

# Interpersonal Communication (SPCH 1318 – 9M1)

## CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture)

## 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).

## INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Casi Rekieta

Email: clrekieta@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409) 951-5726 (LIT)

Office Location: GEDS Department

Office Hours: Virtual meetings available by appoint. Please send an email to schedule an appointment.

Approved: C.L.R. 8.19.25



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## 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 on Blackboard.
- 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
- Dedicated notebook for SPCH 1318 journal or use of an electronic journal
- Must have the ability to upload/print documents for class.
- We will be using Blackboard for this course.
- Must have the ability to create PowerPoint presentations and youtube videos for speech presentations.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to check their LIT email every 24 hours during the week. Additionally, students are expected to access blackboard 4 to 5 times each week. Failure to do so will result in being marked absent”

## DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an “F” in the course.

## COURSE CALENDAR

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates	Points
<b>Week 1</b> 08/25 to 08/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus &amp; Syllabus Addendum</li><li>• Read Chapters 1 and 2</li><li>• Journal 1 due by 08/31 at 11:59 p.m.</li></ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 2</b> 09/01 to 09/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Chapter 3</li><li>• Journal 2 due by 09/07 at 11:59 p.m.</li></ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 3</b> 09/08 to 09/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Logo speech due by 09/14 at 11:59 p.m.</li></ul>	50 pts
<b>Week 4</b> 09/15 to 09/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Chapter 4</li><li>• Journal 3 due by 09/21 at 11:59 p.m.</li></ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 5</b> 09/22 to 09/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read Chapter 5</li><li>• Journal 4 due by 09/28 at 11:59 p.m.</li><li>• Personality Assessment due by Sept. 28th at 11:59 p.m.</li></ul>	30 pts 50 pts

<b>Week 6</b> 09/29 to 10/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 6</li> <li>• Journal 5 due by 10/05 at 11:59 p.m.</li> <li>• Select a chapter for your chapter presentation speech</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 7</b> 10/06 to 10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 7</li> <li>• Journal 6 due by 10/12 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 8</b> 10/13 to 10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 1 due by 10/19 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	150 pts
<b>Week 9</b> 10/20 to 10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter presentation speech due by 10/26 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	100 pts
<b>Week 10</b> 10/27 to 11/02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapter 8</li> <li>• Journal 7 due 11/02 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 11</b> 11/03 to 11/09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapters 9 and 14</li> <li>• Journal 8 due by 11/09 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 12</b> 11/10 to 11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapters 10 and 11</li> <li>• Journal 9 due by 11/16 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 13</b> 11/17 to 11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Chapters 12 and 13</li> <li>• Journal 10 due by 11/23 at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	30 pts
<b>Week 14</b> 11/24 to 11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No assignments due this week. Spend this week researching and writing your final presentation. Begin reviewing for your final exam.</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 15</b> 12/01 to 12/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final Presentations/Common Assignment due by Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	200 pts
<b>Finals</b> 12/08 to 12/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exam 2 due by Monday, December 8th at 11:59 p.m.</li> </ul>	150 pts

## COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

- Speeches/Assignments 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

## **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](mailto: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](http://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.

## **ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION**

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

This course acknowledges the growing role of artificial intelligence tools in academic and professional settings; however, the use of AI is not permitted in this course. If an instructor suspects that AI was used in a submitted assignment, tools such as ZeroGPT or QuillBot may be employed to verify this. Any assignment found to have involved the use of AI will receive a grade of zero.

- 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.
- 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**

Failure to comply with the following requirements on a speech assignment will result in a zero grade for that speech.

Students must submit:

- Full-sentence/preparation outline (not required for logo speech)
- Works Cited page (not required for logo speech)
- 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. Ask yourself “Is this my best work?” If not, you may have to record again. Do not let the first ‘take’ be the only time you do your speech. You should practice many times before you ever bring in the audience and 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 the expectation. Reading is not effective or acceptable.
- 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 11 chapters in the book, but only 10 journals. That means there is no journal over chapter 6. Journal 6 actually covers Chapter 7. Use the course calendar to help you keep track.

### **Syllabus agreement**

Upon completion of reading the Syllabus, you’re required to email Dr. Casi Rekieta from your LIT email address to confirm you have read and understand the course policies. Grades will not be posted until you have done so, and if you do this by 11:59 p.m. on Aug. 29, 2025, you’ll earn 5 points extra credit.