

COMS 2386.02 (CRN# 80986)
INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Dr. Terry M. Thibodeaux

Fall 2012
3 credit hours

Classroom: Rather CB 326
TuTh 9:30-11:00

Office: Dan Rather CB 322E; Ph# 294-1356
Office Hours: TuTh 8:30-9:30; others by appt.
Sam Center: MW 8:00-11; 2-5

e-mail: thib@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an examination and application of the research, theories, and practices of one-to-one communication in relationships.

REQUIRED TEXT

Adler, R.B., Rosenfeld, L.B., & Proctor, R. F. (2013) Interplay: The process of interpersonal communication. (12th ed.) New York: Oxford.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The student will demonstrate:

1. An improved comprehension of the process of relationship development, deterioration, repair, and termination.
2. An increased appreciation for the differences of others.
3. Ethical communication in supportive and defensive communication contexts.
4. Competence in both verbal and nonverbal communication in interpersonal settings.
5. The ability to use conflict management principles effectively to cope with conflict in various settings.
6. Competence communicating with individuals from other cultures and co-cultures.

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

1.ATTENDANCE. Attendance is essential for class participation and is checked each class period. No distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Each class period

is worth points toward the participation grade. As per university policy, each student may be absent three class hours without penalty. For every three hours of absences beyond the third hour absent, the course grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

If a student enters class after the instructor finishes taking roll, that student is considered absent. It is the tardy student's responsibility to notify the instructor of his/her attendance before leaving that class period; otherwise, the absence stands. Two tardies = one absence.

2. GRADING SCALE. All grading is done on a total points basis, with a total possible of 1000 points for the class. Final grades will be determined by total number of points earned, using the following 8% scale: A=920+; B=919-840; C=839-760; D=759-680.

3. PARTICIPATION. Twenty percent (20% or possible 200 pts.) of the final grade comes from class participation--participation in class discussions, group activities, etc. Students will be assigned to groups to cover content from the text in small group discussions and to periodically present to the entire class. These discussions and presentations will constitute a major portion of the participation grade for the term.

4. LATE WORK. There are NO make-ups for scheduled presentations missed. Missing a scheduled presentation results in ZERO credit on that presentation. Credit for any late work is given at the discretion of the instructor. Any tests or assignments accepted late will incur a standard penalty of 10% per day late. The phone number or e-mail address listed above is to be used to explain extenuating circumstances for any missed or late work.

5. BLACKBOARD COURSE WEB PAGE Students are required to use the Blackboard (Bbd) course homepage for this class. Assignments, due dates, handout information, changes in class schedule, etc., will be posted there as needed. It is highly encouraged that you check the Course homepage regularly. This will save you time, work, and stress.

6. ELECTRONIC DEVICES. Cell phones, pagers, and any other electronic devices, other than computers *used only for the class (in note-taking, etc.)* must be turned off before entering the classroom, since they pose a distraction to the class. Any student disrupting the class by use of any electronic devices will be dismissed from the class resulting in an absence for that period. Repeated offenses may result in the student being dropped from the class.

7. The following four sections can be found at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>
PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT
RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS
VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM

GRADING POLICIES

EXAMS. Four exams will be administered counting 150 points each. Questions will be True-False and Multiple-Choice. Total points = 600 (60% of course grade).

PARTICIPATION. Student participation in class is imperative in this class. The format for this class is more discussion of content than lecture. Periodic participation grades will be given assessing participation to that point in the semester. Total points = 200 (20% of course grade).

PAPER. A 10- to 12-page term paper on an interpersonal communication topic is required. This length does not include the title page or reference list. Students must get topics approved by the instructor. More detail on this assignment will be discussed in class. Total possible points = 200 points (20% of course grade).

Tentative Schedule

<u>Class Mtg/Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments</u>
Aug 29	Intro to Class/Begin Self Introductions	Definitions/Models (Ppt)
Sept 4	Finish Intro's/ Definitions & Models	Chap 1
Sept 11	Interpersonal Process	Chap 2
Sept 18	Culture & Communication	Chap 3
Sept 25	Communication & Self; Exam 1 (Def's & Models, Ch's 1-3)	Ch 4
Oct 2	Perceiving Others	Ch 5
Oct 9	Language	Ch 6
Oct 16	Nonverbal Communication; Exam 2 (Ch 4-6)	Ch 7
Oct 23	Listening	Ch 8
Oct 30	Emotions	Ch 9
Nov 6	Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships; Exam 3 (Ch 7-9)	Ch 10
Nov 13	More re: Relationships; Research Paper due Nov. 18	Ch 11
Nov 20	Communication Climate	Ch 12

Thanksgiving Break begins 9 p.m. Nov 21

Nov 27	Managing Conflict
Dec 4	Communication in Contexts

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 8 a.m.-10 a.m.: Final Exam (Exam #4) — Ch's 10-12