

Course Syllabus
Fall 2001
Interpersonal Communication (Comm20001/002)
MWF 11:00-11:50

Instructor: Robyn E. Parker, Ed.M.
Office: MSP D302A
Office hours: M, 12-1p.m.; T, 2-3 p.m.;
W, 12-1:30 p.m.; R, 9-10:30 a.m.

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Required Texts: DeVito, J. (1998). The interpersonal communication book. (9th Ed.).
New York: Addison Wesley Longman.

Rubin, R. B. & Nevino, R. J. (1988). The road trip. Prospect Heights, IL:
Waveland.

Course Description: This course is designed to increase your understanding of the interpersonal communication process by acquainting you with existing theory and research. Additionally the course is designed to facilitate skills improvement through experience.

Course Objectives:

- how
Communication.
1. Facilitate both increased knowledge of “self” and understanding of self affects and is affected by Interpersonal Communication.
 2. Explore the influence of culture in interpersonal encounters.
 3. Experiment with nonverbal communication and research how it functions in a variety of Interpersonal Communication contexts.
 4. Acquaint you with relationship development stages and explore the role of power and conflict within Interpersonal relationships.
 5. Introduce you to the research process as it relates to Interpersonal Communication.

Course Requirements:

1. In-class Learning Activities. The experiential design of this course requires regular attendance, out-of-class preparation and in-class active participation. Our classroom learning environment is co-created by all of us, together. There is no way to "make-up" for missed in-class activities. The learning opportunity is lost. Therefore, attendance will be taken at each session, and in-class work will be collected and evaluated.

2. Out-of-class Assignments. You will receive "homework" assignments at least once per week. Assignments range from mini-content exploration papers to conducting field and web-based research. One virtue of this course is the immediate applicability of its content to your daily life. Assignments will be designed to help you make those connections.
3. Interpersonal Communication Theory Mini-paper. You will be asked to research an interpersonal communication theory of your choice, subject to instructor approval. In this paper you will be asked to explicate the theory and apply it. The paper is limited to five, high-quality pages. You will receive separate instructions for this challenging assignment.
4. Exams. There will be two tests and a cumulative final examination. All course material (text readings, in class discussions, weekly assignments) is "testable".

Evaluation:

3 Exams	1 = 100, 2 = 100, 3 = 200 pts.	40% of course grade
Weekly assignments	300 points	30% of course grade
Theory mini-paper	150 points	15% of course grade
In-class learning activities	150 points	15% of course grade

Course Policies:

Regarding excused absences. Excused absences will not negatively affect your final course grade. A reasonable absence is one due to illness, travel for athletics, religious observance, or a field trip/academic conference. You must be able to document the legitimacy of the absence before it will be considered excused. An out-of-class assignment will be given to approximate the in-class learning experience for excused absences only. You have 1 week from the date of absence to produce required documentation and have your absence excused. Once excused, it is your responsibility to see the instructor for your make-up assignment.

Regarding grading: Grades are an assessment of your mastery of the subject matter. The more you put into the course, the more you'll get out of it in terms of grades and life experience. Don't short change yourself by expecting higher grades than you've earned. Commit to putting in the effort. Scale:

- A = Earn 90 – 100 percent of course points
- B = Earn 80 – 89 percent of course points
- C = Earn 70-79 percent of course points
- D = Earn 60-69 percent of course points
- F = Fewer than 60 percent of course points

Regarding Students with Disabilities: In accordance with University policy, if you have 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 an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Student Services Center (330) 672-3391.

Student Conduct. Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct as outlined in the University Policy Register available on-line (<http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/archive.asp?ChapterID=5>). Pay particular attention to policy number 3342-3-07 regarding cheating and plagiarism (search word cheating).

Regarding the Course Outline. The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the course outline as dictated by student learning needs. If changes to examination dates need to be made, students will receive the change in writing at least two weeks prior to the scheduled date. Student reading should be completed before the first class session in which the unit/chapter will be discussed.

Proposed Course Outline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
8/27	Course Introduction	
8/29	Interpersonal Communication Process	Unit 1, DeVito
8/31	Axioms of Interpersonal Communication	Unit 2, DeVito
9/3	No class (Labor Day)	
9/5	Interpersonal Relationships/Communication Ethics	
9/7	Culture	Unit 3, DeVito
9/10	Theories of Culture and Communication	
9/12	Practice	
9/14	Self-Concept	Unit 4, DeVito
9/17	Self Esteem	
9/19	Self Disclosure	
9/20	Apprehension and Assertiveness	Unit 5, DeVito
9/24	Practice	
9/26	Perception	Unit 6, DeVito
9/28	Attributions and Perception Checking	
10/1	Practice	
10/5	Interpersonal relationships	Unit 15, DeVito
10/8	Relationship development	Unit 16, DeVito
10/10	Theory application	
10/12	Revisiting interpersonal processes, self-concept, & perception	Chapters 1-5 Road Trip
10/15	Exam review	
10/17	Exam 1	
10/19	Listening	Unit 7, DeVito
10/22	Listening assessment	
10/24	Listening practice	
10/26	Interpersonal Communication effectiveness	Unit 8, DeVito
10/29	Interaction management	
10/31	Verbal and non-verbal messages	Unit 9, DeVito
11/2	NCA, no class; required outside assignment	
11/5	Words matter, facts and inferences, stereotyping	Units 10-11, DeVito
11/7	Non-verbal communication	Unit 12, DeVito
11/9	Use of space and time	Unit 13, DeVito
11/12	No class (Veteran's Day)	
11/14	Revisiting listening, interpersonal effectiveness, & non-verbal communication	Chapters 6-10 Road Trip
11/16	Exam	
11/19	Conversations	Unit 14, DeVito
11/21	In-class conversations	
11/23	No class (Columbus Day observed—Thanksgiving break)	
11/26	Power in relationships	Unit 18, DeVito

11/28	fair and unfair use of power	
11/30	Conflict in relationships Mini-paper due	Unit 19, DeVito
12/3	Working through conflict	
12/5	Revisiting nonverbal communication, power and conflict	Chapters 11-15 Road Trip
12/7	Exam review (last day of class) Final exam per University schedule	