

## Interpersonal Communication (SPCH 1318) Online



**Credit:** 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

**Prerequisite/Co-requisite:** Complete the Online Orientation and answer yes to 7+ questions on the Online Learner Self-Assessment:  
<http://www.lit.edu/depts/DistanceEd/OnlineOrientation/OOStep2.aspx>

### Course Description

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. *This course is time-bound, structured, and completed totally online.*

### Required Textbook and Materials

1. *Interpersonal Messages* by J. DeVito, 4th edition. Pearson Publishers.
  - a. Softcover ISBN number is 978-0-134-20444-4
- OR**
- b. eBook subscription ISBN number is 978-0-134-20443-7
2. 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
3. We will be using Blackboard for this course

### Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles.
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.
3. Identify perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and/or written assignments.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender and age influences on human communication.
6. Demonstrate ability to identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict management techniques in dyads and/or groups.
7. Identify types of and barriers to effective listening.
8. Demonstrate written and oral competencies as it relates to employment (including job searches, interviews, interpersonal interaction, conflict management, and leadership and performance appraisals).

### Core Objectives

1. **Critical Thinking Skills:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

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3. Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others.
4. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

### Course Outline

- A. Foundations of Interpersonal Communication
  - a. Why study interpersonal communication?
  - b. Nature of interpersonal communication
  - c. Elements of interpersonal communication
  - d. Principles of interpersonal communication
  - e. Interpersonal competence
- B. Culture and Interpersonal Communication
  - a. Culture
  - b. Cultural Principles
  - c. Cultural Differences
  - d. Improving Intercultural Communication
- C. Perception of Self and Others
  - a. The Self in interpersonal communication
  - b. Perception in interpersonal communication
  - c. Impression formation
  - d. Impression management: Goals and Strategies
- D. Listening Interpersonal Communication
  - a. Stages of listening
  - b. Listening barriers
  - c. Styles of listening effectively
  - d. Listening, culture, and gender
- E. Verbal Messages
  - a. Principles of verbal messages
  - b. Confirmation and disconfirmation
  - c. Guidelines for using verbal messages effectively
- F. Nonverbal Messages
  - a. Principles of nonverbal communication
  - b. Channels of nonverbal communication
  - c. Nonverbal communication competence
- G. Interpersonal Relationships
  - a. Advantages & Disadvantages of interpersonal relationships
  - b. Relationship stages
  - c. The Dark side of interpersonal relationships
- H. Interpersonal Relationship Types & Theories
  - a. Friendship relationships
  - b. Love relationships
  - c. Family relationships
  - d. Workplace relationships
  - e. Online-only relationships
  - f. Relationship theories
- I. Interpersonal Conflict Management
  - a. What is interpersonal conflict?
  - b. Principles of interpersonal conflict
  - c. Conflict management stages
  - d. Conflict management strategies

### Grade Scale

900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

### Course Evaluation

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Speeches	10 %
Journals	50 %
Tests	15%

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Homework/Participation	5%
Interview	5%
Common Assignment	15%

### **Course Policies**

1. You must log onto Blackboard and access this course a minimum of three times per week.
2. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated.
3. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and dropping the course. If you stop logging-in to the course and do not complete the course drop process, then you will receive an “F” grade for the course
4. Internet Usage – Students are expected to use proper net etiquette while participating in course emails, assignment submissions, and online discussions.
5. No late assignments, tests or speeches. In the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student’s control, make-up work may be accepted solely at the instructor’s discretion.
6. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

### **Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:

<http://www.blackboard.com/student-resources.aspx>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

### **Disabilities Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at <http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx>

### **Student Code of Conduct Statement**

It is the responsibility of all registered Lamar Institute of Technology students to access, read, understand and abide by all published policies, regulations, and procedures listed in the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook*. The *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* may be accessed at [www.lit.edu](http://www.lit.edu) or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office.

### **Starfish**

LIT utilizes an early alert system called Starfish. Throughout the semester, you may receive emails from Starfish regarding your course grades, attendance, or academic performance. Faculty members record student attendance, raise flags and kudos to express concern or give praise, and you can make an appointment with faculty and staff

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all through the Starfish home page. You can also login to Blackboard or MyLIT and click on the Starfish link to view academic alerts and detailed information. It is the responsibility of the student to pay attention to these emails and information in Starfish and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.

