

## **SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication, Section 9B5**

### **CREDIT**

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

### **MODE OF INSTRUCTION**

Face to Face

### **PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE:**

None

### **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.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

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

### **INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION**

Instructor: Tonya Blivens

Email: [tblivens@lit.edu](mailto:tblivens@lit.edu)

Office Phone: (409) 247-5347 (LIT)

Office Location: LIT campus: Building T5 102

Approved: **Initials/date**



**LAMAR INSTITUTE  
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Office Hours: MWF 10:55-11:25, 2:55-3:35 TTH 10:55-12:50, 2:55-4:15 Online 3-3:30 PM  
MTH

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS**

- *Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships* by Jason S. Wrench, Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter and Katherine S. Thweatt. This is a free e-book available online at [Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships - Milne Open Textbooks](#) as a PDF. You can also view and download the PDF on Blackboard.
- 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
- Must have the ability to upload/print documents for class.
- We will be using Blackboard for this course.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students are allowed three absences for the semester and will then have absences excused on a case-by-case basis. Unexcused absences after that point will result in the loss of 5 points from the final grade for each absence. Your attendance record will be regularly recorded in Starfish so that you can log in and check it throughout the semester. I know that there are a lot of reasons why students might need to miss. The key here is to communicate with me if you must miss more than three days. I will excuse additional absences on a case-by-case basis. If I don't hear from you, additional absences will be unexcused and will count against your final grade. \*\*

### **DROP POLICY**

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified drop date as listed on the [Academic Calendar](#). If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

### **STUDENT EXPECTED TIME REQUIREMENT**

For every hour in class (or unit of credit), students should expect to spend at least two to three hours per week studying and completing assignments. For a 3-credit-hour class, students should prepare to allocate approximately six to nine hours per week outside of class in a 16-week session OR approximately twelve to eighteen hours in an 8-week session. Online/Hybrid students should expect to spend at least as much time in this course as in the traditional, face-to-face class.

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Speeches 20 %
  - Logo Presentation- 50 pts
  - Personality Assessment- 50 pts
  - Chapter Presentation- 100 pts
- Journals 30 %
  - Journals (10) -30 pts each 300 pts
- Tests 20 %
  - Test 1- 100 pts

- Test 2- 100 pts
- Participation 10 %
  - Participation - 100 pts
- Theory Speech (Common Assignment) 20 %
  - Theory Presentation- 200 pts

**GRADE SCALE**

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

LIT does not use +/- grading scales

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students found to be committing academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or collusion) may receive disciplinary action. Students need to familiarize themselves with the institution’s Academic Dishonesty Policy available in the Student Catalog & Handbook at <http://catalog.lit.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=80#academic-dishonesty>.

Academic Dishonesty (Cheating, plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated. On the first offense, you will fail the assignment. On the second offense, you will fail the class.

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc. can be online at <https://lit.edu/online-learning/online-learning-minimum-computer-requirements>. A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of online technology and resources.

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. LIT provides reasonable accommodations as defined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to students with a diagnosed disability. The Special Populations Office is located in the Eagles’ Nest Room 129 and helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, as well as promoting awareness among all members of the Lamar Institute of Technology community. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409)-951-5708 or email [specialpopulations@lit.edu](mailto:specialpopulations@lit.edu). You may also visit the online resource at [Special Populations - Lamar Institute of Technology \(lit.edu\)](#).

## 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). Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE STATEMENT

Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT) recognizes the recent advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI), such as ChatGPT, have changed the landscape of many career disciplines and will impact many students in and out of the classroom. To prepare students for their selected careers, LIT desires to guide students in the ethical use of these technologies and incorporate AI into classroom instruction and assignments appropriately. Appropriate use of these technologies is at the discretion of the instructor. Students are reminded that all submitted work must be their own original work unless otherwise specified. Students should contact their instructor with any questions as to the acceptable use of AI/ChatGPT in their courses

## 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 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.

## COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates	Due Date
<b>Week 1</b> <b>Aug. 26-30</b>	1. Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus 2. Course Icebreakers 3. Read Chapter 1 Human Communication 4. Review Logo Speech Assignment	Sept 1 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Syllabus Quiz</b> <b>Icebreakers</b>
<b>Week 2</b> <b>Sept 2-6</b>	1. Read Chapter 2 Interpersonal Overview 2. Read Chapter 3 Intrapersonal Communication <b>Labor Day – Monday Sept 2</b>	Sept 8 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 1</b> Logo speech PPT
<b>Week 3</b> <b>Sept 9-13</b>	<b>Logo Presentations</b>	Sept 15 by 11:59 PM
		Points of Connection Feedback
<b>Week 4</b> <b>Sept 16-20</b>	1. Read Chapter 4 Verbal Elements of Com 2. Read Chapter 5 Nonverbal Com <b>Half Day- Friday Sept 20th</b>	Sept 22 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 2</b>

<b>Week 5</b> <b>Sept 23-27</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Myers Briggs &amp; MBTI Assessment</li> <li>2. Review Assessment Gallery Walk Guidelines</li> <li>3. Conduct Personality Research</li> <li>4. Prepare for Gallery Walk</li> </ol>	Sept 29 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 3</b> <b>Personality Assessment</b>
<b>Week 6</b> <b>Sept 30-4</b>	<b>MBTI Assessment Presentations:</b> Gallery Walk	Oct 6 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 4</b> Points of Connection Feedback
<b>Week 7</b> <b>Oct 7-11</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Chapter 6 Cultural Factors</li> <li>2. Read Chapter 7 Talking &amp; Listening</li> <li>3. Review Chapter Presentation Guidelines</li> </ol> Teacher Workday- Thurs Oct 10 <sup>th</sup> Holiday- Fri Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 13 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 5</b> Select Chapters (Discussion Board)
<b>Week 8</b> <b>Oct 14-18</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Chapter 8 Building &amp; Maintaining</li> <li>2. Begin working with Chapter Presentations</li> </ol> Holiday- Mon Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> Teacher Workday- Tues Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 20 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>Week 9</b> <b>Oct 21-25</b>	<b>Chapter Presentations</b>	Oct 27 by 11:59 PM
		Post Final PPT to discussion board
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Oct 28-1</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Chapters 9 Conflict and 14 Dark Side</li> <li>2. Review Guidelines for Theory Presentations</li> </ol>	Nov 3 by 11:59 PM
		Select your Theory on the discussion board. <b>Journal 6</b>
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Nov 4-8</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Chapters 10 Friendships and 11 Family &amp; Marriage</li> </ol>	Nov 10 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 7</b>
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov 11-15</b>	<b>Theory Presentation</b>	Nov 17 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 8</b>
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Nov 18-22</b>	<b>Theory Presentation</b>	Nov 24 by 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 9</b>
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Nov 25-29</b>	Thanksgiving Break	
<b>Week 15</b> <b>Dec 2-6</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Read Chapters 12 Computer Mediated &amp; 13 Work Relationships</li> </ol> Last class day Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 8 11:59 PM
		<b>Journal 10</b>
<b>Final</b> <b>Dec 9-13</b>	<b>Exam 2</b> will open on Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> and be due by Dec 11 at 11:59 p.m. Grades due 13 <sup>th</sup> by Noon	Dec 11 11:59 PM
		<b>Exam 2</b>

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- Blackboard – You all have an LIT Blackboard account that you should check 3-4 times per week, at minimum. In addition to finding assignment directions, PowerPoint files, grades, etc, you will also turn in some of your assignments on Blackboard.
- LIT Email – You should check your LIT email daily.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

- Respectful participation in class discussions is expected. At times, students may have differing viewpoints from those of their classmates. Disagreements lead to critical thinking, scholarly debates, and learning, however, disrespect for the opinions of others will not be tolerated.
- Sleeping is not allowed in class. If a student is caught sleeping in class, there will be a warning (to be discussed in class), after that there will be a consequence which may include an essay test.
- Food will be allowed in class if it does not interrupt class instruction. Please clean up after yourself. \*\*\*Do not leave my class to pick up Door Dash.
- Habitual tardiness exhibits a lack of consideration for others because it is disruptive, therefore students will receive one absence after three tardies, and this process will be repeated for every three late appearances to class. Being tardy on day of an exam may result in a student not being allowed to take the exam.
- You are expected to take care of restroom needs before class. If you must go in the middle of class, just go, however, regularly getting up to leave in the middle of class will result in you being counted absent.
- Cellphone usage during class instruction or class work will not be tolerated. If cellphone usage is observed, there will be a warning. After that, there will be a consequence which may include an essay test.
- It is my policy that I do not accept late work. That being said, I know that there are sometimes unforeseen circumstances that arise where exceptions should be made. Please contact me if something happens, so that arrangements can be made. **THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR HABITUALLY TURNING IN ASSIGNMENTS LATE.**
- Assignments will be graded within one week of submission.
- Do not drop the course without talking to me first. I may offer extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. I also may be able to offer additional resources to help with areas of concern. Students have dropped in the past when there is a good chance that they would not fail.
- If a student does not log into Blackboard or stops turning in assignments, they are not automatically dropped. Please make sure that you take the appropriate measures to drop the class. Below are the drop dates for the course:

Last Day to Drop Without Penalty: September 27, 2024

Last Day to Drop With Penalty: November 1, 2024

- I prefer emails from your LIT Account. There is sometimes a delay with using Blackboard Messenger.
- I check all written assignments for AI generated content. I reserve the right to fail an assignment if I find it has been either plagiarized or AI generated. This is especially true on

discussion posts. I am more interested that you understand the material. You can express this using your own words through discussion posts.

- Student assignments are accepted solely on Blackboard. Work will not be accepted via email or in person. It is the student's responsibility to learn to use Blackboard appropriately. Blackboard training is offered to students at no cost.
- No late work is accepted under any circumstances.
- Speech requirements are listed below. Failure to comply with all requirements on a speech assignment will result in a zero grade for that speech.

Students must submit:

- Full-sentence/preparation outline (not required for logo speech)
- Works Cited page (not required for logo speech)
- Visual aid (Prezi, Canva, Keynote)
- Speech video

Student speech videos must clearly show the front of the student throughout the entire speech. Failure to do so will result in a zero.

- The audience must be a minimum of 5 adults (18 years or older). Failure to have at least 3 adult audience members will result in a zero.
- Videos must be unedited. Edited videos will result in a zero.
- Videos must be correctly uploaded to YouTube with an "unlisted" or "public" privacy setting. If you set it to "private," I will not be able to view it and therefore it is as if you didn't turn it in.
- Videos must be focused (not blurry, fuzzy, etc.) and must not have background noise such as babies, children, pets, TVs, cell phones, etc.
- Students are expected to dress appropriately for speeches. Sometimes in the online course people get "too comfortable" when speaking in their own homes. Wearing of ball caps, inappropriate clothing or chewing gum, not wearing shoes, etc. during a speech will result in a letter grade penalty. Remember this course is college course and you are giving professional/formal presentations. Think about the impression your dress might make on your audience.
- You are expected to WATCH your videos. Watch them before you post to YouTube. Ask yourself "Is this my best work?" If not, you may have to record again. Do not let the first 'take' be the only time you do your speech. You should practice many times before you ever bring in the audience and the camera.
- Speeches that are read will be penalized up to 2 letter grades per speech. The goal of this class is to speak extemporaneously; well-researched, well-rehearsed, effective use of notecards, and overall well-prepared speeches are the expectation. Reading is not effective or acceptable.
- Speeches will receive a penalty if they are not in the assigned time limit. The penalty is 1 point per 5-second increment, over or under time.

- Participation grade

Participation is worth 100 points. It's based on the activities we complete in class. To receive points, you must actively take part in the discussions, games, quizzes, and written assignments. If you are absent these points cannot be made up.

- Journal guidelines

Journal entry assignments are designed to show that you understand the relationship between chapter content and real-world communication situations. Entries should be 300 to 500 words in length. When writing entries, you may be as personal as you choose. Never feel that you have to share more than you are comfortable sharing. Journal entries are due on the dates posted on the calendar. Late journals are not accepted. Each entry is graded on content, relationship to the concept in the journal prompt, development and completion of thoughts in writing, proper use of grammar/capitalization/spelling, and the guidelines above.

- Syllabus agreement

Upon completion of reading the Syllabus, you're required to complete the syllabus quiz online by August 30, 2024, you'll earn 10 points.