

# **SPEECH 121 INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION**

Fall 2013

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## **Purpose of Speech 121 – Interpersonal Communication**

In this course, we will examine the dynamics of face to face encounters. A number of theories of communication will be examined. Many people believe that communication is 'basic' and that means that we take the study of it for granted. Unfortunately this attitude tends to also mean that individuals run into difficulties as they communicate such as misunderstandings, conflict, avoiding communication all together, and stereotyping. In this course, we will overview some of the major concepts and theories relevant to the initiating, maintaining and terminating/redefining of relationships. Lectures, Reaction Papers (essays), Discussions, and Quizzes/Tests will be used to increase your knowledge.

### ***Institutional Student Learning Outcomes***

**Self Awareness/Interpersonal: Apply self assessment and reflective strategies to interpersonal, work, community, career and educational pathways.**

**Assessed by quizzes, tests, discussions, and reaction papers (essays).**

### ***Speech Program Outcomes***

**At the end of the course, the successful student will be able to explain and analyze the stages of close interpersonal relationships.**

### **Interpersonal Communication Objectives**

- 1. Students will learn the options and alternatives for action in a wide variety of interpersonal formal and informal situations.**
- 2. Students will gain a heightened awareness of their own self concept, and gain an increased appreciation for the differences of others as far as race, gender, culture, etc.**
- 3. Students will learn how the process of perception affects communication behavior.**
- 4. Students will learn the difference between verbal and nonverbal communication and their ramifications in developing successful interpersonal relationships.**

5. Students will learn how to identify the components of defensive and supportive communication climates and learn how to change defensive communication climates into supportive ones.

6. Students will learn the importance of constructive conflict within the context of interpersonal relationships, and be able to apply various conflict management principles to their conflict situations.

### Course Requirements

A. Required Text: *Interpersonal Communication Book*. De Vito, J. (Author), 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Pearson Publishers.

### B. Major Assessments/Grading

Your grade will be based upon the total number of points that you earn for specific quizzes and tests, written essays and discussions that you participate in during the semester. There are 230 total points that you can earn for this course. Listed below are the points with the corresponding grades.

A = 207 - 230 B = 184 - 206 C = 161 - 183 D = 138 - 160

### Point Breakdown for Specific Assignments and Tests

Quiz 1            20 Points

Quiz 2            20 Points

Quiz 3            20 Points

Quiz 4            20 Points

Quiz 5            20 Points

Quiz 6            20 Points

Discussion Participation 10 Points

Midterm Examination    50 Points

Final Examination        50 Points

## Course Weekly Schedule

<u>Week(s)</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text Reading</u>
1, 2, 3	Interpersonal Process	(Chapters 1, 2, 3) 2 - 80
4, 5	Communication Messages	(Chapters 5, 6) 106 - 170
6, 7	Emotions, Conversations	(Chapters 7, 8) 312 - 347
8	<u>Midterm Examination</u>	
9, 10	Listening	(Chapter 4) 172 - 205
11, 12	Relationship Stages and Types	(Chapters 9, 10) 228 - 287
13, 14, 15	Managing Conflict	(Chapters 11, 12) 290 - 330
16	<u>Final Examination</u>	

### Important Information on Dropping a Class

The last date to drop this class without a “W” in person is September 6<sup>th</sup>, or by web September 8. To drop with a “W”, the date is Friday, November 15, 2013. If you do not log into this class by Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, I will drop you from the class.

### Academic Dishonesty Policy

“Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one’s identity for the purpose of enhancing one’s grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at [www.lattc.edu](http://www.lattc.edu).”

### Special Accommodations

“Students with disabilities who need any assistance or accommodations should contact the instructor. Students should also contact the Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS) center located in SSB 320 or call 310-287-4420.” [dsps@wlac.edu](mailto:dsps@wlac.edu)

## **Taking this Online Class.**

Let me go over some items about this course and how it will operate as some of you have never taken an on-line class, and even if you have, I teach my class differently than some other on-line instructors. I believe we need to be very clear as to how we teach a class if we want you to be successful in a course. And I know you would agree with me.

I will be using Modules, Tests and Quizzes, Assignments, and Discussion for this course. You will find these icons on the left hand side of your Home Screen.

You will be reading chapters from the book, *The Interpersonal Communication Book*, 13th edition, and then there will be my notes located in the Modules section of the course. When you log on, there should be what you need on your screen for that particular week or weeks.

I would suggest reading the lectures first, over and over again, and then read the chapter pages over and over again, and then take the Quiz. Or you could read the text pages first and then read my lecture. Either way, doesn't matter. But you need to read both to be successful on the Quizzes and the Midterm and the Final Examinations. I would download and print all the lectures so you can read them for the Quizzes and then the Midterm and the Final. The lecture notes for the entire class will be left for you to review even when that particular section of the class has reached its deadline. In other words, all lecture notes have as their end date the last day of this class. That will make it better for you to study notes even though that section of the class is over. Therefore, if I were you, I would print out the lectures so you have them to study for the Quizzes, and the Midterm and the Final.

You really need to pay attention to deadlines for the Course. For all Quizzes, you will have 2 or 3 weeks to take them; for the Midterm and the Final Examinations, you will have 1 week to take them.

I give no make-ups so you need to watch the time deadlines. If you were taking this course in person on campus, you would not have that much time to take a Quiz or a Test; you would take it in person for a specified time. In an online class, you have 24 hours a day to do your work, however, you must keep to the deadline. For example, your first Quiz is over Chapter 1. I will be giving you three weeks to get familiar with the course, read the lecture online and read the chapters in the textbook. You must then take the Quiz 1 by the deadline. Please keep aware of time when taking the quizzes and the tests, as when your time has been reached, you cannot go beyond the time, and you cannot re-take the Quiz and/or Test. Also, be prepared when you begin the Quizzes and/or Tests as once you begin them, you cannot stop and start again. You must remain in the Site and finish what you begin.

Just like in the classroom if you were taking this class in person, you have a certain time within which to take the Quiz or Test, and you only get to take it once. And when taking

a Quiz or Test, once you enter the Quiz or Test, you cannot leave the Quiz or Test during the taking of it. You have to finish the Quiz or Test once you enter it as you have only chance to take it once you enter it and finish it.

Remember, THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR A QUIZ OR THE MIDTERM AND THE FINAL. And there is no extra credit for this course. You will earn your grade through your Quizzes and the Tests.

If you need anything, please send me an email message. I am here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and I want nothing more than for you to succeed. You need to get through your classes successfully and I am here to help.

But you must help me, and remember the deadlines, and the page numbers, and study, study, study. You will find the information very valuable and life impacting. And keep me posted through messages about what you are learning, thinking about, etc. I like to hear from you. Even though I can't meet with you in person, I am here in your computer, and I am a professor who cares about your success. I am passionate about this communication information in the course, and I am passionate about your success.

If you have any technical problems with the computer, or you are not understanding how to take Quizzes, etc., you must contact the Help Desk, or the Distance Learning Center at West LA College. I am not a computer person, I am not a technical person, and I cannot really help or assist you with computer glitches, etc. I leave that up to the experts.

Some Last Thoughts. I am aware that most of you are working as you also go to college. Juggling work and school can be challenging, and I know that is true. I worked at least two jobs when I was in college so I can relate to you if you are working and going to college. I commend you for working as I interview for companies, also. When I look at a resume, I want to see that you have worked, and I applaud you for juggling work and school. However, as you know, your boss is not going to go lightly on your deadlines and neither am I. I have to treat you like the adult you are, and I don't want to be bending as that doesn't teach anyone anything. I want you to respect me for my method of teaching, and I respect you for respecting me and mostly for respecting yourself. I want to support winners and not victims. A lot of people nowadays are looking for someone else to bail them out, or do things for them that they could very well do for themselves. I want you to be a victor and not a victim, and that means meeting deadlines, etc.

Please acknowledge that you are a winner, and a victor and respect me as your Instructor for holding you to deadlines, etc. Most of you will be parents and some of you are currently parents and you need to have rules and regulations for your children so they learn how to respect you and themselves. And many of you will be supervisors, and some of you are right now. You also need to have your staff, your crew or whoever is working for and with you to respect you, your rules and regulations. Please be a role model to others and be a winner in every phase of your life.

Success to each of you. Mr. Habel

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