



SPCH 1318 Section 001I1
Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2025

Instructor Information:

Dr. R.E. Davis, rdavis29@com.edu

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.

Student hours and location:

Online by appointment

Required Textbook:

This course does not require the purchase of a textbook and is designated as a zero textbook cost course.

- The course will utilize multiple supplemental readings and videos, all of which will be provided electronically.
- Please ensure that you complete the assigned readings and watch the videos before starting each project.
- I will share these materials through announcements on D2L. It's essential to check these announcements daily.
- If you come across relevant materials that you believe should be included in our readings or videos, please email your suggestions to me, or bring them up during office hours. I am always looking for resources that align well with the course content.

Course Description:

SPCH 1318. INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (LECTURE 3, LAB 0). CREDIT 3. ACGM.

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. Prerequisites: One of the following TSI scores combinations or equivalent developmental courses with a grade of "C" or better (1) TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing 340 and TSI Essay 4 (2) TSI Reading 351 and TSI Writing less than 340 with ABE 4 and TSI Essay 5.

Course Methods:

This course will involve a combination of readings, videos, observations, performances, and participation in communication exercises. You will also be required to engage in discussions and communication projects. Supplemental materials will be accessible online through D2L.

We are on an educational journey together where my role is to facilitate, direct, and assist your self-education. Rather than telling you what to think, I aim to guide your thinking and help you effectively present your ideas

to others. Most of our classes will consist of discussions and projects, complemented by individual speech performances. The success of this class, your education, and my role as an instructor depends on your preparedness and active participation.

Description:

1. This course highlights the application of communication theory and person-to-person communication skills to interpersonal relationship development, maintenance, and termination; in relational contexts ranging from friendships, to romantic partners, families, co-workers and supervisors. Although the emphasis on the course centers on the development and maintenance of good one-on-one relationships, attention will also be given to self-concept, self-worth, and perception.
2. The student will be able to identify why certain things happen as they do when two or more individuals come together to communicate for a specific purpose.
3. The student must attest to his or her ability to understand the principles of interpersonal communication with emphasis on dyads, small groups, analysis of communication models and nonverbal communication, applying understanding to the major types of interpersonal communication problems in the work environment and in daily human relations.

Assignments and Assignment Descriptions

Determination of Course Grade:

This is a point-based course, meaning, grade is determined by the accumulation of points, not a 'percentage' grade.

Grade Book:

D2L is the official grade book for the course. Students can track their grades by logging on to D2L.

If there is an error or a grade missing for an assignment on D2L, please let me know within 24 hours of the discovery.

Students are to keep up with all returned assignments and maintain a copy of all electronic files, as this is the only recourse to ensure grading is accurate.

Assignments:

All written work must be typed. No handwritten material will be accepted unless otherwise noted. A copy of all work must be ready to turn in at the beginning of class.

Assignment Descriptions:

Specific assignment sheets/D2L notification will be provided for each assignment providing greater detail. These should serve as a general overview only.

Assignments:

A. Presentation

1. There is one major presentations in this class
2. You will be assigned a topic concerning interpersonal communication
3. You will create a presentation conforming to the assignment guidelines.

B. 4 Reading Response Papers:

These papers will allow you to critically engage with the course materials.

1. These may be in the form of papers, reports, or other formats according to the assignment specifics
2. Your paper will be a critical response to the readings and answer/engage with the assigned prompt.

C. Interpersonal Exploration Paper

This is a research paper examining an interpersonal theory/concept/issue in depth.

D. Take a Look-in a Book

This is an in-depth semester long exploration of a central interpersonal problem.

Assignment Values:

Assignment	Pts. Total	Pts. Earned
End of Semester Presentation	100 pts.	
Take a Look in a Book	50 pts.	
Reading Response Paper 1	100 pts.	
Reading Response Paper 2	100 pts.	
Reading Response Paper 3	100 pts.	
Reading Response Paper 4	100 pts.	
Total	550 pts.	

Grading Scale:

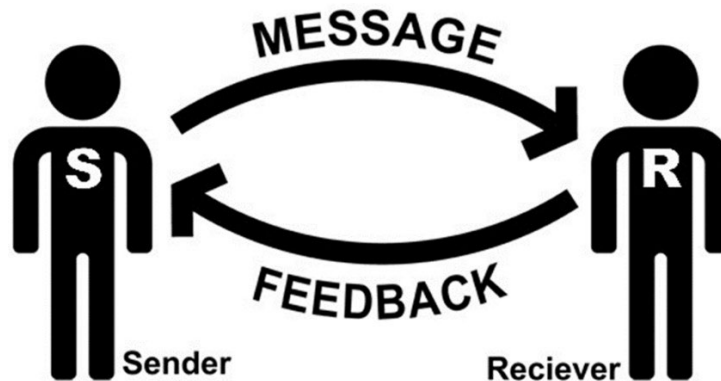
A: 495-550
B: 440-494
C: 385-439
D: 330-384
F: 329-0

Late Work Policy/Make up Work:

The following policies apply to all course assignments, including speeches/presentations, outlines, and related material.

1. All work is due at the assigned times/assigned performance times.
2. Due to the nature of the course, deadlines are strictly enforced and work that is not turned in prior to the deadline will not be accepted, thus resulting in a grade of zero for the assignment.
3. You may make arrangements to turn in due assignments prior to the deadline in order to receive credit.
4. Unanticipated emergencies do not provide an automatic excuse for work to be turned in late.
5. If an unanticipated emergency does occur and is deemed excusable by the instructor, then the work may be turned in late:
 - a. A late work penalty may be assessed in these cases.

The instructor has the final decision as to accept any work late-regardless of the reason for the lateness of the assignment.



Course Outline

Subject to Change

SPCH 1318

Specific Due Date and Times Available on D2L

Week 1:

- **Course Introduction/Syllabus Overview**
- **Introduction to Interpersonal Communication**
 - Course objectives and expectations
 - Basic concepts and importance of interpersonal communication
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- **Communication Models**
 - Overview of different communication models (e.g., Linear, Interactional, Transactional)
- **How Communication Theories Work**
 - Exploration of foundational communication theories

Week 2:

- **Researching Communication Theories**
 - Techniques for researching and applying communication theories
- **The Self and Other**
 - Understanding the self in communication and how we perceive others
- **The Self in Relationships**
 - Role of self-concept and identity in relationships

Week 3:

- **Communication and Perception**
 - How perception influences communication and relationships
- **Diversity and Communication**
 - Exploring how cultural diversity impacts communication styles
- **Barriers to Interpersonal Communication**
 - Identifying and overcoming communication barriers

Week 4:

- **Intercultural Communication**
 - Strategies for effective communication across cultures
- **Listening and Responding**
 - Techniques for active listening and appropriate responding
- **Cultural Presentations**
 - Student presentations on intercultural communication (group activity)

Week 5:

- **Empathy and Listening**
 - Building empathetic listening skills
- **Verbal Communication**

- Effective verbal communication strategies
- **Managing Misunderstandings**
 - Techniques for managing and resolving misunderstandings in communication
- **Spring Break (3/13-3/17)**
 - No class sessions

Week 6:

- **Nonverbal Communication**
 - The role of nonverbal cues in communication
- **Expressing and Interpreting Conflict**
 - Understanding and navigating conflict in communication
- **Managing Conflict**
 - Conflict resolution strategies

Week 7:

- **Interpersonal Relationships**
 - Dynamics of interpersonal relationships in different contexts
- **Relationships are Hard to Do**
 - Discussion on the challenges of maintaining relationships
- **Managing Relationship Conflicts**
 - Strategies for managing conflicts in personal and professional relationships

Week 8:

- **Relationships in Family**
 - Communication strategies within family dynamics
- **Relationships in the Workplace**
 - Navigating communication in professional settings
- **Your Future as an Interpersonal Communicator**
 - Reflection on course learnings and future applications
- **Your Future as a Communicator**
 - Final thoughts and wrap-up

Course Policies

A number of course policies have been implemented to ensure quality of education and fairness. It is your responsibility to be familiar and comply with each policy.

Attendance Policy:

Online students should check into D2L at least once a day.

Absences may be excused in accordance with the college's excused absence policy and at the professor's discretion.

Extra Credit:

Some extra credit assignments may be offered during the semester. They may need to be turned in online or in person.

Grade Concerns and Questions:

Grade questions will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and should be discussed with the instructor within a week of the graded assignment. I encourage everyone to take advantage of seeking guidance on assignments prior to the due date (either by meeting with me or through email) if you are unsure of meeting assignment expectations to prevent the need to contest your grade after the fact. Changes in grade may require additional work to persuade or argue your case.

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 Humanities Chair Dr. Brian Anderson at 409-933-8186 or banderson@com.edu.

Statement on Audio and Video Recording:

Surreptitious or covert videotaping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited. This class may be videotaped, or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. To accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded. Student work returned in electronic format may be used as examples in future classes.

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.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Plagiarism:

The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own.

- a. To plagiarize is to steal the words or ideas of another and pass them off as one's own.
- b. Two forms of plagiarism are common.
 - i. In the first form, the writer incorporates published or otherwise recorded material without properly acknowledging its sources.
 - ii. In the second form, the writer submits work done by someone else; this also applies to a student who allows his or her work to be used by others.
1. Any student who plagiarizes will receive a grade of "0" on his or her plagiarized work and may, as a result, receive a failing grade in the course.
 - a. Ignorance will not be an acceptable defense: all students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the rules of documentation.
 - b. Violation of the Plagiarism Policy may result in a referral to the College of the Mainland Judicial Coordinator or further disciplinary actions as stated in the current Student Handbook.

SPCH 1318 Student Learner Outcomes:

- A. Students will exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles.
- B. Students will demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.
- C. Students will identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.
- D. Students will demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments.
- E. Students will demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender and age influences on human communication.
- F. Students will demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict management techniques in dyads and/or groups.
- G. Students will identify types of and barriers to effective listening.

General Education Competencies:

There are several *General Education Competencies* addressed in this course including:

- A. Reading – reading at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret a variety of language-based and media materials – (i.e., books, articles, and documents). A core curriculum should offer students the opportunity to master both general and specific methods of analyzing materials and specific methods for analyzing the subject matter of individual disciplines.
- B. Writing - competency/outcome in writing is the ability to produce clear, correct, and coherent prose adapted to purpose, occasion, and audience
- C. Critical Thinking - critical thinking embraces methods for applying qualitative and/or quantitative skills analytically to subject matter in order to evaluate arguments and to construct alternative strategies
- D. Creativity - a novel product, activity or interaction that demonstrates originality and flexibility
- E. Computer Literacy - computer literacy is the ability to use and apply technology in communicating, problem solving, acquiring, and processing information
- F. Cultural Competence - cultural competence is the ability to develop and demonstrate awareness, knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to interact in a diverse and globally interdependent world

Student Learner Outcome	Criteria For Success	Means of Assessment
Exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles.	Meets required core objective(s): Personal Responsibility	Take a Look in a Book Assigned End of Semester Topic Reported
Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.	Meets required core objective(s): Communication Skills	Reading Response 1
Identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.	Meets required core objective(s): Personal Responsibility	
Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and /or written assignments.	Meets required core objective(s): Critical Thinking	RR #2
Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender and age influences on human communication	Meets required core objective(s): Communication Skills	RR #3

Demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict management techniques in dyads and/or groups	Meets required core objective(s): Teamwork	RR # 3 Take a look in a Book
Identify types of and barriers to effective listening.	Meets required core objective(s): Teamwork	End of Semester Presentation

"Developing excellent communication skills is absolutely essential to effective leadership. The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can't get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn't even matter."

— Gilbert Amelio
President and CEO of National Semiconductor Corp.