



Course Syllabus: Interpersonal Communication
SPCH 2423 Section X20/X21
Spring 2025

Contact Information

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Catalog Description: SPCH 2423 Interpersonal Communication is the application of communication theory to interpersonal relationship development, maintenance, and termination in relationship contexts including friendships, romantic partners, families, and relationships with co-workers and supervisors.

Course Overview: Communication is the single most important tool we have to make sense of our world. Hence, the way in which we understand our own experiences and others is through the communication process. *SPCH 2423* will enable you to improve your theoretical knowledge of the interpersonal communication process while providing you with practical application skills to use both personally and professionally.

Required Textbook: Joseph A. DeVito, Interpersonal Messages, (4th ed.). New York, New York: Pearson Publishing Company, 2016

Suggested Reference: Rules for Writers, 10th Edition, 2022. Diane Hacker. Bedford/St. Martin Publishers.

Outcome Competencies: After completing SPCH 2423: Interpersonal Communication, participants will be able to:

- (1) Exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles.
- (2) Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.
- (3) Identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.
- (4) Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments.
- (5) Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender and age influences on human communication.
- (6) Demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict management techniques in dyads and/or groups.
- (7) Identify types of and barriers to effective listening in interpersonal contexts.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2024-2025](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

AI Policies

Generally speaking, you are not allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) engines, software, or artwork generating programs to produce work for this class unless you have asked for permission to do so. In that case, AI can only be utilized to help generate topic ideas, main point ideas, and subpoint ideas. You may not, however, construe this limited use as permission to use these technologies in any other aspect of this course.

Grading

Course Grade - Final grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes	185	18.5%
Discussions	195	19.5%
Assignments	270	27%
Presentations	200	20%
Tests	150	15%
Total	1000	100%

Grade	Points
A	< 899
B	800 - 899
C	700 - 799
D	600 - 699
F	< 600

Class Participation

Since this is a full online course, you are expected to actively participate and keep up with the assignments. This includes videos, readings, discussions, etc. For discussions, students should write one original comment as well as reply to at least one other posting. All speeches will be recorded (faces must be seen) and submitted with a link. There may be online Zoom sessions, but those will be communicated well ahead of time. While they are not mandatory, attendance is highly encouraged.

Privacy

Federal privacy law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside of the university without the signed consent of the student. Thus, in almost all cases I

will not discuss your academic progress or other matters with your parents. Please do not have them call me. Regardless of these important legal considerations, it is my general policy to communicate with the students, not their parents, even when a student has signed a consent form. College students are adults and are expected to behave accordingly. In addition, I will not email anyone their grade. We can always set up a meeting if you have a question or concern.

Make-up Policy

Due dates will be shared in D2L. Any assignment can be submitted before the due date. Late assignments will have a minimum automatic 25% point deduction for each day late. Do not wait until the last minute on any of your work! Late work, make up work/tests are accepted at instructor's discretion on an individual basis.

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered a reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.***

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline.** There are many places to access your class. Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world that is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Services for Students With Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make an application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [Safety / Emergency Procedures](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: "[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)"

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

I reserve the right to drop any student with an F if he/she violates any of these policies. At the same time, I will work with all students to my fullest ability to ensure a worthwhile educational experience.