

SPCH 1318 (SPCH 1318_8M1)

CREDIT

3 Semester Credit Hours (3 hours lecture, 0 Lab 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.
- 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 MEASURED

- Critical Thinking: To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication: To include the effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

- Teamwork: To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal
- Personal Responsibility: To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Casi Rekieta

Email: clrekieta@lit.edu

Office Phone: (409) 951-5726

Office Location: GEDS Department

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

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

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 *Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships* – Milne Open Textbooks as a PDF. You can also view and download the PDF on Blackboard.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to check their LIT email every 24 hours during the week.

Students are expected to access blackboard a minimum of once per week. Failure to do so will result in an absence. However, please note, students who access blackboard more frequently typically have a higher grade in the course. Engagement is key to your success. Do not let the minimum stop you from engaging in the course more frequently.

DROP POLICY

If you wish to drop a course, you are responsible for initiating and completing the drop process by the specified date as listed in the College Calendar on the [Student Success](#) web page. If you stop coming to class and fail to drop the course, you will earn an "F" in the course.

COURSE CALENDAR

DATE	READINGS (Due on this Date)	ASSIGNMENTS (Due on this Date)
Week #1: 08/24 to 08/30	• Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus	Journal #1 (30 pts)

	• Read Chapter 1 and 2	
Week #2: 08/31 to 09/06	• Read Chapter 3	Journal #2 (30 pts) Discussion #1 (20 pts)
Week #3: 09/07 to 09/13	• Review chapters 1-3 • Review example Logo Speech	Logo Speech (100 pts)
Week #4: 09/14 to 09/20	• Read Chapter 4	Journal #3 (30 pts)
Week #5: 09/21 to 09/27	• Read Chapter 5	Journal #4 (30 pts)
Week #6: 09/28 to 10/04	• Read Chapter 6	Journal #5 (30 pts) Discussion #2 (20 pts)
Week #7: 10/05 to 10/11	• Read Chapter 7	Journal #6 (30 pts)
Week #8: 10/12 to 10/18	• Review Chapters 1-7	Exam #1 (100 pts)
Week #9: 10/19 to 10/25	• Review Chapter Presentation Examples • Virtual Conference with Instructor (if needed)	Chapter Presentation Speech (100 pts)
Week #10: 10/26 to 11/01	• Read Chapter 8	Journal #7 (30 pts) Discussion #3 (20 pts)
Week #11: 11/02 to 11/08	• Read Chapter 9 • Read Chapter 14	Journal #8 (30 pts)
Week #12: 11/09 to 11/15	• Read Chapter 10 • Read Chapter 11	Journal #9 (30 pts) Discussion #4 (20 pts)
Week #13: 11/16 to 11/22	• Read Chapter 12 • Read Chapter 13	Journal #10 (30 pts)
Week #14: 11/23 to 11/29	• No readings for this week. Spend this week researching and writing your final presentation. • Virtual Conference with Instructor (if needed)	Discussion #5 (20 pts)
Week #15: 11/30 to 12/06	• Begin reviewing for final exam	Final Presentations/Common Assignment (200 pts) due by Thursday, December 3 rd at 11:59 p.m. No late work will be accepted.
Week #16: 12/07 to 12/09	• Review for final exam	Final Exam (100 pt) due by Monday, December 7 th at 11:59 p.m.

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be calculated according to the following criteria:

20% Speeches

30% Journals

20% Tests

10% Participation

20% Theory Speech (Common Assignment)

GRADE SCALE

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- 0-59 F

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

For the latest technical requirements, including hardware, compatible browsers, operating systems, etc., review the Minimum Computer and Equipment Requirements on the [LIT Online Experience](#) page. 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.

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

Assignments will be graded within one week of the due date. If this deadline cannot be met, you will be notified through Blackboard. Assignments submitted early will not be graded until after the due date has passed.

- 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.
- Late work is NOT accepted unless extenuating exists and prior approval is granted by the instructor.

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.

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.

Students must have a minimum of 3 adult members. Failure to have all three 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. Please dress BUSINESS CASUAL if not, will result in a letter grade penalty. EX. (Polo Shirt and Khakis and Not JEANS, joggers etc..). Sometimes in the online course people get “too comfortable” when speaking in their own homes. Wearing 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 a 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. 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.

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. 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.

Discussion Posts

Expectations for each discussion post will vary. These expectations will be available in Blackboard.

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. 30, 2025, you'll earn 5 points extra credit.