

# Communication 170: Semester

## Interpersonal Communication

### Classroom: meeting day and time

Stephen F. Austin State University

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Instructor:

Office:

Phone:

Office Hours:

Department: Languages, Cultures and Communication; Communication Studies

Appointments: Appointment times are encouraged to discuss grades. Please email to schedule an appointment.

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**Course 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.

#### **Communication Studies Program Learning Outcomes:**

**Objective 1—Theory Knowledge:** Students majoring in Communication Studies should display comprehension of major communication theories.

**Objective 2—Theory Application:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will apply the major theories in the field to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.

**Objective 3—Research Methods:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical, humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in communication.

**Objective 4—Diversity and Freedom of Expression:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global community.

**Objective 5—Constitutive Nature of Communication:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the constitutive nature of communication, which includes forces that enable and constrain communication such as technology, ethics, and organizational life.

**Objective 6—Higher Order Thinking:** Students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.

#### **Core Objectives:**

**Critical Thinking Skills [CO1]**—creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

**Communication Skills [CO2]**—effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

**Teamwork [CO3]**—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 [CO4]**—to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

#### **Student Learning Outcomes and corresponding Core Objectives:**

1. Develop an understanding of different models of communication and how those models shape how we talk about and study interpersonal communication. [CO1, CO2]
2. Develop an understanding of various interpersonal communication theories and how to apply those communication theories in practice. [CO2, CO4]
3. Increase knowledge and communication competencies across a variety of relational contexts to address such issues as diversity, conflict, emotions, mindful listening, and perception formation.

[CO3, C04]

4. Better understand how technology is changing interpersonal communication and increase communication technological competence. [CO2, CO4]

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### **Course Adaptations**

SFASU and your instructor, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990, will make every reasonable accommodation for students with special learning needs. Students with a special accommodation request from the Office of Disabilities Services who need course adaptations or accommodations need to make an appointment with your instructor **as soon as possible**. Only students who complete the University process for documenting disabilities will be considered for adaptations or accommodations.

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### **Grade Withheld Policy (Semester Grades A-54)**

[http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester\\_grds.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp)

#### **Withheld Grades**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

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### **Course Materials**

Students will be expected to purchase the following materials.

Wood, J.T. (2013). *Interpersonal communication: Everyday encounters*. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

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### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to:

- Attend and participate in each class meeting,
- Arrive to class prior to class beginning,
- Confirm your presence on the roll sheet,
- Be physically and intellectually prepared to listen to the lecture/speech (read assigned chapters from the textbook),
- Demonstrate respect for the instructor and classmates,
- Take notes, and
- Turn in all coursework either early or on time.

### **Absence**

An absence is indicated by a lack of signature by the student's name on a roll sheet, or a lack of an instructor's mark by the student's name on a roll sheet that signifies the student was present for class.

- If a student misses more than 20 minutes of a class, the student is marked absent.
- If a student falsifies the attendance record, the student receives an absence for the day in which the record was falsified and possible disciplinary action. Examples of falsifying records include: signing in and leaving class or having a friend sign in for you.

- If a student is texting, surfing the web, or sleeping during class, the student is marked absent.

## Overall Absences

If a student misses 25% of the class (lecture and lab combined) regardless of excused/unexcused absence status, the result will be an F in the course. Therefore, no student may miss more than 3 classes.

## Absence Penalties

On the 2nd absence (excused or unexcused), students will be penalized by having 5% deducted from their final course average. On the 3rd absence, 10% is deducted from their final course average. On the 4th absence, 15% is deducted from their final course average. On the 5th absence, the student automatically fails the course. An absence is an absence.

## Make Up Work

No late work is acceptable. Deadlines for coursework are posted in advance, and it is the responsibility of each student to complete his/her work and submit it either early or on time. The University recognizes three types of documented excuses that **may** permit a student to make up work: 1) University Sponsored Event, 2) unavoidable emergency, and 3) personal illness. Your instructor will not hear or recognize oral excuses for missed course material. Your instructor is the exclusive decision maker on approving or denying an excused absence request in order to make up work in the class. Acceptable documentation includes: doctor/medical paperwork, written acknowledgement of participation in a university sponsored event, notification disseminated from the Judicial Office, and family emergency records. Acceptable documentation of an absence to make up coursework must be turned into the professor **within one week of returning to class. No exceptions will be made.**

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## Governing Policies

The following policies will apply toward decorum in online posts.

1. **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed. \*Unprofessional behavior includes but is not limited to talking while instructor/speaker is presenting, texting during presentations, sleeping during class, and using abusive, profane language/gestures.
2. You may not text or have any other electronic device out during class, or you will receive an unexcused absence and, if behavior persists, be asked to leave. Students will receive one warning.
3. **Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

### Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on

an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic\\_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

### **Course Adaptations**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.

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### **Grade Distribution**

Students' grades will be determined by their performance in four categories: Tests, Activities, Participation, and Attendance.

**COURSE POINTS:** You may earn up to *1000 points* total. Do not request to have your grade "bumped up" to the next letter grade. Earned points earn the letter grade.

A	900-1000 points	D	600-699 points
B	800-899 points	F	599 points and below
C	700-799 points		

### **Tests**

*Tests are multiple choice on D2L. Log on to D2L during the day of the exam, which is available from 12 am until 11:59 pm on the day of the exam. Once you begin taking the exam, you must finish the exam in the allotted time (50 minutes). You may not go back to questions or change answers. To go to the next question, you must answer the question that you are on. Do not forget to save/submit your answers/test. All students must take the exam on the scheduled day during the 24 hour period, no exceptions. Any student requiring extra time due to a disability must schedule the exam in DS and notify the instructor at least 48 hours prior to the exam date.*

Test 1	Lectures, chapters 1-6, and additional readings	200 points
Test 2	Lectures, chapters 7-12, and additional readings	200 points
		<b>TOTAL: 400 points</b>

### **Studying for tests:**

- Complete all readings and activities.
- Take notes in class.
- Learn the terminology of the readings and the lectures.
- Be able to apply principles to given communication scenarios to determine what principle is in use or should be in use.

### **Writing Assignments**

Students will complete four writing assignments over the course of the semester. Principles and concepts of interpersonal communication will be applied to either personal experiences or mediated examples.

For writing assignment 4, students will form small groups to review each other's paper. The groups will then work together to develop a presentation in which they discuss common themes and differing perspectives in their papers.

TOTAL: 200 points

### Activities/Participation/Quizzes

Throughout the semester students will have written assignments and quizzes that apply to course content that are either submitted in person or on D2L. There is no makeup work if the assignment or quiz is not submitted on time and in proper format. These assignments and quizzes are explained and announced in class. Thus, attendance is important.

TOTAL: 400 points

### Attendance

During the course of the semester your attendance is expected and considered as part of your course work. Attendance can affect your course grade.

Date	Daily Discussion, Lectures, Readings, and/or Assignments
Week 1	Course Introduction Instruction in the nature of critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and personal responsibility (to be supplemented throughout the course where appropriate) Wood Chapter 1: defining communication; models; principles of communication; interpersonal needs; communication competence
Week 2	Parker Reading (posted on D2L): interpersonal communication and personal health Class Discussion: What is a theory? What are my personal theories? How do I recognize personal expectations that affect interpersonal interactions? Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Personal Theory Development and Survey Data</i>
Week 3	Wood Chapter 2: self-concept, identity, and multi-dimensional self; improving self-concept Class Discussion: Do people change their identities? How do media affect the way we form our self-concept? How do we use media to craft our identities and represent ourselves to others? Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Identity and Gender</i>
Week 4	Wood Chapter 3: perceptual process, influences on perception, improving perception Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>My Online/Mediated Identity</i> Writing assignment #1 due: Influence of the particular other and generalized others
Week 5	Wood Chapter 4: symbolic nature of language, principles of language; symbolic abilities, speech communities; improving verbal communication
Week 6	Wood Chapter 5: nonverbal communication and its principles; types of nonverbal communication and intercultural communication competence

	Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Experiment with Nonverbal Expectancy Violations</i>
Week 7	Wood Chapter 6: listening process; obstacles; non-listening, adapting; self-assessment, guidelines for effective listening; memory techniques; notetaking Writing assignment #2 due: Verbal communication and speech communities
	<b>Exam 1 Available (must take during the 24-hour period on D2L – your responsibility)</b>
Week 8	Wood Chapter 7: emotions, obstacles to communicating emotions, emotional contagion, guidelines for communicating emotions Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Technology and Communicating Emotions</i>
Week 9	Wood Chapter 8: satisfying relationships; communication climates Health and Interpersonal Communication Contexts
Week 10	Wood Chapter 9: interpersonal conflict, principles of conflict, orientations to conflict, responses to conflict, mediation and media richness Writing assignment #3 due: Framing and feeling rules
Week 11	Wood Chapter 10: friendship nature, development, pressures, and competence Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Intercultural Friendship Narrative</i>
Week 12	Wood Chapter 12: family, diversity, long-term commitments, family life-cycle, effective communication, family communication patterns, family storytelling, work-life tensions Graded Activity/Participation entitled <i>Family Identity and Storytelling</i>
Week 13	Wood Chapter 11: romantic relationships, style of loving (love languages), development; online romantic relationships, long-distance romantic relationships
Week 14	Media and Interpersonal Relationships: media theories and related research Writing assignment #4 due: Friendship and romantic relationships in the media: the good, the bad, and the exemplary ( <b>Critical Thinking, Communication Skills</b> ) Class presentations ( <b>Teamwork, Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Personal Responsibility</b> )
Final	<b>Exam 2 Available (must take during the 24-hour period on D2L – your responsibility)</b>

- Last Day to Register:
- Twelfth Class Day:
- Mid-semester:
- Spring Break:
- Last Day to Drop or Withdraw without WP or WF:
- Last Day to Withdraw from the University:
- Finals Week: