

COMM 123: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
Section 004
Online



Instructor: Bryan Asbury

Office: Fell Hall 416

Office Phone: 309.438-7768

Office Hours: M: 4:00-6:00; 9:00-10:00

Email: beasbur@ilstu.edu

Expect a 24 hour response time

Teaching Philosophy...

It is my belief that at this institution we are to become a community of learners by providing a safe, open environment in which all students are capable of fulfilling the role of both learner and learned. It is the responsibility of each student to come prepared for each class having completed all assigned tasks, having an open mind, and having a complete commitment to the process of learning.

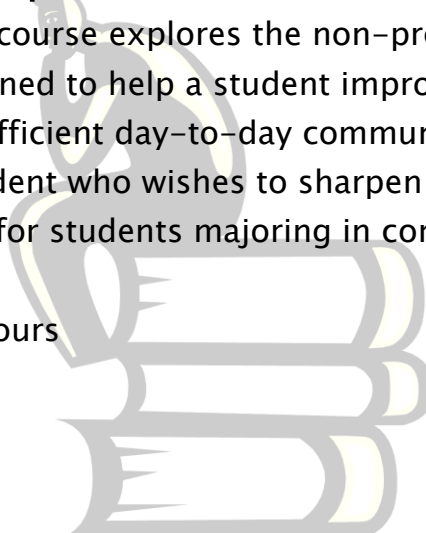


Interpersonal Communication

COURSE RATIONALE: This course explores the non-presentational side of communication. It is designed to help a student improve the skills necessary for more effective and more efficient day-to-day communication. This course is recommended for any student who wishes to sharpen person-to-person communication skills and for students majoring in communication.

PREREQUISITE: None

CREDIT: Three semester hours



Texts

Verderber, K. S., & MacGeorge, E. L. (2016). *Inter-Act: Interpersonal Communication: Concepts, Skills, and Contexts* (14th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

ISBN: 978-0-19-939801-0

Purchasing Instructions. The text book is available through bookstore...or online.

You will need access to the textbook. The book is not meant to replace material covered in class. And lectures/activities are not meant to replace reading the text.

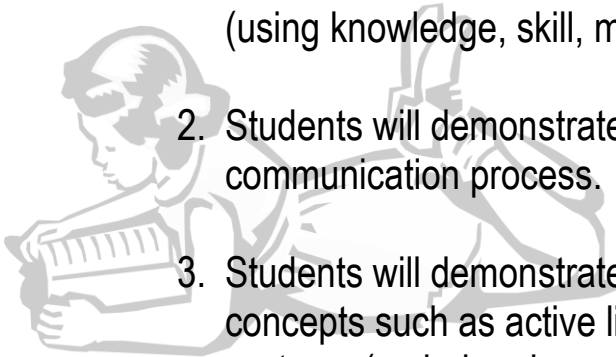


Additional Requirements:

- ✓ Access to an episode of the Simpsons
- ✓ Access to Microsoft Package
- ✓ A working ISU e-mail account that you check regularly! (It must be your ilstu account.)

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (COM 123) COURSE GOALS:

1. Students will become more competent interpersonal communicators (using knowledge, skill, motivation and judgment).
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interpersonal communication process.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply interpersonal communication concepts such as active listening, perception, self-concept, and message systems (verbal and nonverbal) to everyday communication situations.
4. Students will become more competent in communicating in small group discussions and in class activities (articulating and defending their own ideas as well as listening to and considering the ideas of others).
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences in interpersonal communication contexts
6. Students will identify their own patterns of functional and dysfunctional interpersonal communication habits.



ASSIGNMENTS

EXAMS: There will be one midterm exam and a comprehensive final exam. Exams will assess your understanding of communication concepts and theories, as well as your application and integration abilities.

QUIZZES: There will be quizzes after each chapter to test your reading comprehension. The quizzes are short, objective styles questions (e.g., true/false, matching, multiple choice). Each quiz will contain 5 questions worth 1 point each for a total of 5 points.

ARTIFACTS: There will be two artifact papers for this class (before each exam). The artifacts are short papers (2-3 pages) in which a student identifies a concept, construct, research finding, etc. that is discussed in class and illustrates how it explains or is relevant to some situation. For further instructions, please see assignment sheet.

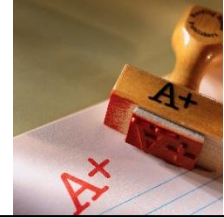
CULTURAL PRESENTATION: During Chapter 3, students will work to identify relational/communication differences for selected countries. Each student will select a country (first come, first claimed through classroom forums) and research that country for the communication and/or relational practices of that country. The students will prepare and present a 5 minute video presentation (think: vlog) on the information they discover.

ONLINE DISCUSSION: Each week there will be opportunities for you to articulate your understanding and application of course materials. There will be a total of eleven of these opportunities. Typically, these discussions will involve an initial post by Tuesday and replies to the posts of peers by Friday. These discussions are under the course forums tab.

FINAL PROJECT: The final project will be a manual for dummies. In this assignment, you will synthesize the course material into simple soundbites and give suggestions for the reader in their specific relationship type. For further instructions, please see assignment sheet.

PARTICIPATION

Because Communication: Process and Practice is a skills-based, developmental course, participation is essential. Participation is a function of attendance, demonstration of having read the material, asking questions that extend the thinking of the class and instructor, contributing relevant examples, and demonstrating respect for the contributions of classmates. The tone of the learning community will directly reflect the participation of the class.



EVALUATION

Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.
Final Project	200 pts.
Artifact 1	50 pts.
Artifact 2	50 pts.
Discussion	80 pts.
Quizzes	65 pts.
Culture Presentation	50 pts.
Syllabus Contract	5 pts.

The grading scale:

630–700 pts. = A

560–629 pts. = B

490–559 pts. = C

420–489 pts. = D

Fewer than 420 points = F



ACTIVITIES

You are expected to regularly participate in class. All course assignments are necessary to receive a passing grade in the class. Your progress in the course will be tracked. The course is designed for assessing the quality and quantity of your interactions in the course.

Please keep track of the course calendar and your assignment completion.

Keep your eyes open every week for (usually) Monday announcements.



COURSE POLICIES

- ❖ **PARTICIPATION:** For this class, participation involves signing in, completing course readings, and doing all course activities. You are expected to “attend” class regularly. You will be surveyed by your frequency in this class and the amount of time you spend with each activity. (This can all be tracked in the class.)
- ❖ **TARDINESS:** Late work will not be accepted. Please stay up on the course schedule and due dates.
- ❖ **ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:** All assignments must be completed on the date due. If you do not complete all assignments for this class, then you will not receive passing credit for course completion. At the very least, you must submit an attempt at every assignment by the due date.
- ❖ **PROFESSIONAL COURTESY:** Professional courtesy includes respecting others’ opinions, not interrupting in class, being respectful to those who are speaking, and working together in a spirit of cooperation. I expect you to demonstrate these behaviors at all times in this class. With that in mind, sleeping, reading materials irrelevant to class purposes, and disrupting the class will not be tolerated and will result in the student being considered absent for that particular class period.
- ❖ **NETIQUETTE:** Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Something about cyberspace makes it easy for people to forget that they are interacting with other real people. Make sure to avoid profanity. Be respectful of the difference in this class. Avoid grammar and spelling errors. Be kind and avoid flaming.
- ❖ **BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATION POLICY:** Should any student violate the expectations of appropriate classroom behavior (as mentioned in the professional courtesy and netiquette policies above), the instructor will schedule a meeting to discuss these expectations and develop a behavioral modification plan. If these behaviors persist, you will be at-risk for failing the course.

EVEN MORE COURSE POLICIES?!?



CHEATING/PLAGIARISM: Students are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. All work is to be appropriately cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and unacknowledged collaboration on speech topics and/or the presentation of someone else's work warrants plagiarism.

Students found to (inadvertently) commit acts of dishonesty will receive appropriate penalties specific to the assignment in question. Students found to commit intentional acts of dishonesty will receive a failing grade in the course and will be referred for appropriate disciplinary action through Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office.

University Bereavement Policy: If a student experiences a death of an immediate family member or relative as defined below, the student will be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. The student will provide appropriate documentation and arrange to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible according to the process outlined below.

Upon notification of the absence and proper documentation, each faculty member shall excuse the student from class according to this policy and provide an opportunity to complete missed exams, quizzes, and other required work. Ultimately, the student is responsible for all material covered in class and must work with each individual professor as soon as they return to complete any required work. Details can be found at the following website:

<http://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27.shtml>



Electronics Policy: Please refrain from using your cell phones in my class. Text messaging is distracting to other students and therefore, I reserve the right to read your text messages out loud to the entire class. However, if there is some type of emergency for which you may need to take a phone call during class, talk to me beforehand and we will work something out. I understand you may want to take notes on your computer, iPads, etc. That is great, however, if you are surfing the internet, I reserve the right to move you to the front row and ask you to put away your technology.



More Course Policies...

- ❖ **Communicating with Me:** The best way to communicate with me would be to stop into my office face-to-face. If you need to contact me by email, please feel free to do so at my Illinois State e-mail address. Please do not contact me through Reggie Net. However, you must give me 24 hours to respond to your email on weekdays and 48 hours to respond to your email on weekends. For example, if you email me an hour before class starts, do not assume I will respond to that email within the hour. As a student of higher education, it is expected that all communication be of professional quality. When writing through e-mail to an instructor *identify the subject matter in the subject line of the email*. Please be sure to address the instructor in a professional manner. Always sign your name in your e-mails. Please follow these guidelines so your e-mail is given full consideration.

- ❖ **Special Needs:** Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.

- ❖ **School of Communication Research Pool Webpage:** This website is dedicated to research projects approved by the School of Communication which students enrolled in communication courses may participate during the semester. Com 123 students are encouraged to participate in research projects found on this to facilitate the production of new knowledge about communication and to learn about the value of research. The website can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/ilstusocstudies/>

- ❖ **Mental Health Resources:** Life at college can get very complicated. According to recent research, nearly 40% of college students are at-risk for developing generalized anxiety disorder and are less likely to seek help for it compared to other mental health issues. Students also sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience depression, and struggle with relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at Counseling.IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-3655.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

FINAL THOUGHTS: This syllabus is a contract between us. Though the schedule may shift a bit here and there as the course proceeds, everything we have discussed thus far in the syllabus will not. I am contracting with you to follow these guidelines. I will ask you to sign and date it below; so that I *know* that you have read and understood it.

I HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS FOR BRYAN ASBURY'S COM 120 CLASS AND AGREE TO THE TERMS FOR REQUIRED COURSEWORK AND ACCEPTABLE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR ABOVE.

NAME _____ SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____ MAJOR _____ PHONE _____

ICC EMAIL _____ ALT. EMAIL _____

PLEASE LIST AT LEAST TWO GOALS THAT YOU HOPE TO MEET THROUGH THIS COURSE:

1.

2.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU "GROW UP?"

WHAT IS A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE TO ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR?

FAVORITE MOVIE/BOOK EVER

1. _____ 2. _____

FAVORITE TV SHOW EVER

1. _____ 2. _____



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tentative Schedule for COMM 123: Interpersonal Communication

Week 1: 08/19-08/25

Post Introduction Bio
Read Syllabus/Return Syllabus Quiz
Chapter 1 Quiz
Discussion Topic #1

Week 2: 08/26-09/01

Chapter 2 Quiz
Chapter 3 Quiz
Discussion Topic #2

Week 3: 09/02-09/08

Chapter 4 Quiz
Chapter 5 Quiz

Week 4: 09/09-09/15

Culture Presentation

Week 5: 09/16-09/22

Chapter 7 Quiz
Discussion Topic #3

Week 6: 09/23-09/29

Chapter 6 Quiz
Chapter 8 Quiz

Week 7: 09/30-10/06

Artifact Paper 1

Week 8: 10/07-10/13

Midterm Exam

Week 9: 10/14-10/20

Chapter 9 Quiz
Chapter 10 Quiz
Discussion Topic #4

Week 10: 10/21-10/27

Chapter 11 Quiz
Discussion Topic #5

Week 11: 10/28-11/03

Chapter 12 Quiz
Chapter 13 Quiz
Discussion Topic #6

Week 12: 11/04-11/10

Artifact Paper 2

Week 13: 11/11-11/17

Discussion Topic #7

Week 14: 11/18-11/24

Dummies Manual
Discussion Topic # 8

Week 15: 11/25-12/01

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16: 12/02-12/08

Final Exam