SPCH 1318-9M2

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Online

LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Your Instructor's Contact Information

Instructor:	Carolyn Cross, Ph.D.	Office Phone:	832-246-0000 Ext: 5553103
Office Location:	Virtual Office	**Student Success Hours:** (Times when professor is available to answer questions)	Fridays 8am-3pm
E-mail:	crossc@lit.edu		

Department (Administration) Contact Information

Department Chair	Dr. Collins Department Chair Mcollins3@lit.edu

Course Information

Course Title:	Interpersonal Communication	Term and Year:	Fall 2025
Course Subject:	Speech	Class Days and Times:	Online
Course Number and Section:	1318	Class Room Location:	Virtual-Blackboard
Credit Hours:	3	CEU's (if linked w/ credit course) NOTE: divide the credit contact hours by 10 to get the Continuing Education Units.	
Lecture Hours:	3	Lab Hours:	
External Hours:		Total Contact Hours: (All hrs. x 16)	

Prerequisites:

Co-requisites:

Required Book(s):
- *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](#)

Required Materials(s): 3X5 Notecards, computer or laptop, access to reliable internet, access to Blackboard/

Required Technology: Students will be expected to utilize computer technology while enrolled in classes, certificates, and/or degree programs within LIT. You will need internet access and a computer (not a phone or tablet) to complete assignments. A webcam is also necessary for certain tasks. Please note that Chromebooks are not permitted for tests as they cannot run the Lockdown browser.

Catalog 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:
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 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 understanding of visual communication as it pertains to communication competence.

Core Curriculum Statement:
This is a class in the Core Curriculum as administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. This course is designed to provide instruction in the following Core Objective(s):
- Critical Thinking Skills (CT) – creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- Communication Skills (COM) – effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
- Empirical & Quantitative Skills (EQS) – manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.
- Teamwork (TW) – ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose of goal.
- Social Responsibility (SR) – intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

- Personal Responsibility (PR) – ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Instructor Guidelines and Procedures

Attendance:
It is critical to remember that you have signed up to complete a traditional 16-week semester in a completely online format. This means you will be expected to take ownership of your learning experiences by being an active learner and participant by logging in regularly throughout the week to engage in course learning objectives. You can expect a rigorous schedule. Self-motivation, participation, commitment, and discipline on your part are a must. It should also be noted that students who wish to withdraw from this course must initiate this process.

For successful navigation of this course, it is best to avoid last-minute submissions. Instead, plan in advance and do your best to avoid inevitable last-minute technology issues. Late work and make-up exams are not accepted; no excuses. Extreme extenuating circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and decisions will be made at the instructor's discretion.

Assignments:
All course assignments will be accessible within the Blackboard (BB) classroom under the Content menu, organized by the appropriate Week/Module. This course is not self-paced; assignments must be completed according to the designated weekly schedule.

Each module will open at the beginning of the instructional week and close at the end of that week. The academic week begins on Monday at 12:00 a.m. (Day 1) and ends on Sunday at 11:59 p.m. (Day 7).

Detailed instructions will accompany each assignment, including guidelines, requirements, submission methods, and due dates. Students are expected to provide thoughtful and original responses that adhere to both assignment-specific instructions and standards of academic writing. Proper grammar, spelling, and clarity of expression in the English language are required at all times.

All assignments must be submitted in PDF format unless otherwise specified. Submissions in any other format will receive a grade of zero, and resubmissions will not be accepted.

Drop Policy:

Students are responsible for initiating and completing the official drop or withdrawal process by the published deadline listed in the Academic Calendar. Failure to attend class does not constitute a withdrawal. If a student ceases attending without completing the formal drop process, a final grade of "F" will be assigned for the course.

Student Workload Expectation

For every hour spent in class (or per unit of credit), students should plan to dedicate a minimum of two to three hours per week to studying, completing assignments, and preparing for class. For a 3-credit-hour course, this equates to approximately six to nine hours per week of additional work during a 16-week session, or twelve to eighteen hours per week in an 8-week session.

Students enrolled in online or hybrid courses should anticipate investing at least the same amount of time as required in a traditional face-to-face class, with the added responsibility of managing their learning schedule proactively.

Fairness Policy:

This course is committed to maintaining an equitable and respectful learning environment for all students. Every student will be held to the same academic and behavioral standards, and no exceptions will be made for individuals who are not extended to the entire class. Assignment deadlines apply equally to all students, with extensions granted only in documented cases of emergency and with prior approval from the instructor. Grading will be conducted using the criteria outlined in the syllabus or assignment rubrics, ensuring that evaluations reflect the quality of the work submitted rather than personal circumstances or effort alone. All students are expected to participate actively in class activities and discussions in a manner that is respectful and collaborative. Finally, students are required to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity by submitting their own original work. Any form of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism or cheating, will be addressed in accordance with institutional policy. By following these principles, this course will provide a fair environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed through merit, effort, and engagement.

Communication:

I respond to all emails. If I don't respond, I didn't get it. I expect you to correspond with me and your peers using your best manners. In turn, you can expect me to return emails within 48 hours M-F, turn back assignments in a timely manner, give you feedback along with grades, and reciprocate that same respect in my communication.

When emailing me, please address me as Dr. Cross and adhere to the guidelines below. Emails that do not meet the guidelines below may be returned to the student for a second attempt.

- Use a clear subject line
- Use a greeting & signature
- Use standard proper punctuation, spelling & grammar
- Do you part in solving what you need to solve
- Remember expectations of respect

Make sure you let me know what class you are in and what assignment you are referring to.

Grade Determination:

Your grade will be determined by the following	Details	Percent of Final Grade Average
Content Assignments	Assignments related to chapter readings	40%
Exams	Midterm & Final	30%
Dear Abby Project	Final Project	20%
Interpersoal Theory Paper	Theory Application Paper	10%
Total		100%

Letter Grade Assignment:

The chart given below explains how the final grades will be computed.

Letter Grade	Final Average in Percent
A	90% and above
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

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Course Calendar
Tentative

Week	Weekly Objectives
Week 1	Course Orientation & Introductions
Week 2	Ch1: Intro to Human Communication
Week 3	Ch2: Overview of Interpersonal Communication
Week 4	Ch3: Intrapersonal Communication
Week 5	Ch4: Verbal Elements of Communication
Week 5	Ch5: Nonverbal Communication
Week 7	Ch6: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication
Week 8	Ch7: Talking and Listening
Week 9	Ch8: Building and Maintaining Relationships
Week 10	Ch9: Conflict in Relationships
Week 11	Ch10: Friendship Relationships
Week 12	Ch11: Family & Marriage Relationships
Week 13	Ch12: Interpersonal Communication in Mediated Contexts
Week 14	Ch13: Interpersonal Relationships at Work
Week 15	Ch14: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication
Week 16	Final Exams

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. 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.

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.