

Interpersonal Communication
COMM 20001 Call# 11775 Section 003
Tuesday/Thursday 7:00-8:15 Fall 2001

Instructor: Thomas Wagner
Office: MSP D207
Office Hours: TR 4:00-5:30 or by appointment
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Required Texts:

Devito, J. A. (2001). The interpersonal communication book (9th ed.). New York: Longman.

Rubin, R. B., & Nevins, R. J. (1988). Road trip. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press.

Objectives:

- (1) Develop conceptual understanding of interpersonal communication theory and research.
- (2) Think reflexively about communication situations and apply interpersonal communication theory to these situations.
- (3) Develop understanding and skill of applied interpersonal communication competencies in various contexts, situations, and settings.

Graded Assignments

Written Work: Written work will be graded rigorously. You should strive to develop quality analysis and application, creativity in examples, and structure and clarity in your writing. Grammar and spelling are important too, so please proofread carefully. The majority of the weight in grading will be placed on the clarity, focus, mechanics, and the elaboration/development of writing. All written work must be 12 point font, typed, and double-spaced. Make use of the Writing Center, friends, and a good writing reference (APA 5th ed.).

Readings: To do well in this course, you must keep pace with the assigned readings. Students who do the readings when assigned get more from the lectures, participate more effectively, and usually do better on exams. You should be prepared to ask and answer questions, provide thoughtful commentary, and engage in meaningful discussions of assigned readings by the due dates listed on the schedule. Please ask questions when you feel lost or confused.

Exams: There will be three objective, non-comprehensive tests given. Test questions may be multiple choice, true/false, fill-in, or short answer. A make-up test will be given only in the case of an extreme emergency.

Communication Essays: You will write essays linking your own experiences with the theories and concepts covered in the course. The writing of these essays should facilitate your ability to think reflexively about interpersonal communication theories. Terms and concepts should be cited and referred to often. There is a one and a quarter page minimum and a two-page maximum for each essay. Questions will be provided several weeks before each essay is due.

Analytical Paper: Read the book, "Road Trip." Upon completion of the book, write a 1200-1500-word analytical paper. Compare the characters interpersonal efforts in various settings and situations to your own (approximately 1 comparison per page). Use the theories and concepts covered in this course to explicate your understanding of examples. Specific examples from the book should be used in your analysis. Let me say that again: your analysis. This is an individual assignment.

Class Activities/Homework: Three times during the semester you will be asked to do a homework assignment and present your work in front of the class. These will stress creativity. The first assignment will be worth 3% of your final grade and is announced in the class schedule. The remaining two will each be worth 1% of your final grade and will be announced at least one class prior to the due date.

Grading: You are responsible for keeping all graded paperwork in the event of an inconsistency between my records and yours. Your final course grade will be computed as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Exams (3) | 60% |
| Communication Essays (4) | 20% |
| Paper (1) | 15% |
| Class Activities/Homework (3) | 5% |

Grading Scale:

100-90: **A** 89-80: **B** 79-70: **C** 69-60: **D** Below 60: **F**

Course Policies

Professionalism: Please make every effort to respect your fellow classmates' right to learn. One of my highest priorities in the classroom is to facilitate an environment where everyone has the opportunity to learn. Please don't engage in activities that interfere with other students' learning (don't bring food, don't do work from other courses, etc.)

This course should make you think, develop skills, and, frankly, be a lot of fun but you have to meet it at least half way. You must do the readings, think about the concepts and theories, and listen carefully to other student's perspectives if you want to maximize your learning.

Attendance/Participation Policy: We need you in class! Your questions, contributions to discussions, and participation in group activities are crucial to your fellow classmates' learning. Students are allowed three unexcused absences and three excused absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in 5% off your final grade. Only in the case of an extreme emergency, for which documentation is required, will an absence be excused. According to the University Digest of Rules and Regulations, such circumstances include "...documented illness, death in the immediate family, religious observance, academic field trips, participation in an approved concert or athletic event, or direct participation in university disciplinary hearings". It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in these situations. Emergencies do not include car trouble, work conflicts, family or relationship crises, or non-school related travel plans. Should those or other unexcused situations arise, you have three class meetings that you can miss without affecting your grade. If you choose to use these days, do so wisely!

Cheating and Plagiarism: University standards apply with regard to plagiarism and cheating. Please review the policy in your student handbook if you have any questions. Think twice before resorting to plagiarism or cheating because both are wrong and because students are caught regularly in both of these dishonest activities. Students who plagiarize any part of their work or cheat on an exam will fail the assignment/exam, may fail this course, and possibly have academic sanctions placed upon them from the university.

Late Work: Late work is not accepted. Only in the case of an extreme emergency, for which documentation is required, will late work be accepted. This also includes missing exams. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor in these situations.

Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which accommodations is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Services Center (330) 672-3391.

Course Registration: It is the policy of Kent State University that students are not permitted to attend classes for which they are not officially enrolled. It is the student's responsibility to ensure proper enrollment of classes. Students should review their official class schedule during the first two weeks of the semester to ensure proper enrollment. Errors should be corrected by Friday of the second week of classes. If registration errors are not corrected, and students continue to attend and participate in classes for which they are not formally enrolled, they will not receive grades for those courses at the conclusion of the semester.

Class Calendar Tentative Schedule

| | <u>Lecture</u> | <u>Text/Assignment Due</u> |
|---|---|--|
| <u>Week 1</u> | | |
| <i><u>Interpersonal Communication Preliminaries</u></i> | | |
| 8/28 | Introduction to Course, Transactional Model, Attribution Theory | |
| 8/30 | Axioms | Chapter 1&2 |
| <u>Week 2</u> | | |
| 9/4 | Culture | Chapter 3 Models in Action Due |
| 9/6 | The Self | Chapter 4 |
| <u>Week 3</u> | | |
| 9/11 | Apprehension & Assertiveness | Chapter 5 |
| 9/13 | Perception | Chapter 6 |
| <u>Week 4</u> | | |
| 9/18 | Listening | Chapter 7 Comm Essay 1 Due |
| 9/20 | Effectiveness, Exam Review | Chapter 8 |
| <u>Week 5</u> | | |
| 9/25 | Exam 1 | |
| <i><u>Messages: Verbal and Nonverbal</u></i> | | |
| 9/27 | Universals of Verbal and Nonverbal Messages | Chapter 9 |
| <u>Week 6</u> | | |
| 10/2 | Verbal Messages | Chapter 10 |
| 10/4 | Verbal Barriers | Chapter 11 |
| <u>Week 7</u> | | |
| 10/9 | Nonverbals: Body & Sound | Chapter 12 |
| 10/11 | Nonverbal Messages: Space and Time | Chapter 13 Comm Essay 2 Due |
| <u>Week 8</u> | | |
| 10/16 | Messages and Conversation/ Exam Review | Chapter 14 |
| 10/18 | Exam 2 | |

| | <u>Lecture</u> | <u>Text/Assignment Due</u> |
|---|---|---|
| <u>Messages: Verbal and Nonverbal</u> | | |
| <u>Week 9</u> | | |
| 10/23 | Universals of Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 15 |
| 10/25 | Relationship Development and Deterioration | Chapter 16 |
| <u>Week 10</u> | | |
| 10/30 | Relationship Maintenance and Repair | Chapter 17 Comm Essay 3 Due |
| 11/1 | No Class | |
| <u>Week 11</u> | | |
| 11/6 | NCA Trip Report, Power in Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 18 |
| 11/8 | Power in Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 18 |
| <u>Week 12</u> | | |
| 11/13 | Conflict in Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 19 |
| 11/15 | Friends and Lovers | Chapter 20 |
| <u>Week 13</u> | | |
| 11/20 | Road Trip Discussion | Chapter 20 Road Trip Analytical Paper Due |
| 11/22 | No Class 🎉 Thanksgiving Break | |
| <u>Week 14</u> | | |
| 11/27 | Primary and Family Relationships | Chapter 21 |
| 11/29 | Relationships in the Workplace | Chapter 22 Comm Essay 4 Due |
| <u>Week 15</u> | | |
| 12/4 | Relationships in the Workplace | Chapter 22 |
| 12/6 | Review for Final | Review For Final |
| <u>Week 16</u> | | |
| FINAL EXAM Tuesday December 11 8:15-10:30 p.m. | | |