SPCH 1318 Interpersonal Communication, Section 2A4

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Location: ECHS: Austin Innovation Center, Rm 310; LIT: T5 102

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday morning, from 9 a.m. – noon, via Blackboard Collaborate, and Monday and Thursday afternoon, from 3:15-5-15 p.m., via Blackboard Collaborate or on the LIT campus, T5 building, room 102

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.

Approved: Initials/date

- 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 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.

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   22.5 %
- Journals   25 %
- Tests   25%
- Homework/Participation   12.5%
- Theory Group Speech (Common Assignment)   15%

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.

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.

COURSE CALENDAR (subject to change at the instructor's discretion)

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates	Points
Week 1 **Feb. 12-18**	1. Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus & Syllabus Addendum 2. Read Chapters 1 and 2 3. Journal 1 due by Feb. 18 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts
Week 2 **Feb. 19-25**	1. Read Chapter 3 2. Journal 2 due by Feb. 25 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts
Week 3 **Feb. 26 –** **March 3**	1. Read Chapter 4 2. Journal 3 due by March 5 at 11:59 p.m. 3. Logo speech due by March 3 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts 75 pts
Week 4 **March 4-10**	1. Read Chapter 5 2. Journal 4 due by March 12 at 11:59 p.m. 3. Personality Assessment due by March 12 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts 100 pts
Week 5 **March 11-** **17**	1. Read Chapter 6 2. Journal 5 due by March 17 at 11:59 p.m. 4. Select a chapter for your chapter presentation speech	25 pts
Week 6 **March 18-** **24**	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Journal 6 due by March 24 at 11:59 p.m. 3. Exam 1 due by March 24 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts 125 pts
Week 7 **March 25-** **31**	3. Chapter presentation speech due by March 31 at 11:59 p.m.	150 pts
Week 8 **April 1-7**	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Journal 7 due by April 7 at 11:59 p.m. 1. Begin working with your group on final group presentation	25 pts
Week 9 **April 8-14**	1. Read Chapters 9 and 14 3. Journal 8 due by April 14 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts
Week 10 **April 15-21**	1. Read Chapters 10 and 11 2. Journal 9 due by April 21 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts
Week 11 **April 22-28**	1. Read Chapters 12 and 13 2. Journal 10 due by April 28 at 11:59 p.m.	25 pts
Week 12 **April 29 –** **May 1**	1. Group Presentations due by May 1 at 11:59 p.m.	150 pts
Final **May 2-5**	1. Exam 2 (optional) available May 5 and due by May 9 at 11:59 p.m.	125 pts

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
• Blackboard – You all have an LIT Blackboard account that you should check 3-4 times per week, at minimum. In addition to finding assignment directions, PowerPoint files, grades, etc, you will also turn in some of your assignments on Blackboard.
• LIT Email – You should check your LIT email daily.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES/INFORMATION
• 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 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:
   • 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.

• Participation grade
Participation is worth 25 points. You are eligible for all 25 points if you complete the course without failing to meet a deadline or failing to submit an assignment. I typically apply these points as needed to a good student's total to help them move from one letter grade to the next. No one wants a 79 when they could have an 80, and so on.

• 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 on page 4 below to help you keep track.

• Syllabus agreement
Upon completion of reading the Syllabus, you're required to email Mr. Cobb at jscobb@lit.edu 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 Feb. 18, 2024, you'll earn 5 points extra credit.