

July 18, 2013

1. College: **Liberal and Applied Arts**
2. Department: **Languages, Cultures and Communication**
3. Course status: **existing; does not require modification**
4. Course prefix and number: **COM 170**
5. Course title: **Interpersonal Communication**
6. Course catalog description: **A study of communication in the one-to-one situation leading to development of interpersonal communication skills. Emphasis is on positive mental attitude and personal growth.**
7. Number of semester credit hours: **3**
8. Estimated total course enrollment per year: **400**
9. Course prerequisites and/or required qualifications for enrolling in the class: **none**
10. Course **is not/will not be** available online.
11. Foundational Component Area: **Communication Oral Communication**
12. Explain why this course fits into this foundation component area: **Central to the study of interpersonal communication is an understanding of how we communicate and interact with others. This understanding is fostered through both theory and practice. In COM 170: Interpersonal Communication, students learn the theoretical frames that influence their perception of the messages they receive from others in spoken, written and visual forms. In addition to the ongoing study of processing and perceiving communication, aural communication is emphasized exclusively in a unit on listening. Visual messages, both direct and mediated, are addressed through the study of nonverbal communication in this course. The course teaches students how to successfully understand and respond to messages communicated by others in a variety of settings. Students learn communication competence by crafting messages to appropriately meet the needs of both informative and persuasive situations.**
13. Core Objectives
 - Critical Thinking - Students in Interpersonal Communication think creatively about the kinds of friendships, family relationships, and romantic relationships they aspire to have. Instructors will lead students in analyzing and evaluating their existing relationships as well as interactions between others that are used as examples in the classroom. From examples of both successful and difficult communication, students synthesize aspects of identity, perception, language, and emotions to think critically about how to develop their own interpersonal communication. Students will demonstrate mastery of this course objective with a culminating writing assignment and group discussion at the end of the semester.
 - Communication Skills - In Interpersonal Communication, students learn the skills required for communication competence. Instructors lead discussions and explain assignments focused on how people create shared meanings and build relationships based on their communication with one another. Students practice the construction of oral and written messages, aiming to effectively communicate their perspectives, thoughts, and emotions. Students will demonstrate mastery of this course objective with a culminating writing assignment and group discussion at the end of the semester.

- Teamwork - Fundamental to successful interpersonal communication is the idea of dual perspective, which is the intention and ability to understand both our own and another person's beliefs, thoughts and feelings. Dual perspective is explained by instructors who then reinforce this principle in their pedagogy through examples and applications throughout the course. Students model dual perspective in classroom activities and discussions as well as writing assignments. By interacting in teams and small groups, students in Interpersonal Communication practice together to work toward mutual understanding that is central to successful communication. Students will demonstrate mastery of this course objective with a culminating writing assignment and group discussion at the end of the semester.
- Personal Responsibility - Successful interpersonal communication is always rooted in personal responsibility. Through reading assignments and class discussions, instructors teach students to self-monitor his or her verbal and nonverbal messages, evaluate the ethical implications of those messages, and act in accordance with what is most appropriate and effective in a given context. Instructors teach students that they have choices about how to resolve conflict, express emotions, and share their lives with others. The course demonstrates how interpersonal conflicts arise and how to positively resolve them, while also understanding how negative responses and emotions can make conflict difficult to resolve. Unwanted and negative behaviors are examined, and students are taught that their interactions with others always have consequences in their relationships. Students will demonstrate mastery of this course objective with a culminating writing assignment and group discussion at the end of the semester.

Contact person for questions about this submission:

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