



**SPCH-1318-003I1**  
**Interpersonal Communication**  
**Spring 2025**  
**Online Course**

**Instructor Information:** Myon Morgan, [mmorgan18@com.edu](mailto:mmorgan18@com.edu)

**Student hours and location:** Online Instruction, Meet by appointment only

**Required Textbook/Materials:** Beebe, S.A., Beebe, S.J., & Redmond, M.A. (2011)  
**Interpersonal Communication: Relating to others (8th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.**

**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:** Students will be required to log into the online classroom on a regular basis, perform critical thinking, and go online to seek out resources not provided in the textbook.

**Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

This course contains a variety of activities to include quizzes, tests, a several written assignments.

Grading Scale:

89.5-100 A

79.5-89.4 B

69.5-79.4 C

59.5-69.4 D

Below 59.4 F

All scored items are equally weighted

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:**

This is NOT a self-paced course!! It is the student's responsibility to know and keep up with due dates and deadlines. Late assignments may be accepted and makeup tests allowed, IF AND ONLY IF: (a) you make every effort possible to contact me PRIOR TO the due date and time, (b) you provide official documentation to verify your explanation as to why you could not turn in your assignment, and (c) documentation is official (i.e., written on official stationary or letterhead, and signed by the appropriate authority). Informal notes from your mother/father/friend/roommate do not qualify as appropriate documentation. If you do not meet the above criteria, you will receive a ZERO for your assignment or test.

All deadlines are posted on the schedule. Be aware of these deadlines as it is your responsibility to hand in all assignments, submit speeches, and complete tests by the deadline.

**Attendance Policy:**

This course is designed to enable you to access information and complete assignments at times that are convenient to your schedule. This does not mean you may pop in and out whenever you feel like it. Failure on your part to take online tests, respond to group discussions, or submit any assignment or speech by the deadline, will be recorded as absences. If you have trouble reading and following directions, this class is not for you!

If you miss more than 2 weeks turning in work, you cannot receive full credit for the course. Please remember, your participation will be noted. I will monitor your progress weekly via assignments and the weekly check-in. Even though this is an on-line course, absenteeism still hinders the learning process and may result in your failing this course.

**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)

**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 assignment and the student will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for the appropriate discipline action.

**Plagiarism:**

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. Plagiarism is defined as “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work” (Dictionary.com). All work must be the original composition of each student. Although you must use outside sources, you must cite them appropriately.

Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Assignments will be checked for plagiarism by any and all means available, including electronic checking services (i.e. Turnitin.com). The College and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Link(s) to resource(s) about ways to avoid plagiarism:

<http://en.writecheck.com/ways-to-avoid-plagiarism/>

Remember – if you are worried about potential plagiarism or if any of this is unclear you can reach out to your instructor anytime. You will never be penalized for reaching out with questions!

### **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 Brian Anderson, Department Chair for the Humanities Department at (409) 933-8186 or [banderson@com.edu](mailto:banderson@com.edu).

### **Course Outline:**

#### **Journals:**

As we move through the course we will learn new concepts in interpersonal communication. Many will lead you to reflect on your current skill level, level of competence, self-awareness, and personal relationships. You are required to complete 8 journals this semester (we will offer 10 choices), and they are scattered throughout the 16 weeks of class. Most are 1-2 pages typed and double spaced. These are designed to help you discover and analyze your own interpersonal communication practices. If you complete all 10 the lowest score will be dropped.

#### **Culmination paper:**

The major task in this class is the culmination paper, which involves the entire semester and several steps. First, you will be choosing an established and stable relationship in your life to evaluate and improve on this semester (friendship, family relationship or romantic partner) and documenting your communication interactions with this person. As we progress through the class, you will choose a communication skill that you'd like to work on in your relationship (listening skills, emotion management, conflict management, verbal skills, or nonverbal skills). You will also identify one part of being a competent communicator (self-awareness or empathy) that is vital to improving this skill. You will research the two topics you chose, come up with a plan to make improvements in your communication and your relationship, and apply these concepts to your life, enacting your plan and documenting the progress. The goal is to conduct and summarize academic research, apply it in a practical way to improve your communication and an interpersonal relationship in your life this semester, and write about the process.

Your final paper will be 5-7 pages typed, double-spaced, with at least 4 sources (of which 2 are scholarly and 1 is a TED talk or podcast) formatted in APA with an annotated bibliography. While this paper is worth the most points in the class, you will be working on it throughout the semester in stages, turning in pieces of the paper to be evaluated by your instructor and given helpful feedback. If you stay on task this semester, by the time the paper is completed towards the end of the semester, you will have had every piece looked over.

Self-Introduction Video 20 points  
Journals (choose 8) 8 @ 40 points each 320 total points  
Culmination Paper 200  
Culmination Paper Progress Pieces 5 @ 20 points each 100 total points  
Video Entry 1: How to have a better conversation 50 points  
Video Entry 2: How Interpersonal Communications can connect different cultures 50 points  
Video Entry 3: How can perception cause conflict in communities 50 points  
Video Entry 4: How non-verbal communication can be used to affect leadership in the workplace 50 points  
Video Entry 5: How does interpersonal communication help break down barriers in effective communication 50 points

## **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/docs/Student\\_Handbook\\_2024-2025\\_v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *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 accommodations is requested to contact:

Kimberly Lachney, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: [AccessibilityServices@com.edu](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 8-week session is February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-week session is April 30.

**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](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto: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.