SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication, Fall 2025 Sections 9S3

LAMAR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Dawn Britton
Email:	dakatz@lit.edu
Office Phone:	N/A
Office Location:	N/A
Office Hours:	By appointment via Zoom or phone

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

MODE OF INSTRUCTION
Online

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.

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

- 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.

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 coming to 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   20%
- Journals   30%
- Tests   30%
- Theory Group Speech (Common Assignment)   20%

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.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE. SEE ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR UPDATES.)

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates	Points
Week 1 Aug. 25-31	1. Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus and other materials. 2. Create YouTube Account 3. Read Chapters 1 & 2 4. Journal 1 Due	30 pts
Week 2 Sept. 1-7	1. Read Chapter 3 2. Journal 2 Due	30 pts
Week 3 Sept. 8-14	1. Read Chapter 4 2. Journal 3 Due 3. Begin working on Logo Speech, due next week.	30 pts
Week 4 Sept. 15-21	1. Logo Speech Due 2. Begin working on Personality Assessment, due next week.	50 pts
Week 5 Sept. 22-28	1. Read Chapter 5 2. Personality Assessment Due 3. Journal 4 Due	75 pts 30 pts
Week 6 Sept. 29-Oct. 5	1. Read Chapter 6 2. Journal 5 Due	30 pts
Week 7 Oct. 6-12	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Journal 6 Due	30 pts
Week 8 Oct. 13-19	1. Exam 1 Due	150 pts
Week 9 Oct. 20-26	1. Chapter Presentation Speech Due	75 pts
Week 10 Oct. 27-Nov. 2	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Journal 7 Due 3. Begin working with your group on final presentation	30 pts
Week 11 Nov. 3-9	1. Read Chapter 9 2. Journal 8 Due	30 pts

Week 12 Nov. 10-16	1. Read Chapters 10 & 11 2. Journal 9 Due	30 pts
Week 13 Nov. 17-23	1. Read Chapters 12 & 13 2. Journal 10 Due 3. Exam 2 Due	30 pts 150 pts
Week 14 Nov. 24-30	Enjoy Thanksgiving Break! Grateful for students like you!	
Week 15 Dec. 1-7	1. Final - Theory Group Speech Due	200 pts

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION

1. 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 course.

2. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence and/or AI enhanced tools may only be used in this course for specific purposes, per the instructor's guidelines because the use of AI could be in conflict with the course's learning objectives. AI is appropriate for rough drafts but not final drafts and for refining research terms but not as a source itself. It should not and cannot be used for Journals.

   I treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT and Github Copilot, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants. However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes). Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, I recommend the following practices:
   - Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
   - Do not have your assignment and the AI agent itself open on your device at the same time. Similar to above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge.

   These practices include avoiding using AI assistants that are directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also you should avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission. Deviating from this does not automatically qualify as academic misconduct;

however, following these heuristics essentially guarantees your collaboration will not cross the line into misconduct.

3. Generally, late work is not accepted. However, if you experience an extreme situation beyond your control (car crash, death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) please communicate with me ASAP and I will work with you. Exceptions to the late work policy are at the instructor's discretion and may be requested by a student at any time.

4. Speech requirements are listed below. Failure to comply with all requirements on a speech assignment will result in a zero grade for that speech. Students must submit:
   - Visual aid
   - Speech video
   Student speech videos must clearly show the front of the student throughout the entire speech. Failure to do so will result in a zero.
   - **The audience must be a minimum of 5 adults (18 years or older). Failure to have at least 3 adult audience members will result in a zero.**
   - Videos must be unedited. Edited videos will result in a zero.
   - **Videos must be correctly uploaded to YouTube with an "unlisted" or "public" privacy setting. If you set it to "private," I will not be able to view it and therefore it is as if you didn't turn it in.**
   - Videos must be focused (not blurry, fuzzy, etc.) and must not have background noise such as babies, children, pets, TVs, cell phones, etc.
   - Students are expected to dress appropriately for speeches. Sometimes in the online course people get "too comfortable" when speaking in their own homes. 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.
   - You are expected to WATCH your videos. Watch them before you post to YouTube and/or before you submit the link in Blackboard. Ask yourself "Is this my best work?" If not, you may have to record again. Do not let the first take be the only take. You should practice many times before you ever bring in the audience and/or the camera.
   - **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 my expectation. Reading is not effective and does not meet the course objectives.
   - 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.

5. 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 more chapters in the book than journal assignments. Use the course calendar to help you keep track each week.