in this class will occur through active participation and application, not just listening.

Because this is a course about interpersonal communication, we will often discuss materials and experiences of a personal nature. Personal examples will help us to effectively apply and understand the course content, but may also at times challenge our comfort zones. In order to foster a classroom environment in which our discussions and personal application will benefit our understanding, we must work together to make it a safe and respectful environment. I expect everyone in the class to respect others' rights to speak, to listen attentively to what is said, and to use discretion and sensitivity when speaking. If you have questions or concerns about this element of the course, I encourage you to bring them up in class or talk to me individually.

Course Requirements and Grading

You final grade will be based on exams and assignments. The grading breakdown is as follows:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Exam 1	75 points
Exam 2	75 points
Exam 3	100 points
Blogs	100 points (50 points each)
Annotated Bibliography Presentation	50 points
Annotated Bibliography	<u>200 points</u>
TOTAL	600 points

Grades will be based on the following scale:

600-558 = A	557-540 = A-	539-522 = B+		
521-498 = B	497-480 = B-	479-462 = C+	461-438 = C	
437-420 = C-	419-402 = D+	401-378 = D	377-360 = D-	Below 360 = F

Assignment/Exam Description

Exams

Exams will take the full class period to complete. They are designed to test your understanding and application of the concepts presented in the text, class lectures, group presentations, and activities. Exams will typically consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and true-false items.

Class Involvement/Attendance:

Through interpersonal communication in class, you will have the opportunity to practice the skills that you are learning and apply relevant course concepts and readings. Through your active and thoughtful involvement, class material will have more meaning for your interpersonal communication as well as others. The examples and connections you provide in class will help others to process the information in a useful manner.

Involvement includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Attending class regularly and on time (you are expected to attend all classes for the duration of the class period)
- Being focused and practicing good listening skills
- Participating relevantly and actively in class exercises
- Visiting office hours regularly to talk with me about class concepts, skills, and issues
- Completing homework assigned during class
- Demonstrating your understanding of course concepts as they apply to your in-class communication
- **This is your ONLY opportunity for Extra Credit. As long as you attend class, and have NO MORE than THREE unexcused absence and are actively involved in class you will earn 10 points of extra credit in the class.**

REFLECTION BLOGS

To help you reflect upon and synthesize the material in the class, you will post blogs about your reactions to the readings and course concepts using the "Discussion board" link (Canvas). You will blog two times over the course of the semester. These 2-page (minimum) written reflections should demonstrate your thoughtful and critical engagement with the readings from the week(s), express your opinions, offer personal insights and examples, raise further questions, and/or describe ways that the concepts challenge or fit into your own views. In other words, you are expected to demonstrate your understanding of the theories and concepts from class in each blog. In order to engage in an online dialogue, you will be expected to respond meaningfully to at least two of your classmates' reflections. These responses should critically engage each other's ideas and perspectives while reminding you of yours.

Annotated Bibliography and Presentation

Throughout the semester everyone will have the opportunity to dive deeper into a topic that interests them. This will include a 10-annotation bibliography, presentation, and discussion. At least one week prior to your presentation you must get your topic approved by me (though I strongly encourage you to have this discussion at least two weeks earlier). The day of your presentation you will submit your annotated bibliography and your power point slides. During class you will give a presentation on your topic, and lead a discussion on your topic. It is important to be present for all presentations, as there will questions on the exam from the presentations. It is also important to be respectful during presentation, and come to class prepared to participate in the discussions.

Course Policies

Late Papers and Make-up Exams: Late papers are not generally accepted and will only be considered for what I consider to be **emergency** situations. **You must discuss these with me within 24 hours of the due date.** If I choose to accept an overdue paper, it will receive a grade deduction of 10% for each day late (calendar days, including weekends). No late work will be accepted one week after due date. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of an emergency and will be different from the original exam. Make-up exams must be taken within one week of the regularly scheduled exam. **You must contact me within 24 hours of the scheduled exam in order for me to consider a make-up.**

In-Class Etiquette: Your timely presence is required in this course. Tardiness is disruptive to your fellow students and me. Please be sure to turn cell phones off before entering the classroom and avoid talking to your peers during class lecture and discussion. Talking on the phone, reading non-course materials (e.g., the paper, readings for another class), surfing the web, checking Facebook, Instagram, etc., and texting are **unacceptable** behaviors, and you may be asked to leave class if I see you engaging in any of them. These behaviors may also adversely affect your involvement grade. Laptops should only be used for note taking, if at all. If I see that you are using your computer for any other purpose during class I will ask you to stop bringing your laptop to class and to take handwritten notes.

Accommodations: Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in Room 101 of the University Inn, (435)797-2444 voice, (435)797-0740 TTY, (435)797-2444 VP, or toll free at 1-800-259-2966. Please contact the DRC as early in the semester as possible. Alternate format materials (Braille, large print or digital) are available with advance notice.

Academic Misconduct: The department is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and academic excellence. Any student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating on exams or purchasing papers or other assignments will receive a failing grade in the course.