



SPCH-1318 – 100H1 & 300H1
Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2025
1st 8 Weeks TR 7:10 – 8:30, LGC 219

Instructor Information: Anthony Cavazos, MA, MAAL, mcavazos7@com.edu, (409) 933-8354

Office hours and location: LRC 263, M/W 9:20 am – 11:00 am, T/Th 8:55 am – 11:00am

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	20
Reflections x 12	20 (x 12) = 240
Discussion x 12	20 (x 12) = 240
Media Clip Analysis x 2	100 (x 2) = 200
Film Analysis (Final Project)	200
In-class Participation	50
Attendance	50

Assignment Explanations:

- **In-Class Participation and Attendance:** This is a communication class. You will be expected to contribute to in-class discussions. Attendance is mandatory and it will affect your grade in several ways (positive ways if you are present).
- **Reflections:** These will be your initial feelings or responses to the readings. Word count minimum will be 150 words. In these reflections, you will be required to answer 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. Feel free to criticize the class as well. If you prefer to record a video instead, send me a 2-to-4-minute video answering the prompts.

- **Media Clip Analysis:** In these assignments, I will post a media clip and you will have to apply the previous 4 chapters to the media clip. Your paper should be 500 words or more. Treat this as a formal college paper with citations (APA style) when necessary.
- **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 present a 5 to 7 minute PowerPoint presentation complete with pictures, diagrams, etc, explaining the concepts found in each character and their relationship to each other.
- **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.

Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula: Course will be evaluated on a total point basis, there is no weighting on assignments.

Grading Scale:

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

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: You are expected in class. Not only is your participation and attendance graded, but there are in-class discussions and assignments that will also count towards your final grade. Please consider one of the online sections if you have other commitments that may keep you away from class.

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. Unfortunately, we are not here to learn the use of AI – we are here to learn how to view the world through the theory and practice of interpersonal communication. You may use AI to correct your grammar or rephrase your own sentences, but wholesale generation of papers is strictly prohibited.

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 or banderson@com.edu.

Week	Topic/Reading	Assignments	Due Date
1	Chapter 1 – Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	Reflection 1; Syllabus Quiz	Jan 16 th
2	Chapter 2 – Interpersonal Communication and Self; Chapter 3 – Interpersonal Communication and Perception	Reflection #2; Reflection #3	Jan 21 st Jan 23 rd
3	Chapter 4 – Interpersonal Communication and Diversity: Adapting to Others	Reflection #4; Media Clip Analysis #1	Jan 28 th Feb 1 st
4	Chapter 5 – Listening and Responding to Others; Chapter 6 – Verbal Communication Skills	Reflection #5; Reflection #6	Feb 4 th Feb 6 th
5	Chapter 7 - Nonverbal Communication Skills; Chapter 8 – Conflict Management Skills	Reflection #7; Reflection #8 Media Clip Analysis #2	Feb 11 th Feb 14 th
6	Chapter 9 – Understanding Interpersonal Relationships; Chapter 10 – Managing Relationship Challenges and the Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication and Relationships;	Reflection #9; Reflection #10	Feb 18 th Feb 20 th
7	Chapter 11- Interpersonal Relationships and Romance Chapter 12 – Interpersonal Relationships: Family and Workplace	Reflection #11; Reflection #12	Feb 25 th Feb 27 th
8	Final Presentations:	Final Presentations	Mar 4 th , 6 th

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. *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

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 February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 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 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.