

Interpersonal Communication (SPCH 1318)



Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

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.

Required Textbook and Materials

1. Our textbook for SPCH 1318 is *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 <https://milneopentextbooks.org/interpersonal-communication-a-mindful-approach-to-relationships/> as a PDF. You can also view and download the PDF attachment on Blackboard.
2. 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
3. 2 #882-E Scantrons and a #2 pencil
4. Dedicated notebook for SPCH 1318 journal or use of an electronic journal
5. Must have the ability to upload/print documents for class
6. 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.

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2. **Communication Skills:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
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

Chapter 1: Introduction to Human Communication

- 1.1 Why Study Communication?
- 1.2 Basic Principles of Human
- 1.3 Communication Competence
- 1.4 Types of Human Communication
- 1.5 Understanding Mindful Communication

Chapter 2: Overview of Interpersonal Communication

- 2.1 Purposes of Interpersonal Communication
- 2.2 Elements of Interpersonal Communication
- 2.3 Perception Process
- 2.4 Models of Interpersonal Communication
- 2.5 Interpersonal Communication Skills

Chapter 3: Intrapersonal Communication

- 3.1 Who Are You?
- 3.2 Personality and Perception in Intrapersonal Communication
- 3.3 Communication & Relational Dispositions
- Communication Dispositions

Chapter 4: Verbal Elements of Communication

- 4.1 How Words Work
- 4.2 Functions of Language
- 4.3 The Impact of Language
- 4.4 Types of Language
- 4.5 Improving Verbal Communication

Chapter 5: Nonverbal Communication

- 5.1 Importance of Nonverbal Communication in Interaction
- 5.2 Categories of Nonverbal Communication
- 5.3 Improving your Nonverbal Skills

Chapter 6: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication

- 6.1 What is Culture?
- 6.2 The Function of Culture
- 6.3 Cultural Characteristics and Communication
- 6.4 Improving Intercultural Communication Skills

Chapter 7: Talking and Listening

- 7.1 The Importance of Everyday Conversations
- 7.2 Sharing Personal Information
- 7.3 Listening
- 7.4 Listening Responses

Chapter 8: Building and Maintaining Relationships

- 8.1 The Nature of Relationships
- 8.2 Relationship Formation
- 8.3 Stages of Relationships
- 8.4 Communication in Relationships

Chapter 9: Conflict in Relationships

- 9.1 Understanding Conflict
- 9.2 Emotions and Feelings
- 9.3 Power and Influence
- 9.4 Conflict Management Strategies

Chapter 10: Friendship Relationships

- 10.1 Friendship Relationships
- 10.2 Stages and Types of Friendships

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10.3 Friendships in Different Contexts

Chapter 11: Family & Marriage Relationships

- 11.1 Family Relationships
- 11.2 Family Changes.
- 11.3 Sibling Types
- 11.4 Marriage Relationships

Chapter 12: Interpersonal Communication in Mediated Contexts

- 12.1 Technology and Communication
- 12.2 The CMC Process
- 12.3 Taking the Self Online
- 12.4 Theories of Computer-Mediated Communication

Chapter 13: Interpersonal Relationships at Work

- 13.1 The Requirements of Professionalism
- 13.2 Leader-Follower Relationships
- 13.3 Coworker (Peer Relationships)
- 13.4 Romantic Relationships at Work
- 13.5 Problematic Workplace Relationships

Chapter 14: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

- 14.1 Destructive Relationship Behaviors
- 14.2 The Dark Side of Relationships: Aggression

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	22.5 %
Journals	25 %
Tests	25%
Homework/Participation	12.5%
Theory Group Speech (Common Assignment)	15%

Course Policies

1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children or pets to class.
4. 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.
5. If you wish to drop a course, the student is responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an 'F' in the course.
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:

https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support/Browser_Checker 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 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)839-2018. You may also visit the online resource at <https://www.lit.edu/student-success/special-populations>

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 or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.



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

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and consider taking the recommended actions. Starfish is used to help you be a successful student at LIT.