

Midwestern State University  
Mass Communication

Interpersonal Communication – SPCH 2423  
FALL 2022 FA B114, TR 12:30-PM – 1:50 pm

**Instructor: Chaz Lilly**  
Office: Fain Fine Arts Bldg. 205  
Email: Charles.lilly@msutexas.edu  
Phone: TBA

**Office Hours:**  
M 10AM-12PM  
TR 10AM-12PM  
W 10 AM-12; 2PM-4PM

**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.

**Course Requirements & Grading:**

**Required Text:** Wrech, J. Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships  
<https://milnepublishing.geneseo.edu/interpersonalcommunication/>

Midterm Examination :250 Points  
Final Examination: 250 Points  
Self Reflection (1000-1250 words):150 points  
O&R Paper (1000-1250 words): 150 points  
Group Presentation: 200 points

Total = 1,000 points: 900-1000 = A; 800 – 899 = B; 700 – 799 = C; 650 – 699 = D; Below 650 = F

Late work will not be accepted. Both the midterm and final will be a written film analysis that is done after screening a selected work in class. Notes will be taken during the screening. The films selected for these exams will not be made available prior to the test. Papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the date they're due. Any late work will receive a failing grade. Grading will be based on your comprehension and use of theory, methodology, and terminology discussed in class.

**Course Activities:** This class will consist of lectures, in and out of class readings, and writing assignments and a group project.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required at every class. Beyond university approved absences the student will lose a significant deduction from their final semester grade for any absences.

- **THE INSTRUCTOR'S RECORDS REGARDING ABCENCES ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT COUNT AND IT IS THE STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK IN IF LATE.**

**Course Conduct:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic 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) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) 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.**

**VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL RESULT IN THE STUDENT RECEIVING A FAILING GRADE FOR THIS COURSE. LAST SEMESTER, ONE STUDENT RECEIVED SUCH A GRADE.**

**Withheld Grades/Semester Grades Policy:** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Senior Portfolio Requirement:** Please note that all mass communication majors are required to submit a portfolio as part of their Internship course (Internship is a prerequisite to Senior Production). This requirement is a part of MSU's reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and is non-negotiable. Through the portfolio, students are required to demonstrate communication competence through the written word and visual communication; two examples of each competency are required.

As you go through this and other classes, you are responsible for saving course work that could be included in your senior portfolio.

Please see me, your adviser, the department chair or any mass communication faculty member for handouts with more information ("Mass Communication Portfolio Competencies" and "Mass Communication Portfolio FAQ"). These handouts are also available on our department web page: <http://finearts.mwsu.edu/masscomm/>.

**Privacy:** Federal Privacy Law prohibits me from releasing information about students to certain parties outside the university. Thus, in almost all cases I will only discuss your grades and other academic matters with you. Do not have your parents call me! You're college students and will be treated as such. Also, I will only correspond with you via email if your name is in the email address.

**Disability Support:** Please inform me 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).c

**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](#).

**Final Caveat:** The professor reserves the right to change any part of this syllabus for any reason. Sufficient notice will be given to students if changes to the syllabus are deemed necessary.

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| <b>Week 1</b><br>08/22–08/26 | Course Introduction: Syllabus Review, Introductions<br>Lecture Thursday: Chapter 1: Introduction to Human Communication<br>Self Reflection Paper assigned Thursday |
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| <b>Week 2</b><br>08/29–09/01 | Lecture: Chapter 2: Overview of Interpersonal Communication  |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>09/5–09/9   | Lecture Chapter 3: Chapter 3: Intrapersonal Communication<br>Self Reflection Paper due at beginning of class Thursday.   |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>09/12–09/16 | Lecture Chapter 4: Verbal Elements of Communication<br>Group 1 Thursday  |
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| <b>Week 5</b><br>09/19–09/23 | Lecture Chapter 5: Chapter 5: Nonverbal Communication  |
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| <b>Week 6</b><br>09/26–09/30 | Lecture Chapter 6: Chapter 6: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication<br>Group 2 Thursday  |
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| <b>Week 7</b><br>10/03–10/07 | Lecture Chapter 7: Talking and Listening   |
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| <b>Week 8</b><br>10/10–10/14 | Lecture Chapter 8: Chapter 8: Building and Maintaining Relationships<br>Midterm review Thursday<br>Group three Thursday  |
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| <b>Week 9</b><br>10/17-10/21 | Midterm<br>In Class Exam   |
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| <b>Week 10</b><br>10/24–10/28 | Lecture Chapter 9: Conflict in Relationship  |
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| <b>Week 11</b><br>10/31–11/04 | Lecture Chapter 10: Chapter 10: Friendship Relationships<br>Group four Thursday  |
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| <b>Week 12</b><br>11/07–11/11 | Lecture Chapter 11: Chapter 11: Family & Marriage Relationships<br>O&R Paper Assigned  |
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| <b>Week 13</b><br>11/14–11/18 | Lecture Chapter 12: Interpersonal Communication in Mediated Contexts<br>Group five Thursday  |
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| <b>Week 14</b><br>11/21–11/25 | No Class Thanksgiving Break  |
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| <b>Week 15</b><br>11/28–12/02 | Lecture Chapter 13 and 14: Interpersonal Relationships at Work, Chapter 14: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication<br><br>Final Exam Review Thursday |
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| <b>Week 16</b><br>12/05–12/09 | Final Exam Thursday Dec. 8 @ 10:30 am- 12:30 pm<br>In Class Exam   |
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