

SPCH 2423 104 Interpersonal Communication FALL 2024

Midwestern State University

Contact Information

Class Meeting Time: TR 2.00 P.M. to 3.20 PM;

Classroom: FA B114

Course Instructor: Dr. Supriya Karudapuram

Office Hours: 9-10.30 & Noon-2 WF and 3.30 to 5 P.M.TuR & by appointment

Office: D-WING 205 (since I am still in the process of relocating offices, I might temporarily be in B-109; final relocation to be announced);

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Catalog Description:

Interpersonal communication is designed to give students an understanding of communication concepts and practical experience in the communication process. Topics include self-concept, perception, verbal and non-verbal communication, listening, speaking and influencing, conflict management, and mass communication. The impact of gender and culture on communication will be examined. Participation in activities and exercises will provide opportunity to learn how to communicate more effectively in one-on-one, small-group and team situations.

Synopsis:

The study of interpersonal communication is central to mastery of communication processes that constitute relationship building and maintenance. Interpersonal communication or relational communication includes contexts of *friendships, intimacy, family, and workplace, and how*

intercultural situations cut across these contexts, and any and all times and spaces where we communicate with another to form and sustain healthy relationships with one another. While interpersonal communication typically refers to the dyad or between 2 people, it is potentially extendable to communicating in small groups and teams. However, this course will place emphasis on dyadic communication interactions and dynamics. Conflict analysis, management, and resolution is also an important aspect of the study and practice of interpersonal communication. The class will also emphasize critical thinking skills where we discern and deconstruct power relations and how they can influence and shape relational dynamics.

Classroom instruction will be through lectures based on readings and in-class activities such as informal group discussions and responses to screened videos. I am available during office hours and beyond if necessary to provide supporting & clarifying instruction as needed. D2L will be the primary source of instructional information dissemination such as lecture slides, supplemental reading material, links to videos, and assignment instructions. Assignment submissions for written assignments will also be through D2L. The Mid-Term exam will have the option of completion and submission through D2L or in handwritten form. Details will be discussed closer to the mid-term exam date. So please get up to speed with D2L features and functions ASAP.

Required Text:

Steven A. Beebe, Susan J. Beebe, & Mark V. Redmond. *Interpersonal Communication: Relating to Others*. 9th edition. Pearson Publications: Boston. 2018.

***Please Note:** The book is vital for effective class performance. It should be available at the MSU bookstore. Or you can order it through D2L to be picked up at the campus bookstore or have it shipped to your residence. Alternately there is a rental E-book version available at [Pearson.com](https://www.pearson.com). The last set of numbers is the ISBN number). I strongly encourage students to acquire the print version as it will be facilitating marking readings as we go along. We will not begin with the book till Week 2 of classes and if you are not able to get hold of it by then, that is fine. I will lecture and post lecture slides on D2L and we will have activities in class.

Learning Objectives:

- 1) Students will gain mastery over theories and concepts of interpersonal communication.
- 2) Students will become proficient in effective and ethical practice of interpersonal communication in different life contexts and situations.

Graded Assignments:

Assignment	Points
Analysis of Interpersonal Communication in a Film or TV/Cable Show	10
Interview-Based Written Assignment	20
Interpersonal Communication Journal	10
Readings-based Discussion (Individual Assignment) with Options	10
Group Presentation on Conflict	20
Highlights of Interview	5
Mid-Term Exam	20
Final Paper and/or Final Paper & Creative Project	25

Assignment	Points
Total Points	120

Grading Scale:

- 120-108 Points= A
- 107-97 Points = B
- 96-84 Points = C
- 83-72 Points = D
- 71 and below =F

Brief Descriptions of Assignments:

Detailed descriptions for each assignment with rubrics and grading scheme will be made available through D2l well in advance of the deadlines for completion. ***Consult Weekly Course Schedule below for due dates.** If you are required to submit an assignment in class such as an outline it needs to be word processed. The Mid-Term exam can be handwritten. I expect college-quality work for all assignments—therefore it is crucial that you spellcheck and proofread written submissions.

Analysis of Interpersonal Communication in a Film or TV/Cable Show: 10 points

Early on in the semester you will view any film/TV/Cable/Streaming Show of your choice and analyze it for the relationship dynamics portrayed in it. You will write a 2 page paper and include 1 take away for your own life.

Interview-Based Written Assignment: 20 points

You will interview an individual—a friend/family member/colleague—about their ideas and experiences of interpersonal communication & conflict if relevant. You will write generate 5 questions and supply answers to any 2 of the questions.

Highlights of Interview: 5 points

You will present 1 highlight from your interview in class.

Interpersonal Communication Journal: 10 points

You will maintain a journal of your observations and interactions with different individuals throughout the semester and of in-class participation. At the end of the semester you will submit your journal with 2 entries. 1 entry can pertain to positive encounters as well as difficult situations. The other entry will be how you participated in class. You will maintain the confidentiality of individuals.

Readings-based Discussion (Individual Assignment): 10 points

Every student will be assigned to a section of a chapter from the textbook. On your scheduled day, you will conduct a discussion of the section and involve the class in a Q&A or activity. Alternately, you can talk through an interpersonal communication dynamic through a media clip you will screen for the class.

Group Presentation on Conflict: 20 points

Students will be assigned to a small group of 4-5 students. You will do a group presentation on interpersonal conflict in a context such as friendships or intimacy or family or workplace. Classroom time will be allocated for purposes of meeting, planning, and follow-up.

Mid-Term Exam: 20 points

The Mid-Term Exam will be based on the textbook and the readings-based discussion assignment. It will include a Match the Following, Agree/Disagree, and 2 Short Answers.

Final Paper and/or Final Paper & Creative Project: 25 points

You can do a final paper of approximately 3 pages based on research or in-depth analysis of an interpersonal communication experience or situation OR a shorter paper of 2 pages and a creative project proposal on interpersonal communication such as an uploadable YouTube video or a PowerPoint deck or digital storytelling installation.

Course Policies:

Attendance:

You are allowed 1 unexcused absence during the semester. Otherwise attendance is mandatory as there will be presentations, videos will be screened for assignments, and class lectures may go beyond the readings. Absences beyond the 1 allowed absence will result in a cumulative 2-point deduction. Emergencies and religious holidays as well as attendance at university-permitted events such as sports will be excused—but please notify me via email ahead of time or in the prior class in person if you can. It is your responsibility to make up work missed as soon as possible by coming to my office preferably during office hours or through a peer. And yes, every class is important—so the question “did I miss anything answered” is redundant.

Punctuality:

For Class:

For the reasons specified above, punctuality is required. You are allowed to be late up to 5 mts. after class begins 2 times during the semester. Subsequently each tardy show up will result in a cumulative 2-point deduction. If you are going to be late by 5 mts. beyond the allowed 2 times because of classes in a building across campus communicate that to me as soon as possible when classes start. Should emergencies occur on a class day that necessitates tardy show up, email me as soon as you can.

For Submission of Assignments:

On time submissions of assignments is crucial for grading and to honor students who do so. Since most of your submissions will be through D2L you have considerable latitude in submitting assignments on the required day/date. You are allowed to submit 1 written assignment by the following day without penalty. Subsequent to that I will deduct half the total possible points for late submissions if within the week or by the weekend depending on the required date/day. Assignments submitted the week after the required date/day will result in an F. Mid-Term exam cannot be made up. The Readings-based Discussion assignment and Group Presentation on Conflict assignment cannot be made up. Emergencies need to be communicated to me in a timely manner should they interference with timely submission of assignments.

Classroom Conduct:

We live in a society and culture where difference either makes the world go around or not! If and when we have discussions and activities, please honor your fellow classmates who may come from a different life path than you. You do not have to agree; however, you respectfully disagree. Disruptive behaviors such as *ad hominem* attacks, silencing your peers, and offensive language such as profanities and threatening non-verbal behaviors will not be tolerated and can result in me requiring you to leave the classroom and reporting such behavior to university authorities. Practice empathy—meaning put yourself in another person’s shoes—in this case your fellow classmates—and ask yourself if such behavior is acceptable to you before engaging in it.

Academic Honesty/ Integrity:

Academic honesty/integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Plagiarism:

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned

exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. ***Any writing that is not the work of you or your group members is plagiarism. *Students in this course are expected to adhere to the MSU Student Honor Code.** Do note that D2L comes with a plagiarism detection tool.

By way of advice, do not wait till the last minute as this might increase the chances to cheat or plagiarize. Study. Look to me for guidance on assignments and the mid-term exam.

Technology Use & Abuse:

In-Class Use of Devices:

I will permit use of mobile devices such as mobile phones and tablets if you use them for in-class research-related activities and/or for the oral presentation assignments if you need to consult an outline and/or if you need to look up an uploaded file or materials on D2L and/or assigned readings. Laptops can be used for note taking during lectures. However, if I find you surfing the net for entertainment/social media and/or emailing/texting your personal circle or working on assignments for other classes, I will mark you down. As far as oral presentation assignments, university policy prohibits you from connecting your personal laptop to the podium in the classroom for projection purposes. So, either save your presentation to OneDrive or email it to yourself as a downloadable attachment or best—save it on a flash drive/thumb drive/USB port.

AI such as Chat GPT:

The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course; therefore, any use of AI tools for work in this class may be considered a violation of Texas Tech's Academic Integrity policy and the Student Code of Conduct since the work is not your own. The use of unauthorized AI tools will result in referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

Disability Accommodations:

Please inform me on day 1 of class if you are a student with a disability and need accommodation in this class. Students with a disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before classroom accommodation can be provided. MSU provides students with documented disabilities academic accommodation (Disability Support Services, Clark Student Center, Room 168).

Campus Carry:

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at [Campus Carry Rules/Policies](#).

Campus Resources for Academic Success and Personal Wellbeing:

Tutoring Services:

Tutoring and Academic Support Services (TASP) Learning Center (TLC) located on the first floor of the Moffett Library provides tutoring free of charge to students. I emphasize writing related tutoring for this class. <https://msutexas.edu/academics/tasp/on-campus.php>

Library Assistance:

The Moffett Library is offering walking tours first week of classes and they have an Ask a Librarian chat function. Please spend some time navigating the site for their resources. [MSU Texas Library Webpage](#).

IT & D2L Support:

Campus Information Technology support is available via [MSU Texas IT Webpage](#).

Support for D2L is available via [MSU Texas Student Resource Webpage](#).

Wellbeing:

Wellness related resources information is available via [MSU Texas Wellness Center Webpage](#).

Counseling services information can be found at [MSU Texas Counseling Webpage](#).

****It is my sole discretion to make alterations to the syllabus in your favor***

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

- TUESDAY, AUGUST 27th
 - Introductions
 - Syllabus Walk Through
 - Activity on Quotes
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 - Screening of Video & Group Discussion
- THURSDAY, AUGUST 29th

- Activity on a web-based article/video of Interpersonal Communication such as Friendship/Intimate Partnerships/Family/Workplace Communication

WEEK 2

- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd
 - Chp1. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
 - Interpersonal Communication Defined
 - Interpersonal Communication's Importance to Your Life
 - Interpersonal Communication and the Communication Process
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th
 - Chp. 1 continued
 - Interpersonal Communication Principles
 - Interpersonal Communication and Social Media
 - Interpersonal Communication Competence

WEEK 3

- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th
 - Chp. 2. Interpersonal Communication and the Self
 - Self-Concept: Who You Think You Are
 - Self-Esteem: Your Self-Worth
 - How to Improve Your Self-Esteem
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th
 - Chp. 2. Contd.
 - Self and Interpersonal Relationships
- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th
 - ***Film/TV/Cable Show Analysis Due Any time Before or on this Day/Date, by 11.59 P.M. on D2L**

WEEK 4

- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th
 - Chp. 3 Interpersonal Communication and Perception
 - Understanding Interpersonal Perception
 - Forming Impression of Others
 - Interpreting Behavior of Others
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th
 - Chp. 3. Continued
 - Identifying Barriers to Accurate Interpersonal Communication
 - Improving Interpersonal Communication Skills

WEEK 5

- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th
 - Chp. 4 Interpersonal Communication and Diversity: Adapting to Others
 - Understanding Diversity: Describing Differences
 - Understanding Culture: Our Mental Software
- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th
 - Chapter 4: continued
 - Barriers to Effective Intercultural Communication
 - Improving Intercultural Communication Competence

WEEK 6

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment begins*

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1st
 - Chapter 5: Interpersonal Communication Skills
 - Listening Defined
 - Listening Styles
 - Listening Barriers
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3rd
 - Chapter 5: continued
 - Listening Skills
 - Responding Skills
 - Confirmation Skills

WEEK 7

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues*

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8th
 - Chapter 6: Verbal Communication Skills
 - How Words Work
 - The Power of Words
 - How to Manage Misunderstandings
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th
 - Chapter 6: continued
 - How to Use Words of Support and Comfort
 - How to Have a Conversation
 - How to Apologize
 - How to be Sensitive
 - Mid-Term Exam Review Session

WEEK 8

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues*

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15th
 - Chapter 7: Nonverbal Communication Skills

- Identifying the Importance of Nonverbal Communication
- Understanding Nonverbal Communication Codes
- Mid-Term Exam Review Session
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th
 - ***MID-TERM EXAM**

WEEK 9

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues*

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
 - Chapter 7 continued
 - Improving Your Skill in Interpreting
 - Nonverbal Messages
 - Improving Your Skills in Expressing Nonverbal Messages
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24th
 - Chapter 8: Conflict Management Skills
 - Conflict Defined
 - Conflict Misconceptions
 - Conflict Types

WEEK 10

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues*

- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29th
 - Chapter 8 continued
 - Conflict and Power
 - Conflict Management Styles
 - Conflict Management Skills
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31st
GROUP ASSIGNMENT on CONFLICT PREPARATION

WEEK 11

**Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues*

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
 - Chapter 9 continued
 - Stages of Interpersonal Relationship Development
 - Theories of Interpersonal Relationship Development
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7th
Group Project Preparation Time

WEEK 12

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
 - ***GROUP PRESENTATIONS BEGIN**
- THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14th

- **GROUP PRESENTATIONS CONCLUDE**

- Chapter 10: Managing Challenges and the Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication and Relationships
 - When Relationship Expectations are Violated

WEEK 13:

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th
 - When Relationship Expectations are Violated (contd.)
- - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21st
CONDUCTING INTERVIEW DAY

WEEK 14

****Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment continues***

- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th
 - Maintaining Long Distance Relationships (LDR) and Relationships that Challenge Social Norms
 - Addressing Grief and Delivering Bad News
 - The Dark Side of Interpersonal Relationships
 - Interpersonal Relationship De-Escalation and Termination
 - In-Class Interview Assignment Highlight
 - Submit Interview Questions and Answers to D2L by 11.59 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th to SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1st---THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15

****Readings-based/Media Clip Discussion Assignment concludes***

- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd
 - Chapter 11: Interpersonal Relationships: Friendship and Romance
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5th
 - Chapter 12: Interpersonal Relationships: Family and Workplace (Last day of class)

WEEK 16

- ***SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th—FINALS BEGIN**
- ***Final Paper/Paper & Creative Project due—deadline TBA**

***Interpersonal Communication Journal due—deadline TBA**