Interpersonal Communication (SPCH 1318)

Credit: 3 semester credit hours (3 hours lecture)

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.

Required Textbook and Materials
1. *Interpersonal Messages* by J. DeVito, 4th edition. Pearson Publishers.
   a. Softcover ISBN number is 978-0-134-20444-4
      OR
   b. eBook subscription ISBN number is 978-0-134-20443-7
2. 1 package of 3x5 or 5x8 index cards
3. 2 #882-E Scantrons and a #2 pencil
4. Dedicated notebook for SPCH 1318 journal or use of an electronic journal
5. Must have the ability to upload/print documents for class
6. We will be using Blackboard for this course.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:
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/or 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 written and oral competencies as it relates to employment (including job searches, interviews, interpersonal interaction, conflict management, and leadership and performance appraisals).

Core Objectives
1. Critical Thinking Skills: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
2. Communication Skills: To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

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3. Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others.
4. Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Course Outline

A. Foundations of Interpersonal Communication
    a. Why study interpersonal communication?
    b. Nature of interpersonal communication
    c. Elements of interpersonal communication
    d. Principles of interpersonal communication
    e. Interpersonal competence
B. Culture and Interpersonal Communication
    a. Culture
    b. Cultural Principles
    c. Cultural Differences
    d. Improving Intercultural Communication
C. Perception of Self and Others
    a. The Self in interpersonal communication
    b. Perception in interpersonal communication
    c. Impression formation
    d. Impression management: Goals and Strategies
D. Listening Interpersonal Communication
    a. Stages of listening
    b. Listening barriers
    c. Styles of listening effectively
    d. Listening, culture, and gender

E. Verbal Messages
    a. Principles of verbal messages
    b. Confirmation and disconfirmation
    c. Guidelines for using verbal messages effectively
F. Nonverbal Messages
    a. Principles of nonverbal communication
    b. Channels of nonverbal communication
    c. Nonverbal communication competence
G. Interpersonal Relationships
    a. Advantages & Disadvantages of interpersonal relationships
    b. Relationship stages
    c. The Dark side of interpersonal relationships
H. Interpersonal Relationship Types & Theories
    a. Friendship relationships
    b. Love relationships
    c. Family relationships
    d. Workplace relationships
    e. Online-only relationships
    f. Relationship theories
I. Interpersonal Conflict Management
    a. What is interpersonal conflict?
    b. Principles of interpersonal conflict
    c. Conflict management stages
    d. Conflict management strategies

Grade Scale

900 – 1000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

Course Evaluation
Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

Speeches	10 %
Journals	50 %
Tests	15%
Homework/Participation	5%
Interview	5%
Common Assignment	15%

Course Policies
1. No food, drinks, or use of tobacco products in class.
2. Computers, telephones, headphones, and any other electronic devices must be turned off while in class or used only with permission of the instructor.
3. Do not bring children to class.
4. No late assignments, tests or speeches. In the case of a documentable emergency beyond the student's control, make-up work may be accepted solely at the instructor's discretion.
5. If you wish to drop a course, the student is 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.
6. Additional class policies as defined by the individual course instructor.

Technical Requirements (for courses using Blackboard)
The latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, software, Java, etc. can be found online at:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support/Browser_Checker A functional broadband internet connection, such as DSL, cable, or WiFi is necessary to maximize the use of the online technology and resources.

Disabilities Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities. Among other things, these statutes require that all students with documented disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations for their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Special Populations Coordinator at (409) 880-1737 or visit the office in Student Services, Cecil Beeson Building. You may also visit the online resource at http://www.lit.edu/depts/stuserv/special/defaults.aspx

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 or obtained in print upon request at the Student Services Office. Please note that the online version of the *LIT Catalog and Student Handbook* supersedes all other versions of the same document.

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.