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.

In this class, we will grapple with big questions like: Who am I? Can people change? What influence do I have in my relationships? What role does communication play in relationships? and What does it mean to be a "good communicator"?

This class has the potential to offer you some valuable opportunities for growth if you are engaged and willing.

1. **Perception.** You will have the opportunity to open your mind to be able to see more. It’s almost like a sixth sense that you can develop to be able to notice more things going on in interactions with people that most others would overlook. It’s like having special glasses that you see the world through that allow you to see unique contributions to problems and possible solutions that others might not.

2. **Choice.** You will have more agency and control over your life when you learn the ideas in this class. When you have more of an idea what’s going on for you, you can begin to make choices to do something differently. You don’t have to be a product of your circumstance or surroundings, you get to be the author of your story.

3. **Awareness.** Know yourself. Understand yourself. Or at least begin the process of getting to know yourself. We spend so much time with other people and with other stimuli that we don’t often take the time to self-reflect. This class is like a get to know you session with yourself, which is incredibly rare and valuable.

4. **Change.** Once you’re aware you can begin to change. You might have communication habits that you’ve been practicing for a decade or more. In this class you can start to unpack what those might be about and enter the growth process of becoming something more.
Course Objectives

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

Instructor

Bobbi Petersen
Email: bobbi.petersen@usu.edu
Office: Old Main 303
Office Hours: Email me and we'll set up a zoom appointment.
Meeting Times: Mondays & Wednesdays at 9:30 on zoom.

Course Resources

- Adler, R. B., & Proctor, R. F. II (2017). *Looking Out, Looking In*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning. (This textbook is automatically embedded in Canvas, 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.](https://portal.verba.io/usu/login) For more details, including dates, deadlines, and opt-out information, visit: [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 Requirements
Quizzes (100 points):
You will have a quiz on each chapter to assess your comprehension of key concepts and theories. These quizzes will be timed and are open book, but not open google or classmates (that would be cheating). Each quiz is worth 10 points, and your two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Interpersonal Development Project (300 points):
In order to give you theoretical and practical understanding of interpersonal communication, you will conduct a semester project designed to develop your interpersonal skills. This Interpersonal Development Project (IDP) will consist of a proposal paper, academic annotated bibliography and three practical application papers. You will choose one relationship you would like to improve to focus on for the entire semester with this project. Detailed guidelines will be provided. If any part of the IDP is turned in late, there will be a 10% deduction in score per day it is late. After it is one week late, it will not be accepted for credit.

Participation (40 points):
Involvement is a necessary, important, and required part of this course. In addition to being present in zoom meetings and having read the material, you will be expected to be an active participant in each meeting. For some, it may help the class discussion go better if they make an effort to monitor how often they participate so others can have a chance too. For others, it may mean getting out of your comfort zone and engaging in discussion more than you usually do. This class will not be a lecture format where you can just tune in passively, it will require your active involvement.

Readings Guides (120):
To ensure that we are prepared to learn together each week, you will be required to complete and turn in a reading guide. They are meant to help you engage more with the material as you read through the chapters in the textbook and to prepare you to be a better contributor in class discussions. No late work will be accepted.

Weekly Assignments (140):
These assignments are a chance to dive a little deeper into select concepts that relate to each chapter. Some of them require you to do something in an interaction with someone else, so it will be important to look at them ahead of time so you can plan to finish them on time. We will often discuss these assignments and insights you gained from them in our weekly zoom meetings. No late work will be accepted.

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>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>

### Course Schedule/Outline

The best way to navigate the course is through the modules tab on canvas. This will show you when we are doing which chapter and when assignments are due.

### Attendance and Excused Absences Policy

A baseline assumption for this class is that you attend. You are allowed 1 absence without penalty. I will take role, and you will be penalized 0.5% of your total course grade for every additional class above 1 missed. This will be reflected in your participation score. If missing class becomes excessive, I reserve the right as instructor to further reduce your grade or assign a failing grade.

University sanctioned events or observance of a religious holiday will be excused if documentation is provided before the absence. If an extenuating circumstance arises where you could not have known beforehand, notify me as soon as possible after the absence occurs. I won’t provide notes for missed classes.