



SPCH-1318-103H1/693H1
Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2025 1st 8 Weeks
M/W 12:30 – 1:50 LRC 212B

Instructor Information: Anthony Cavazos, MA, MAAL, Doctoral Candidate
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Student hours and location: LRC 240, M/W 9:30am – 10:30am; 2:00pm – 3:00pm,
T/R 10:00am – 12:30pm

Required Textbook/Materials: Beebe, S.A., Beebe, S.J., & Redmond, M.V. (2020). *Interpersonal Communication: Relating to Others* (9th ed). Boston: Pearson.

Course Description: This is a course in the theory and practice of human interaction, including the study of self-concept, perception, listening, creating and developing relationships, conflict management, as well as verbal and non-verbal communication. *This course is a 3-credit hour semester course, and it is transferable.

Course requirements:

| Assignments | Points |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Syllabus Quiz | 10 |
| Discussion Posts and Responses x 12 | 30 (x 11) 1 dropped |
| Reflections x 12 | 20 (x 11) 1 dropped |
| Media Clip Analysis x 2 | 120 (x 2) |
| Film Analysis (Final Project) | 200 |
| Attendance | 50 |

Assignment Explanations:

- **Discussions Posts and Responses:** Most weeks, we will have a discussion post due. Answer the prompt with 150 words or more and then you will have to respond to two other students' posts with 25 words or more. I drop one of the 11.
- **Reflections:** These will be your initial feelings or responses to the readings. In these reflections, you will be required to answer these two prompts: 1. Can you think of a situation in your own life where these concepts might apply from this chapter? 2. How are you doing in this class? Do you have any questions on assignments? This is not a formal submission, so don't worry about polishing it like a regular term paper. I would prefer this to feel like a journal or even a stream of consciousness. If you have an idea, just get it out there. And yes, I read each and every one of these. Anything you say will be confidential

(unless I think you are in danger). Feel free to critique the class as well. If you prefer to record a video or audio clip instead, send me a 2 to 4 minute video/audio clip answering the prompts.

- **Media Clip Analysis Exams:** In these assignments, I will show media clips and you will have to apply the previous chapters to the media clip on paper in class.
- **Film Analysis:** For this final project, you will choose your own movie or television series. You will choose two or more characters and apply as many of the concepts from this class to their relationship. Honestly, have fun with this assignment. If I were in this class, I would pick Deadpool and Wolverine. Buddy films and romantic comedies are encouraged! You will turn in a 5 to 7 minute recorded Powerpoint presentation complete with pictures, diagrams, etc, and narration explaining the concepts found in each character and their relationship to each other.
- **Video Lectures and Readings:** When you do the readings, I would prefer that you look for concepts that are interesting to you. You do not need to read the whole chapter, but get very familiar with one or two concepts in each chapter so that you can use them in the media assignments and the final project. Each week, I will also lecture on the concepts that I think are important. They might overlap with your interests... or they might not. Either way, you are learning and that is what is important to me. The video lectures are also going to contain in-depth explanations on assignments as well.

Grading Scale:

- A 895 – 1000 (Exceptional)
- B 795 – 894 (Above average)
- C 695 – 794 (Average)
- D 595 – 694 (Below Average)
- F 0 – 594 (Unacceptable)

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Grades are calculated strictly by addition, no curve or weighted grades apply.

Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy: Late work will not be accepted. Emergencies may arise, so please communicate with me as soon as possible via email to let me know about your circumstances. I will consider late work and make up assignments on a case-by-case basis. Extra credit may be available during the course, but do not count on it!

Attendance Policy: Every week, I expect students to watch video lectures and movie clips in order to learn about the concepts of interpersonal communication. Participating in the class discussions will be required for your grade. The way I measure attendance is through your work for this Internet course. The fast track to failure will be missing several assignments in a row. Please keep up with the work and let me know if circumstances are making it difficult for you to be successful.

Communicating with your instructor: ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information

about performance in the class through other electronic means. (Faculty may add additional statement requiring monitoring and communication expectations via D2L or other LMS)

| Student Learner Outcome | Maps to Core Objective | Assessed via this Assignment |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Students will exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles. | Critical Thinking (CT) | Final Film Analysis PowerPoint Presentation |
| 2. Students will demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts. | Critical Thinking (CT) & Communication Skills (CS3) | Media Clip Analysis #2 |
| 3. Students will identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others. | Critical Thinking (CT) | Final Film Analysis PowerPoint Presentation |
| 4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments | Critical Thinking (CT) & Communication Skills (CS1) | Final Film Analysis PowerPoint Presentation |
| 5. Students will demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender and age influences on human communication. | Personal Responsibility (PR) | Final Film Analysis PowerPoint Presentation |
| 6. Students will demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict management techniques in dyads and/or groups | Teamwork (TW) | Discussion Posts |
| 7. Students will identify types of and barriers to effective listening. | Communication Skills (CS2) | Final Film Analysis PowerPoint Presentation |

Academic Dishonesty: Any incident of academic policy will be dealt with in accordance with college policy and the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty – such as cheating on exams is an

extremely serious offense and will result in a grade of zero on that exam and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate discipline action. Any use of AI or LLMs (e.g. ChatGPT) unless noted in the assignment instructions will be considered academic dishonesty.

Student Concerns: If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact Dr. Brian Anderson, Humanities Department Chair at 409-933-8186, banderson@com.edu.

Course outline:

| Week | Topic/Reading | Assignments | Due Date |
|-------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Chapter 1 – Introduction to Interpersonal Communication pp. 1 - 27 | Self-Introduction Discussion #1; Reflection 1; Syllabus Quiz | See D2L for Specific Dates |
| 2 | Chapter 2 – Interpersonal Communication and Self | Discussion #2; Reflection #2 | |
| 2 cont. | Chapter 3 – Interpersonal Communication and Perception | Discussion #3; Reflection #3; | |
| 3 | Chapter 4 – Interpersonal Communication and Diversity: Adapting to Others | Discussion #4; Reflection #4 | |
| 3 cont | No Reading | Media Clip Analysis #1 | |
| | No Reading | | |
| 4 | Chapter 5 – Listening and Responding to Others; Video Lecture | Discussion #5; Reflection #5 | |
| 4 cont. | Chapter 6 – Verbal Communication Skills; Video Lecture | Discussion #6; Reflection #6 | |
| 5 | Chapter 7 - Nonverbal | Discussion #7; Reflection #7 | |

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|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| | Communication Skills; Video Lecture | | |
| 5 cont. | Chapter 8 – Conflict Management Skills; Video Lecture | Discussion #8; Reflection #8 | |
| 6 | No Reading | Media Clip Analysis #2 | |
| | No Reading | | |
| 6 cont. | Chapter 9 – Understanding Interpersonal Relationships; Video Lecture | Discussion #9; Reflection #9 | |
| 7 | Chapter 10 – Managing Relationship Challenges and the Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication and Relationships; Video Lecture | Discussion #10; Reflection #10 | |
| 7 cont. | Chapter 11- Interpersonal Relationships and Romance; Video Lecture | Discussion #11; Reflection #11 | |
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| Week 7 cont. and 8 | No Readings | Film Analysis | |
| | No Readings | | |
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Institutional Policies and Guidelines

Grade Appeal Process: Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook <https://www.com.edu/student-services/student-handbook.html>. *An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.*

Academic Success & Support Services: College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

ADA Statement: Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodation is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, Student Success Center

Textbook Purchasing Statement: A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Withdrawal Policy: Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a “W” grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is October 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is November 14. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is November 25.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN grade.

Early Alert Program: The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

Resources to Help with Stress:

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at deanofstudents@com.edu or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.