



SPCH 1318 – Interpersonal Communication
Summer III 2024
June 3-August 16
Course Syllabus

Instructor contact information

Instructor	Kristyn Hunt Cathey, APR
Email	khcathey@lit.edu
Office Location	VIRTUAL
Office Hours Summer 2024	Monday-Thursday, 5-7 p.m. (excluding holidays and weekends)

Course Requirements

1. Blackboard – You should check your Blackboard account 3-4 times a week.
2. LIT Email – You should check your LIT email regularly.

CREDIT

3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture, 0 hours lab)

Mode of Instruction

Virtual

PREREQUISITE/CO-REQUISITE

None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces the practices and principles of interpersonal communication in both dyadic and group settings. Emphasis is on the communication process; issues addressed include perception, listening, self-disclosure, speech apprehension, ethics, non-verbal communication, conflict, power, and dysfunctional communication.

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).

Required Textbook and Materials

- *Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships*
 - Book link and workbook will be provided by instructor at no cost
- 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
- We will be using Blackboard for this course

ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a 100% online course. Students must remain active in the course in order to retain the knowledge and pass the class.

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 participating in 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	30%
Journals	20%
Final Comprehensive Exam	20%
Common Assignment	30%

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>.

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

Additional Course Policies/Information

- 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.
 - With the exception of speeches, 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.
- a. Students must submit:
 - i. Full-sentence/preparation outline (not required for logo speech)
 - ii. Works Cited page (not required for logo speech)
 - iii. Visual aid
 - iv. Speech video
 - b. Students are expected to dress appropriately for speeches. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.

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.

Also, note that there are 14 chapters in the book, but only eight journals. Use the course calendar on page four (4) below to help you keep track.

Grade Sheet (This is for you to use to keep up with your grade in the class.)

Assignment	Possible Points	Points Earned
Logo Speech	100	
Chapter Presentation	100	
Group Presentation	100	
Journal #1	100	
Journal #2	100	
Journal #3	100	
Journal #4	100	
Journal #5	100	
Journal #6	100	
Journal #7	100	
Journal #8	100	
Final Comprehensive Exam	100	
Extra Credit		

Class Schedule (Subject to change. See Blackboard announcements for current info.)

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates
Week 1 June 3-7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus & Syllabus Addendum • Weekly Topic: Intro to Human Communication • Read Chapter 1 • Journal 1 due by end of the day Sunday • Weekly Topic: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication • Read Chapter 6 • Journal 2 due by the end of the day Sunday
Week 2 June 10-14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Topic: Intrapersonal Communication • Read Chapter 3 • Journal 3 due by the end of the day Sunday • Weekly Topic: Talking and Listening • Read Chapter 7 • Journal 4 due by the end of the day Sunday • Work on your logo speech
Week 3 June 17-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Topic: Nonverbal Communications • Journal 5 due by the end of the day Sunday • Logo speech due by EOD on Sunday
Week 4 June 24-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Topic: Nonverbal Communications • Begin working with your group on final group presentation • Read Chapter 5 • Journal 6 due by the end of the day on Sunday • Select a chapter for your chapter presentation speech
Week 5 July 1-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY BREAK!!
Week 6 July 8-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly Topic: Building & Maintaining Relationships • Read Chapter 8 • Journal 7 due by the end of the day Sunday • Weekly Topic: Relational Conflict & Dark Side of Communication • Read Chapters 9 and 14 • Journal 8 due by the end of the day Sunday
Week 7 July 15-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter presentation due by the end of the day • Prepare for final exam and group presentation
Week 8 July 22-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for group presentation

Week 9 July 29- August 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Presentations due by the end of the day on Sunday •
Week 10 August 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for final exam
Week 11 August 12- 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final exam opens on Sunday and closes by the end of the day on Friday