

Course Syllabus: Interpersonal Communication

SPCH 2423 Section 104

Fall 2025, Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:50 pm

Dillard Building, Room 342

Contact Information

Instructor: Thomas Martin

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Course 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.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

No textbook is required for this course. Be prepared to take notes each class meeting. If for any reason a student misses a class meeting, it is that student's responsibility to get notes from another student. (Some material covered in class may later be posted in D2L, but again, checking with a classmate can provide context.)

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Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work, not the individual to whom credit is given).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

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information.

Grading

Course Grade - Course grade will be based on daily in-class teamwork, presentation, listening, and analysis exercises, plus one ethical reasoning essay completed outside of class, and one final group presentation.

Table 1: Percentage of final grade determined by each element

Average of daily assignments	60 percent
Ethics essay	20 percent
Final group presentation	20 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

Table 2: Total percentage points for final grade.

A	90 to 100 percent
B	80 to 89 percent
C	70 to 79 percent
D	60 to 69 percent
F	0 to 59 percent

Projects Required

Students will generate an essay outside of class demonstrating ethical reasoning skills. Students will prepare and present a group final presentation. Additionally, students will do daily teamwork, presentation, listening, and analysis exercises in class. (The lowest two grades of daily exercises will not be calculated in determining the student's final grade.)

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be given or accepted.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted except in the case of emergency. Students who know of conflicts with due dates in advance will have the option of submitting work early. Please consult with the instructor.

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 28

Deadline for December graduates to file for graduation: September 22

Last day to drop with a grade of "W": November 26

Thanksgiving holiday — no class meeting: November 27

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. While there is no specific grade for attendance in this course, please be mindful that an absence will result in a zero on the in-class exercises done on that day. (The lowest two daily grades will not be averaged into the final grade, but a third absence in the semester will affect the final grade.) If for any reason a student is unable to attend a particular class meeting, it is the student's responsibility to consult with a classmate to get notes.

Instructor Class Policies

Please be courteous to others by arriving on time at each class meeting. Participation in class is required, but disruptive or discourteous behavior will not be tolerated. Please do not bring food into the classroom. Please be sure that drink containers are well sealed. Since this is a communication class, please do not chew gum. Please be courteous to the students who will use the classroom next by cleaning your area before leaving the room.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees, and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. However, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans, and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. Check online for details.

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.

College Policies

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated smoking areas.

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 prohibit 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 as 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.

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 the MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled "*Run. Hide. Fight.*" which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage.

Grade Appeal Process

Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University catalog.

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

Course Schedule

Week 1 (8/26 & 8/28) — Introduction; models of communication; principles; myths

Week 2 (9/2 & 9/4) — Ethics and civility in communication

Week 3 (9/9 & 9/11) — Understanding the self; perceptions of others

Week 4 (9/16 & 9/18) — Defining culture; intercultural communication

Week 5 (9/23 & 9/25) — Verbal communication

Week 6 (9/30 & 10/2) — Non-verbal communication
(ETHICS ESSAY DUE BY OCT. 2 at 12:30 p.m.)

Week 7 (10/7 & 10/9) — Effective listening

Week 8 (10/14 & 10/16) — Communication and emotion

Week 9 (10/21 & 10/23) — Sharing personal information

Week 10 (10/28 & 10/30) — Communicating conflict

Week 11 (11/4 & 11/6) — Communicating in close relationships

Week 12 (11/11 & 11/13) — Technology and interpersonal communication

Week 13 (11/18 & 11/20) — In-class workdays to prepare final presentations

Week 14 — Tuesday 11/25 — FIRST GROUP OF FINAL PRESENTATIONS
Thursday 11/27 — THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY — NO CLASS

Week 15 — Tuesday 12/2 — SECOND GROUP OF FINAL PRESENTATIONS
Thursday 12/4 — THIRD GROUP OF FINAL PRESENTATIONS

There will be no class meeting during final exams week.