

SPCH 1318 8S1 Interpersonal Communication

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



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- 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. Dawn Britton

Email: dakatz@lit.edu

Office Location: Online

Office Hours: By 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

In this online course, attendance is measured by **active participation**, not just logging into the Blackboard. To be marked as “Participating” for any given week, you must complete at least **one** of the following actions by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST.

- Submit a journal.
- Submit a speech.
- Submit a required paper.
- Complete an exam.

Failure to actively participate in the course will negatively impact your final grade, and may also trigger an early alert flag through Starfish.

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

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Due Dates	Points
Week 1 Aug. 24-30	1. Orientation to the course – Read Syllabus and other materials. 2. Create YouTube Account 3. Read Chapters 1 & 2 4. Journal 1 Due	30 pts
Week 2 Aug. 31-Sept. 6	1. Read Chapter 3 2. Journal 2 Due	30 pts
Week 3 Sept. 7-13	1. Read Chapter 4 2. Journal 3 Due 3. Begin working on Logo Speech, due next week.	30 pts
Week 4 Sept. 14-20	1. Introductory Logo Speech Due	75 pts
Week 5 Sept. 21-27	1. Read Chapter 5 2. Journal 4 Due	30 pts
Week 6 Sept. 28-Oct. 4	1. Read Chapter 6 2. Journal 5 Due	30 pts
Week 7 Oct. 5-11	1. Read Chapter 7 2. Journal 6 Due 3. Begin working on Chapter Speech	30 pts
Week 8 Oct. 12-18	1. Exam 1 Due 2. Continue working on Chapter Speech	100 pts
Week 9 Oct. 19-25	1. Chapter Speech Due	125 pts
Week 10 Oct. 26-Nov. 1	1. Read Chapter 8 2. Journal 7 Due 3. Begin working on Final - Theory Speech	30 pts
Week 11 Nov. 2-8	1. Read Chapter 9 2. Journal 8 Due 3. Continue working on Final - Theory Speech	30 pts
Week 12 Nov. 9-15	1. Read Chapters 10 & 11 2. Journal 9 Due 3. Continue working on Final - Theory Speech	30 pts
Week 13 Nov. 16-22	1. Read Chapters 12 & 13 2. Journal 10 Due 3. Exam 2 Due 4. Continue working on Final - Theory Speech	30 pts 100 pts
Week 14 Nov. 23-29	Enjoy Thanksgiving Break!	
Week 15 Nov. 30-Dec. 6	1. Final - Theory Speech Due	200 pts

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.

GRADING TIMELINE

I aim to post grades within 1 week of the due date. However, during the busiest times of the semester or during holidays and weekends grades may be posted within 2 weeks. If you have a pressing concern, please contact me and I will do my best to accommodate your need.

LATE WORK POLICY

Late work is generally not accepted. However, if you experience an extreme, documentable situation beyond your control (e.g. car crash, death in the family, hospitalization, etc.) please communicate with me as soon as you are safely able to, and I will work with you. Exceptions to the late work policy are at the instructor's discretion and may be requested by any student at any time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) POLICY

1. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence and/or AI enhanced tools may only be used on this course for specific purposes, according to the instructor's guidelines because the use of AI could conflict with the course's learning objectives. **AI is appropriate for rough drafts but not final drafts and for refining research terms but not as a source itself. It should not and cannot be used for Journals.**

I treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Copilot, Grok, etc. the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants. However, **all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation** (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes). Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case.

If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, I recommend the following practices:

- Never hit “Copy” within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
- Do not have your assignment and the AI agent itself open on your device at the same time. Like above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge.

These practices include avoiding using AI assistants that are directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also you should avoid using AI tools that directly add content to your submission.

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 must 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 more chapters in the book than journal assignments. Use the course calendar to help you keep track each week.

SPEECH GUIDELINES

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:

- 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 3 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.
- You are expected to WATCH your videos before you post to YouTube and/or before you submit the link in Blackboard. Ask yourself, “Is this my best work?” If not, you may want to record it again. Do not let the first take be the only take. You should practice many times before you ever bring in the audience and/or 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 expected. Reading is not effective and does not meet the course objectives.
- 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 the assigned time range.

SPEECH DRESS CODE

Students are expected to dress in BUSINESS CASUAL attire for all speeches. Sometimes in the online course people get “too comfortable” when speaking in their own homes. Examples of appropriate attire include khaki pants, dress pants, polos, and business casual dresses. Inappropriate clothes include hats, hoodies, jeans, joggers, sweatpants, shorts, athletic clothes, and inappropriate clothing, all of which will result in a one letter grade penalty. Chewing gum, not wearing shoes, or other distracting or unprofessional choices during a speech will also result in a one 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 and adjust as needed. If you have questions if something is appropriate, you are always welcome to email me ahead of time to ask for guidance.