Welcome to a Great Semester!

Class time: WEDNESDAY evenings from 4:00 to 6:30pm
Class location: Ferguson #174
Office: Room #436 in the Liberal Arts North Building
Office Hours: 2pm-4pm on Tuesdays and 1:00-4:00 on Wednesdays

Instructor: Kathy McGough
Email address: mcgoughkb@sfasu.edu  Do not use D2L email!
Department daytime phone # (936) 468-6540
Cell phone # (936) 615-2803

Please bring this textbook to class each time we meet.

Course Description: This class will provide theory and practice in interpersonal communication and analysis of communication as a function of interpersonal communication, as well as a practical resource to help students connect with their listeners and work toward creating and sustaining shared meaning.

General Education Core Curriculum Objectives:
The core objectives established by the THECB (n.d., Elements of the core curriculum) are:
* Critical Thinking Skills – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
* Communication Skills – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
* Empirical and Quantitative Skills – to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
* 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
* Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText accounts will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText account, and you will be notified how to register your account through your SFA email account. If you forward your SFA email to another account and do not receive an email concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junkmail older and your spam filter for these emails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu. Ask for Jennifer Stringfield.
**Program Learning Outcome:**
After completing COM 170 students will be able to demonstrate competence in logical and critical thinking.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After completing COM 170 students majoring in Communication Studies will be able to recognize the central role of freedom of expression and inquiry in a diverse and democratic society and will meet or exceed the General Education Core Curriculum Objectives. For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes see the assessment resource page: [http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp)

**Requirements:** 5 Projects, 3 Exams, 1 Group Presentation and 1 Live Text Assessment.

You should complete reading assignments on the Calendar due date. Exams will require **Scantron Forms #882 and #2 pencils** with good erasers.

**Assignments:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homework Project #1</td>
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<td>Self Project #2</td>
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<td>Listening Logs Project #3</td>
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<td>Exam #1 Chapters 1-5</td>
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<td>Exam #2 Chapters 6-8</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #3 Chapters 9-11</td>
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**TOTAL 1000 POINTS**

**FINAL Grade Scale:**
- 900-1000 = A
- 800-899 = B
- 700-799 = C
- 600-699 = D
- 599 and below=F

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class are expected to read and abide by the university policy on academic integrity. If a student is found in violation of this policy, he/she will be subject to receiving a failing grade for this course, and the violation will be reported to the university authorities.

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 or 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 it 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

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.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)
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.

Students with Disabilities: 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, 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/.

Attendance Requirements: Because a significant portion of the learning in this class is based on participation and observation, part of your grade for the course will be determined by your attendance and active participation in class. It is the student’s responsibility to check with the teacher and sign in on the class role if they are late to class.

Reward for Perfect Attendance: Students taking Communication Studies courses who have perfect attendance will be rewarded. Simply put, students with no absences, when their bodies are physically present for each class period, from the beginning of class to the end of class, will receive 10 bonus points to the final total points. One Excused absence per semester with proper documentation and approval will be allowed.
LATE arrival to class: Students who arrive 15 minutes or more after the class has started will not qualify for the “Perfect Attendance Reward.” Leaving before the class is officially over will also disqualify the student from the Perfect Attendance Reward.

LATE WORK will not be tolerated. Since students know all of the assignments ahead of time – there will be no LATE WORK. Any work turned in after the Due Date will receive a ZERO.

Excused Absence Request Procedure: Professors will not hear or recognize oral excuses. Students taking Communication Studies courses who desire to not receive penalties for missing class and/or make up missed work are required to follow the Excused Absence Request procedure/go to the Office of Rights and Responsibilities and report your absence.

Before having unexcused absences excused and completing make up work, the Excused Absence Request procedure must be completed and approved.

Students are expected to complete the form and provide the required documentation prior to discussing attendance with the professor. Written documentation verifying the absence must accompany the Excused Absence Request form. Acceptable documentation includes: doctor/medical paperwork, written acknowledgement of participation in a university sponsored event, and family emergency records.

Completed forms and supporting documentation are to be turned into the professor at the next class period after the missed class. No exceptions will be made. This means at the beginning of the next class period after the missed class!

An Excused Absence Request form will not be considered approved until the professor has completed the identified sections, signed the form, and returned a copy to the student. Students should not consider completing a form as an automatic approved excuse for missing class. It is only an appeal for making an absence excused versus unexcused.

Notes: A missed assignment due to “forgetting,” being unprepared, or an unexcused absence will receive a “0” and NO “make up” will be given. Keep all graded materials throughout the semester so we will have a basis for discussion. If you want to review exams and graded assignments, you must do so before the end of the semester. Due to limited office space, after the end of the semester, they will be shredded. All grades will be posted as soon as possible on D2L.

LATE WORK will not be tolerated. Don’t come to class without your paperwork – don’t give any excuses about your printer not working or your computer crashing. You need to have your work prepared a few days AHEAD of the due date!!!
EXCUSED ABSENCE REQUEST FORM

Student Name: ___________________________ SID# ___________________________

Course Name ______________________ Course # ____________________ Section #_______

Course meeting time ______________ Date this form submitted: ______________

Exact date(s) you were absent: MONTH ___________ DAY(S) ___________________

In the space below, explain clearly, with sufficient detail, the legitimate reason(s) for missing class. Attach your doctor/medical paperwork, written proof of participation in a university sponsored event, or family emergency documentation to the back of the form. Written documentation must accompany the request form.

THIS REQUEST FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION MUST BE TURNED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS FOLLOWING THE MISSED CLASS PERIOD. YOU MAY NOT COME TO CLASS (AFTER MISSING A CLASS PERIOD) WITHOUT THIS FORM AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AND EXPECT TO EXPLAIN THE CIRCUMSTANCES BY WHICH YOU MISSED CLASS.

Provide a clear explanation as to why your absence should be excused:

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

(continue on the back of this page if you need more space to explain)

PRINT your name: ____________________________________

Provide your signature here: ________________________________  Date: ________________

Completing the request form does not guarantee approval. It is the exclusive right of the instructor to approve or deny the request.

Instructor Use Only:

Request has been: _______ APPROVED _______ DENIED

____________________________________________________________________________

Instructor’s Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
Name ________________________________

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Instructions: After you have read this entire Syllabus, Attendance policy, Absence information, Academic Integrity Policy, Projects information, Exams schedule, Calendar, and required assignments, please fill this out and return to Kathy McGough. Thank you.

“I have received the Syllabus, Calendar, and the Excused Absence Request Form for this class. I have had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss course requirements with Kathy McGough, Instructor. I have read and I understand the Syllabus, Calendar, Attendance Policy, Late Arrival Policy, Late Work Policy, Excused Absence requirements, Academic Integrity Policy, Acceptable Student Behavior, required work, grade requirements, and the importance of classroom participation. I have read the description of the five (5) projects required in this course. I know that there are three (3) exams over Chapters 1-5 and 6-8 and 9-11, and one (1) group presentation, and one (1) Live Text Assessment assignment. I will do my best to be an asset to this class, and I will give my best for each presentation.”

“I understand that my assignments are due at the beginning of class. If I have computer problems, because I waited until the due date to print off my work, I understand that I will not be able to ask for special privileges to turn in late work.”

Printed name_____________________________________________________

Signature _________________________________________________________

Cell Phone _________________________________________________________

Today’s Date ________________________________________________________
Instructions: Write 1 or more pages (write as much as you like). Begin by typing your name in the top right corner. Skip about 10 spaces (to give yourself room to scotch tape the photographs), then use your computer’s word processing to write your paper. Include 2 different photographs of yourself. You are welcome to xerox your student ID photo and your driver’s license photo, but any two different poses will do. Print out a copy and have it ready to hand in on due date.

Note #1: I will keep this information confidential, so feel free to write whatever you wish.

Note #2: Do not answer on this handout; prepare a word processed paper. Here is the format to use: number and type each of these questions, then provide your answer. Do not use one or two word/phrase short answers. Be specific and think about what you have to say. Use good grammar and punctuation.

1. Tell me about yourself. Who are you? What 3 things make you unique?
2. Why do you think this course will be helpful to you?
3. Describe your proudest achievement?
4. Up to this point, what has been the best time of your life?
5. Describe your one strength; describe your one weakness.
6. Describe the one, single greatest quality you admire in your best friend.
7. What are your career plans after you leave SFA?

Remember, the whole point of this is for us to get to know each other. I will share things about myself throughout the semester. So, please write about anything you wish. What would you like me to know about you, so that I will understand who you really are? Completion of this assignment will account for up to 50 points to your participation grade. Use good grammar and punctuation. Use 12 font. Single space your work, and double space between questions. If you do not follow the instructions exactly, points will be taken off.
Kathy McGough

“Email/Contact Information” Homework Assignment PART B

DUE: _________________________ BY CLASS TIME!!!!!

Instructions:

1. Write an email message to me with contact information. DO NOT USE D2L email! My email address follows:

mcgoughkb@sfasu.edu

On the subject line, identify yourself by writing your last name, first name, course and number, and class meeting time all on the Subject Line.

Example, if your name is John Smith, and you are taking the COM 170.008 class at 4:00pm on Wednesday nights, the subject line must be:

Smith, John, COM 170.008 at 4:00pm Wednesday

2. Your email message should begin with typing your cell phone number!

Then answer the following 5 questions. Please number and type each question, and then provide your answer. Do not give one word/phrase answers – think about what you have to say, be specific and give details.

1 - What are your personal first impressions of meeting new people? Is this hard/easy for you?
2 - How would you describe one problem you are currently experiencing when it comes to sharing meanings with others?
3 - What aspect of interpersonal communication do you think being a part of a multicultural community is most important and why?
4 - Tell about any “sharing meaning” experience that you have had.
5 - Why do you personally want to become a better communicator?

3. One purpose of this assignment is to check the email procedure and begin sharing impressions, perceptions, and ideas. You will receive a response from me for each email that you send. If you have not received a response from me, please resend your email until you do. Completion of this assignment will account for up to 50 points to your participation grade. Use good grammar and punctuation. If you do not follow the instructions exactly, points will be taken off.
**SELF PROJECT**  Ten Terms from Chapter 3

**DUE DATE:** __________________________

You will need to read Chapter 3 to identify all the terms needed in this assignment. Type your questions and answers. Begin your answer by giving the definition of the term/terms for each question. Single space your answers. Double space between questions. Use 12 font.

1. Explain your own personal “Identity Management” self evaluation.

2. Relating to “Facework” – explain your own personal “Face.”

3. Create your own personal “Screen Name” and list reasons why you chose it.

4. Create your own personal “Home Page” listing all your features.

5. Explain an “Attribution Theory” aspect of your life.

6. Describe your own personal “Worldview.”

7. Explain “Facts” and “Inferences” and the difference between the two. Give an example of each.

8. What are some things that you would like to change about yourself and why?

9. List some reasonable “Goals” that you have at this time in your life.

10.List the people who are “Relational Uppers” in your life and “why.”
Define and discuss the following ten types of listening and create or observe a situation that allows you to experience/witness that particular type of listening. Your discussion should involve your own thoughts and feelings. Either set up the experience yourself or observe others involved in the type of listening. You will need to include the information (below) that defines each listening event. Use 12 font and single space your work. Begin a new page for each Listening Log.

Mindful listening
Listening for pleasure/enjoyment
Selective or spot listening
Listening for advice
Listening for information

Listening to support or help others
Pseulisting
Action-centered listening
Silent listening
Listening for cultural understanding

The top of each of your “Listening Log” pages should include the following Headings:

Type of Listening:
Definition and Discussion:
Date:
Time:
Location:
People involved:
Background information/meaningful Data:
Scenario Description:
Summary Analysis:

Each Listening Log should take you 1-3 pages. Use 12 font and single space your work. Be sure to use good grammar and punctuation. Each log will be worth 10 points with a total of 100 points for all ten. This project will be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. No late work will be accepted. You will not be able to turn in this assignment after the class begins. Do not ask to bring your work in after class. Do not wait until the date this assignment is due to print out your assignment.
EMOTIONS PROJECT – Chapter 7

DUE DATE: ______________________________

Read Chapter 7. Define and Discuss each of the Emotions listed below. Write your own personal experience and thoughts about each emotion. Be clear and concise and describe your examples. Then choose someone else (a friend, a family member, a roommate, an acquaintance, a teacher, or a stranger) to ask their thoughts and experience concerning one of the list of emotions. You must use a different person for each of the ten emotions for a total of ten people. You may use their name or a description of the person. Use 12 font and single space your work. Start a new page for each emotion.

1. Happiness
2. Love
3. Adoration
4. Joy
5. Amazement
6. Fear
7. Disappointment
8. Grief
9. Disgust
10. Anger
MOVIE PROJECT Due Date: ______________

You are to watch the movie, “Cast Away” and answer the 20 questions listed below. The DVD is on reserve at the library, or you may use other sources. Please write out the questions also. (Please use size 12 font and single space your answers. Double space between questions.) It should take at least three pages. Please make sure your answers are complete, and explain your answers. Hint: if you read the questions before you view the movie, it will be easier to answer the questions.

“Cast Away” is an award winning drama film (2000) starring Tom Hanks as Chuck Noland, a time-obsessed systems analyst, who travels worldwide resolving productivity problems at FedEx depots. Flying through a violent storm, his airplane crashes into the Pacific Ocean, and he is washed up on a deserted island. If you have already seen this movie, please view it again with an open mind to gain new knowledge of the benefits and goals involved in “Interpersonal Communication.” Use your text to help with the phrases and terms required to answer the questions. Always use the Glossary to help locate different terms. Give definitions of the terms in your answers.

Enjoy the movie!

1. **Empathize** with the terror that Chuck Noland must have felt after the plane crash. Describe what you think he was thinking and feeling.
2. Using **Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs** show how he went through each of the levels of human needs in the movie. List each level and explain how he satisfied the needs within.
3. What were the different types of **noise** that distracted him throughout the movie? List at least three.
4. How was Chuck able to create the ongoing process of **interpersonal communication** on this island?
5. List some of the main **emotions** he went through in the movie – before, during, and after his stay on the island. List examples.
6. Give examples of when Chuck experienced **power and control** both before and after the crash.
7. Give examples of when Chuck used **positive self-talk** to fortify his sense of self-worth.
8. What was the **irony** that occurred when Chuck met the man who had married his girlfriend, Kelly?
9. How did Chuck’s **personality** change from before his plane crash to after he came home?
10. How was Chuck able to use **nonverbal communication** during his time on the island? List examples.
11. What **territorial markers** did Chuck have on the island?
12. List the different types of **paralanguage** that Chuck used in the movie?
13. What role did **silence** play in the movie? Give examples.
14. What were some times when his **active listening** was important?
15. Describe a time in the movie that exemplifies a “catharsis” experience.
16. Based on the **Personal Styles of Listening** (P-A-C-T) in our text, compare Chuck’s personal listening style at the beginning of the movie and at the end of the movie.
17. What did you like least about the movie? Why?
18. What did you like best about the movie? Why?
19. What do you think was the main reason that Chuck never gave up hope when he was on the island?
20. Describe what you think Kelly felt as Chuck drove away for the last time.
## GROUP PROJECT (20 Minutes)

1. Knowledge of Material/Coverage of Chapter high points
2. Cohesiveness of the Team/Flexibility/Flow
3. Confidence and Poise/Stage Presence of each member
4. Good Vocal Quality/Delivery/Articulation
5. Choice of Audio/Visual Aids/Presentation
6. Enthusiasm/Contribution of each team member
7. Eye Contact/No reading or reliance on notes
8. Interaction with the Audience
9. Physical Appearance (use of costumes, props, etc.)
10. Timing (points off per minute/s + or -)

**TOTAL:**

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COM 170 CORE ASSIGNMENT for LIVE TEXT

INSTRUCTIONS:
This is a major class assignment that encourages you to think critically about course concepts/theories/ideas in the chapters in your textbook and creatively apply the material in order to teach the concepts to specific audiences or is specific contexts. You will work in teams/groups to prepare for this assignment and will be presenting at least a 5-minute long virtual, recorded presentation of the material towards the end of the semester.

The assignment includes TWO PARTS:
1. Each student will choose two concepts from the interpersonal textbook and present the important points and ideas through a creative, recorded, virtual presentation to teach others about these concepts. You will compare and contrast the concepts and theories presented and demonstrate your ability to assess your own core beliefs/experiences and how these beliefs are similar or different from those being talked about in the text. Rather than simply presenting what the concept means, you are encouraged to bring the concepts to life and demonstrate examples of competent communication for specific audiences. You are encouraged to be “creative!” Your presentation is to be recorded and uploaded to LIVE TEXT. Your presentation should not exceed 7 minutes but should not be shorter than 5 minutes. You must use a “visual aid” in the video, and you must be visible in the video as well. You may choose to wear costumes, use props, use movie or television themes, or come up with a unique presentation of your own!
2. You and your group will have to meet outside of class in order for group members to help prepare and record your presentation. We will also have some class time set aside for preparation. Every student will “keep a record” of their individual contribution. The log will also be used to write a short reflection paper discussing what ideas you contributed, how you constructively facilitated others’ ideas, and how you synthesized ideas for and with the group. Include how successful you and your team was in developing and implementing the ideas generated and how you helped motivate each other to complete the task. You will also discuss how you fostered a constructive team climate and responded to conflict if and when they arose.

Product/Work Being Assessed:
1. A creative, recorded, virtual 5 minute presentation to teach others about interpersonal concepts from your chapter uploaded to LIVE TEXT.
2. A log of your activities in a short reflection paper on your own contribution to the team effort.
# WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS – COM 170.008 – SPRING 2016
4:00pm Room #174 KATHY McGOUGH

## JANUARY
20 Welcome and Get Acquainted Syllabus/Calendar Assign Homework
27 Chapter 1 Introduction “Homework” due (100 points)

## FEBRUARY
3 Chapter 2 Culture & Identity Assign “Self Project”
10 Chapter 3 Perception & Self “Self Project” due (100 points) Mardi Gras
17 Chapters 4 & 5 Verbal & Nonverbal Study for Exam and Assign 4 GROUPS
24 EXAM #1 Chapters 1-5 (100 points) Assign “Listening Logs Project”

## MARCH
2 Chapter 6 Listening “Listening Logs” due (100 points) Assign “Emotions Project”
9 Chapter 7 Emotion “Emotions Project” due (100 points) Assign Movie “Cast Away”
16 SPRING BREAK
23 Chapter 8 Sharing Personal Info GROUPS & Live Text
30 EXAM #2 Chapters 6, 7 & 8 (100 points) Discuss Groups (4 groups / 20 min) Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11

## APRIL
6 GROUPS Workshop Chapters 8, 9, 10 and 11 Live Text Sharing, Conflict, Close Relations, Family/Friends/Romance
13 GROUPS PRESENTATIONS (100 points)
20 CORE ASSESSMENT Workshop - LIVE TEXT Preparation Groups Movie Analysis Due! (100 points)
27 LIVE TEXT PRESENTATIONS

## MAY
4 Recap and Review Deadline for Live Text
11 EXAM #3 Chapters 9, 10 & 11 (100 points)