



Course Syllabus: Interpersonal Communication

College of Fain Fine Arts

SPCH 2423 Section X10

Fall 2026 – August 24, 2026 – December 10, 2026

Contact Information

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Course Description

Communication is unavoidable. If you are not communicating with others, you are communicating with yourself. In this course, we examine intrapersonal communication, interpersonal communication, small group communication, public speaking, and media as communication. We look at understanding and applying rules of communication, perception, and the process of communication. We investigate language, nonverbal communication, listening, self-concept, emotions, persuasive messages, and conflict as it applies to the various forms of human communication. The class uses a laboratory approach in that we perform, demonstrate, and report on assigned activities that relate to various components of the course material. We spend much of the class time discussing applications of concepts to real life situations.

No previous experience with public speaking is necessary. Although students will be preparing and presenting their ideas clearly and effectively based on criteria given by the instructor for each assignment, emphasis is on accurate understanding and interpretation of the assignment.

After studying the material presented in this course of study, the student will be able to do the following as evaluated by the instructor using various appropriate criteria.

- Define and explain basic communication terms and principles which are necessary for competent communication in personal, social, and professional settings.
- Demonstrate an understanding of perception, rules of communication, and the basic communication model.

- Apply communication principles and theory in diverse circumstances and demonstrate effective communication. This would include recognizing effective responses from less effective ones.
- Participate in class and group processes.
- Successfully complete oral and written assignments on time and with acceptable oral communication skills and effective messages.
- Use critical thinking skills to recognize, identify, and explain the use of interpersonal concepts demonstrated through the medium of film.
- Successfully complete a group project that uses written communication, oral communication, and the medium of film to demonstrate these interpersonal concepts in a class presentation.

The knowledge, skills, application technique, and attitudes gained by successfully completing this course can be used in the personal, social, and professional life of the student. Since much time is spent on evaluation and understanding of the self and relationships, learned skills can continue to help the student in his/her introspection long after the course work has ended.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

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

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

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. [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. Get started on this [Moffett Library webpage](#) to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading

Course Grade – All assignments can be found on the Course Schedule.

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Quizzes (12 total)	185
Discussions	195
Assignments	270
Presentations	200
Exams	150
Total Points	1000

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	Greater than 899
B	800 to 899
C	700 to 799
D	600 to 699
F	Less than 600

Homework

Homework accounts for most of the assignments throughout the course. This includes, but is not limited to self-assessments, reflections, discussions, essays, and presentations. See the Course Schedule for dates and deadlines of when all assignments are due.

Quizzes

This course includes a Syllabus Quiz, and 11 quizzes. In order to have access to the quizzes, students must complete the Syllabus Quiz with a grade of 80% or better. See the Course Schedule for due dates.

Exams

This course includes a mid-term exam and final exam. In order to have access to the exams, students must complete the Syllabus Quiz with a grade of 80% or better. See the Course Schedule for due dates.

Presentations Required

There are two required presentations during the course. Due to the nature of the course, students are required to submit a video recording of the presentation along with the supporting material, such as a PowerPoint Presentation. See the Course Schedule for more details.

Extra Credit

No extra credit assignments will be accepted.

Late Work

All coursework must be submitted by the due date. The acceptance of late submissions is at the discretion of the professor. If a late submission is approved, the grade is subject to deductions as deemed by the professor. Documentation may be required in order for the late work to be accepted. Students are responsible for keeping up with the coursework. Do not wait until the last minute on any of your work as it is difficult to predict the exact length of time the coursework will take.

Make Up Work/Tests

All coursework must be submitted by the due date. Make up work and tests is at the discretion of the professor. If make up work is approved, the grade is subject to deductions as deemed by the professor. Documentation may be required in order for the make up work to be accepted. Students are responsible for keeping up with the coursework. Do not wait until the last minute on any of your work as it is difficult to predict the exact length of time the coursework will take.

Important Dates

- Last day for term schedule changes: September 16, 2026 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Deadline to file for graduation: September 21, 2026. Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:"November 23, 2026 Check date on [Academic Calendar](#).
- Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

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.

Attendance

Since this is an online course, you are expected to actively participate and keep up with the assignments. This includes videos, readings, discussions, etc. For discussions, students are required to write one original post as well as reply to as many peers as the instructions specify. All speeches must be recorded (faces must be seen) and submitted through D2L. Video recordings will need to be uploaded. There may be online Zoom sessions (webinars). Some will be live,

while others will be recordings. While virtual meetings are not mandatory, attendance is highly encouraged.

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 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 which 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](#).

Recording Classes

****Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.*** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Network Etiquette

The following information is appropriate for online discussions, email, and any other synchronous and asynchronous forms of communication: Remember the human, adhere to the same standards of behavior online, know where you are in cyberspace, respect other people's time and bandwidth, make yourself look good online, share expert knowledge, help keep flame wars under control, respect other people's privacy, don't abuse your power, be forgiving of other people's mistakes.

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 (MSU) 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. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

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 application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (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](#).

Emergency Aid Resources for Basic Needs

Unexpected life circumstances can affect anyone. If you are experiencing challenges meeting basic needs—such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, healthcare, technology, textbooks or other life necessities, resources may be available to help. Visit the [Student Emergency Support and Resources webpage](#) to learn more, and explore emergency support opportunities through MSU and how to access them. For additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs: Clark Student Center #108, (940) 397-7500, student.affairs@mstuexas.edu.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. 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 [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). 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."](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

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

Course Schedule:

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 1 8/24 to 8/30	Syllabus and Course Schedule Syllabus Quiz Introduction Discussion (D1)	8/30

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 2 8/31 to 9/6	Chapter 1 Quiz 1 48-Hours Discussion (D2)	9/6
Week 3 9/7 to 9/13	Chapter 2 Quiz 2 Goal Statement Assignment (A1) Where Would You Go Discussion (A2)	9/13
Week 4 9/14 to 9/20	Chapter 3 Quiz 3 Personality Quiz Reflection (A3)	9/20
Week 5 9/21 to 9/27	Chapter 4 Quiz 4 Personal Crest Outline (A4)	9/27
Week 6 9/28 to 10/4	Chapter 5 Quiz 5 Personal Crest Presentation (A5) Back Then Discussion (D3)	10/4
Week 7 10/5 to 10/11	Exam 1 (Midterm)	10/11
Week 8 10/12 to 10/18	Chapter 6 Quiz 6 Non-Verbal Assignment (A6)	10/18
Week 9 10/19 to 10/25	Chapter 7 Quiz 7 Emotions Discussion (D4)	10/25
Week 10 10/26 to 11/1	Chapter 8 Quiz 8 Wish I Had Said (A7)	11/1
Week 11 11/2 to 11/8	Chapter 9 Quiz 9 Enriching Skills Assignment (A8)	11/8
Week 12 11/9 to 11/15	Chapter 10 Quiz 10 Love Languages Analysis (A9)	11/15
Week 13 11/16 to 11/22	Chapter 11 Quiz 11 Special Topics Proposal Discussion (D5) Conflict Assessment Discussion (D6)	11/22
Week 14 11/30 to 12/6	Special Topics Presentation (A10) Reflection Discussion (D7)	12/6

Week or Module	Activities/Assignments/Exams	Due Date
Week 15/Finals Week 12/7 to 12/10	Exam 2	12/9

**All deadline and assignments are subject to change*