Interpersonal Communication

COM 220 Section 002
Spring 2014, Lecture
Jonathan Carpenter

Office Hours and Contact Information

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W, TH 12:00pm – 1:00pm

Prerequisites

UA Course Catalog Prerequisites
No prerequisites or none listed.

Course Description

UA Course Catalog Information

Study of verbal and nonverbal communication in the evolution of human relationships. SB designation for university core curriculum.

Core Designations:

Social and Behavioral Sciences

By focusing on the influence of interpersonal communication on individual identity and personal, social, and professional relationships, this course will prepare you to understand how relationships are created, sustained, and terminated in human interaction. Utilizing communication theory and research, we will examine issues critical to relationships including identity, language, nonverbal communication, listening, conflict, and personal relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the effects of personal and cultural factors such as gender, economic class, and sexual orientation. Everything in this syllabus is tentative and subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.
Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you will:

- Increase your understanding of the process of interpersonal communication
- Become familiar with key concepts and skills in interpersonal communication
- Discuss major theoretical concepts in the field of interpersonal communication
- Analyze your own role in sustaining and creating interpersonal relationships evaluate the effectiveness of interpersonal relationships

Required Texts

UA Supply Store Textbook Information

Textbook data from the Supply Store not found for this course.


Outline of Topics

First Day
Introduction to the Course

TH – 1/9/14 Meet and Greet/Syllabus Overview

Chapter I
A first look at Communication

TU – 1/14/14 First Ideas about Communication

TH – 1/16/14 Communication Needs
Chapter II
Communication and Personal Identity

TU – 1/21/14  The Conceptual Self

TH – 1/23/14  Improving Self Through Communication

TU – 1/28/14  Sanford Media Center Tutorial

Chapter III
Perception and Communication

TH – 1/30/14  The Perception Process

TU – 2/4/14  Guidelines for Improving Perception

Chapter IV
The World of Words

TH – 2/6/14  The Nature of Language  *My Remix Paper Due

TU – 2/11/14  Symbolic Abilities

Chapter V
The World Beyond Words
Chapter VI
Mindful Listening

Chapter VII
Emotions and Communication

Chapter VIII
Communication Climate: The Foundation of Personal Relationships
Chapter IX
Managing Conflict in Relationships

Chapter X
Friendships in Our Lives

Chapter XI
Committed Romantic Relationships
Exams and Assignments

My Remix Paper – Choose your favorite or any song that you feel best represents who you are and rewrite a significant portion (verse or chorus/hook) so that it better reflects your SELF (chapter 2). The original lyrics with your changes must be turned in with a discussion of why you modified them – and how it relates to concepts from chapter 2.

Article Response – Using magazines, newspapers, or online publications select a recent (within the last year) article that deals with an interpersonal relationship issue (i.e., commitment, sex, monogamy, online relationships, long distance relationships, May-December relationships, interracial/interethnic/ intercultural relationships, sibling rivalry, bffs, frenemies, etc.), you will write a 3-5 page response paper (in essay form) to analyze and evaluate the advice, information, or relationship depicted in the article. The purpose of this assignment is for you to apply what you have learned in class to issues and topics that are currently relevant in interpersonal communication. This paper will also help you better understand your own relationships and the wider context in which you form your understanding of interpersonal communication. A successful paper will creatively reflect on an engaging topic specifically relevant to interpersonal communication, expand the article with
additional research/evidence, identify opportunities for communicative application (specifically), offer a theoretical strategy from the textbook as a response to the issue/problem, and include evidence of personal insight and reflection.

**Participation** – Each week you are expected to read the required chapters and be prepared to discuss concepts in class. As part of this preparation you are also required to write a journal response (long paragraph) to a prompt given on blackboard. **MUST BE SUBMITTED via BlackBoard EVERY MONDAY BEFORE NOON.**

**Final Group Projects** – I will assign groups after the drop/add period, which you will work with for the duration of the semester. Using everything we discuss in class this semester, groups will choose a scene from a film (with my approval) that highlights key elements of interpersonal communication in order to analyze and recreate the scene using alternative communication styles and strategies found in the course text. The assignment will require groups to film and edit video projects for presentation during the Final Exam. There will be two parts to the project, 1) the video 2) the presentation. The video will need to be 3 – 5 minutes long and directly deal with concepts found in the book. There should be multiple speaking roles and it should be an appropriate/accurate depiction of the scene. **Creativity** in remaking the scene and integrating ideas from the book will be highly regarded. In the presentation groups are expected to: narrate/set up the original and new scene by explaining the context of the original and its strengths and limitations according to key concepts of interpersonal communication; roll the group’s new scene, and answer questions following it. Each person in the group will need to have a major speaking part during the video or presentation. This is taking the place of a comprehensive exam; a satisfactory project will exhibit understanding of concepts spanning the entire course.

**Grading Policy**

Grades are final. I do not have any extra credit planned, but I will entertain suggestions. Your final grade will be based on the following assignments and point system…

- **100 pts My Remix Paper (2-3 pages)**
- **100 pts Article Response Paper (3-5 pages)**
- **200 pts Class Participation/Journals**
- **300 pts Final Group Project**
- **300 pts 2 Tests (150 each)**

**Scale**

- **A** = 940 – 1000  **A-** = 900 – 939
- **B+** = 870 – 899  **B** = 830 – 869  **B-** = 800- 829
- **C+** = 770 – 799  **C** = 730 – 769  **C-** = 700 – 729
- **D+** = 670 – 699  **D** = 630 – 669  **D-** = 600 – 629
Policy on Missed Exams & Coursework

**ALL WRITTEN/TYPED ASSIGNMENTS**

- 1” margin on all sides
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- Heading will be in the top left of the page on 1 line including your name and class section (i.e. Student Name – 320)

Late Work
All work must be turned in on time. Exams and presentations cannot be made up. The only exception to this rule is in the case of documented medical emergencies, death related absences, or other special circumstances beyond the control of the student as deemed legitimate by me. Under these special circumstances it is your responsibility to make arrangements for make-up work (or early test taking) and provide appropriate documentation before you miss an assignment or class.

Attendance Policy

Attendance
Students are expected to attend class every class session and participate actively. Students are permitted 3 unexcused absences before a grade penalty will occur. Students not in class to answer roll call will be counted absent. Each additional absence will result in further deduction from the final grade. It is the students’ responsibility to give the instructor any documentation for excused absences one week from the absence. Missing class may result in your earning a zero for any work collected that day.

Severe Weather Guidelines

The guiding principle at The University of Alabama is to promote the personal safety of our students, faculty and staff during severe weather events. It is impossible to develop policies which anticipate every weather-related emergency. These guidelines are intended to provide additional assistance for responding to severe weather on campus.

UA is a residential campus with many students living on or near campus. In general classes will remain in session until the National Weather Service issues safety warnings for the city of Tuscaloosa. Clearly, some students and faculty commute from adjacent counties. These counties may experience weather related problems not encountered in Tuscaloosa. Individuals should follow the advice of the National Weather Service for that area taking the necessary precautions to ensure personal safety. Whenever the National Weather Service and the Emergency Management Agency issue a warning, people in the path of the storm (tornado or severe thunderstorm) should take immediate life saving actions.

When West Alabama is under a severe weather advisory, conditions can change rapidly. It is imperative to get to where you can receive information from the National Weather Service and to follow the instructions provided. Personal safety should dictate the actions that faculty, staff and students take.
The Office of University Relations will disseminate the latest information regarding conditions on campus in the following ways:

- Weather advisory posted on the UA homepage
- Weather advisory sent out through UA Alerts to faculty, staff and students
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA at 90.7 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over Alabama Public Radio (WUAL) at 91.5 FM
- Weather advisory broadcast over WVUA-TV/WUOA-TV, and on the website at [http://wvuatv.com/content/weather](http://wvuatv.com/content/weather). WVUA-TV Home Team Weather provides a free service you can subscribe to which allows you to receive weather warnings for Tuscaloosa via e-mail or cell phone. Check [http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts](http://wvuatv.com/content/free-email-weather-alerts) for more details and to sign up for weather alerts.

In the case of a tornado warning (tornado has been sighted or detected by radar; sirens activated), all university activities are automatically suspended, including all classes and laboratories. If you are in a building, please move immediately to the lowest level and toward the center of the building away from windows (interior classrooms, offices, or corridors) and remain there until the tornado warning has expired. Classes in session when the tornado warning is issued can resume immediately after the warning has expired at the discretion of the instructor. Classes that have not yet begun will resume 30 minutes after the tornado warning has expired provided at least half of the class period remains.

**Disability Statement**

If you are registered with the Office of Disability Services, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss any course accommodations that may be necessary.

If you have a disability, but have not contacted the Office of Disability Services, please call (205) 348-4285 (Voice) or (205) 348-3081 (TTY) or visit 133-B Martha Parham Hall East to register for services. Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to see me during office hours. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services, 133-B Martha Parham Hall East, before receiving academic adjustments.

**Policy on Academic Misconduct**

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on examinations and projects, the professor, department, or division may require that each student sign the following Academic Honor Pledge: “I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedure resulting from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.”

See the [Code of Student Conduct](http://www.ua.edu) for more information.