Advanced Interpersonal Communication
COM 470 Spring 2016

Professor Name: Dr. Carrie Kennedy-Lightsey (pronounced “Light-SEE”)
Email: kennedylcd@sfasu.edu
Office Phone: 936-468-1262; Main Office: 936-468-4303
Office Location: Liberal Arts North (LAN)-Vera Dugas, Rm 413
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1p-2:45p; Tuesdays, 10a-11:30a*
Class Meeting Times: COM 310.001, MWF 9-9:50a
                   COM 470.001, MWF 10-10:50a
                   COM 170.003, MWF 11-11:50a
                   COM 170.004, MWF 12-12:50p
*If these times don’t work with your schedule and you need to meet with me, we can arrange a
time that works with both of our schedules.

General Course Description: In this course, we’ll discuss Interpersonal Communication and
Emotions. We’ll begin by broadly defining key terms and identifying central theories of
emotions. Then, we’ll focus on various discrete and blended emotions that negatively and
positively affected our destructive and constructive communication in relationships with
romantic partners, friends, family members, co-workers, and employers.

Required Readings: There is no textbook required for purchase. You will be expected however
to access and read various chapters and articles that will be made available in D2L or the library
databases. To be successful in this class, printing these readings may be requested or
recommended.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Define emotions and emotional communication.
- Explain the various conceptualizations of discrete versus blended emotions.
- Identify and explain central theories of communication and emotions.
- Explain the central action tendencies of the primary emotions discussed in class.
- Apply research and theories of communication and emotions to practical interpersonal
situations

This course also meets several objectives for those of you majoring in Communication Studies.

Program Learning Outcomes: Students majoring in Communication Studies…

- Should display comprehension of major communication theories.
- Will apply the major theories in the field to communicate effectively in a variety of settings.
- Will be able to use and demonstrate understanding of appropriate methodology in critical,
  humanistic, or social scientific paradigms in examining research questions in
  communication.
- Will be able to recognize the central role of diversity and freedom of expression in a global
  community.
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.

Will be able to demonstrate oral and written competence in logical and critical thinking.

**Course Requirements**

**Student Evaluation**: Your grade in this course will be calculated using a cumulative score out of 500 total possible points. The following scale can be used to determine your final letter grade.

\[ A = 450-500, \ B = 400-449, \ C = 350-399, \ D = 300-349, \ F < 299 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
<th>Your Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses and Discussion Questions (12 @ 10 points each; drop lowest 2)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Mid-term Exam (@ 100 pts.)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Final Exam (@ 100pts.)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotion Chapter (Presentation, Paper)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>500</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading Responses and Discussion Questions**. For each assigned reading, you will submit the following typed responses: (1) Summarize in one or two sentences the major premise/thesis/argument of the article/chapter, (2) offer a one to two sentence reaction to the article’s premise wherein you contradict, critique, support, or extend the premise, and (3) pose 2 thoughtful and reflective questions that were inspired by the reading that you would like to discuss in class. These will be collected each day a reading is required and graded based on your inclusion of each of these three elements. Your response to the reading and your discussion questions will often serve as the basis for our discussions. Therefore, you should be thoroughly prepared to lead and engage one another in a discussion about the topic and readings. If it becomes clear that students are not doing the assigned reading, I reserve the right to give pop-up quizzes with little to no warning.

**Exams**. There will two exams given over the course of the semester. Exam one will occur mid-semester and will include the topics covered in the first part of the course, whereas exam two will occur during our final exam time. The final exam will be primarily focused on material covered since exam 1, but I expect that students will also incorporate their knowledge of the other material into their answers. With the exams, I will assess not only your ability to recall, understand, and apply material, but also higher levels of learning. You’ll be expected to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate material. Each exam is worth 100 points each.

For in class exams, you will be allotted the entire class period to complete exams. However, late students will not receive any additional time. If you arrive after the first exam has been turned in, you will not be allowed to take the exam. **On exam days, you will be asked to turn off ALL**
technology. If any technology comes out during the exam, I will pick up your exam and you will automatically receive a zero. Make-up exams are not permitted unless otherwise arranged with the professor for extreme, unavoidable circumstances. I reserve the right to adjust the exam when giving a make-up instead of giving the original exam. If you will be away on official university business on an exam day, you will need to arrange to take the exam BEFORE the exam date. It is your responsibility to arrange this meeting and you must provide documentation.

Chapter and Presentation. The final project in this class will include two central components. First, you will be charged with investigating past scholarly research materials available on an emotion and writing a book chapter that could theoretically be included in an undergraduate textbook on communication and emotions. Second, you will present what you found in your research as well as major conclusions/take away points at the end of the semester in a 10+ minute presentation. Additional instructions will be provided along with a rubric for how the chapter and presentation will be graded.

All papers (including your reading responses) submitted in this course, must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins and double spacing between sentences and paragraphs. Your chapter should be free of spelling and grammatical errors and should include well-organized paragraphs with topic sentences and transitions. Papers with errors that do not satisfy the requirements of the assignment, including being off topic or rambling, will lose points. Your book chapter will be submitted to the D2L Dropbox designated by the due date specified in this syllabus.

Attendance/Participation. Attendance and active participation in class discussions and activities are very important for your success in this class. Formal attendance will be taken randomly over the course of the semester at the instructor’s discretion. It is the student’s responsibility to sign in on the days attendance is collected and/or to complete the attendance activity. Students will be allowed three (3) absences over the course of the semester without fear of grade penalty. However, students with four (4) or more absences are at risk of point deduction (minus 10 points per absence). Arriving late and leaving early could negatively affect your grade. Perfect attendance, which means being physically present for EVERY single class meeting, is worth 10 additional points toward your final grade (out of 500 points). Signing someone else’s name or requesting someone else to sign your name is academic dishonesty and will be handled in the same manner as academic plagiarism/cheating (see Academic Integrity statement). If you miss seven or more classes, you will automatically receive an F in the course, regardless of the reason.
**COURSE POLICIES**

**Late Assignments.** Assignments are due by the designated date and time on the Course Timeline. No late work is accepted regardless of the reason. Any exceptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will require extremely compelling, well-documented reasons. You must provide documentation for dire circumstances (e.g., accident, hospitalization, family death etc.). If you will be away on official university business when an assignment is due, you must provide appropriate documentation and arrange to complete assignments/tests BEFORE departing.

**Grading Policy.** I cannot explicitly measure effort. The final product is all that can be evaluated. Although effort is typically associated with improved results, you should not confuse the two. If you are dissatisfied with a grade on an assignment, you must wait at least 24 hours and no more than 7 days before discussing the issue with me. At that time, you should focus on what can be done to improve your performance on the next assignment, rather than disputing the grade itself. I spend a great deal of time ensuring that I grade assignments in a fair and consistent manner and any error that does occur will be in your favor. Please feel free to speak with me at any time about ways to improve your performance in the course. I strongly suggest however that this is done early in the semester rather than waiting until the end of the semester.

**Technology.** It is important that you be familiar with D2L. You can anticipate that any unexpected changes or prompt announcements will be distributed via D2L. Moreover, all of your grades will be posted in D2L. You are encouraged to check D2L on a daily basis for updates and other information. Students who do not check their D2L regularly will still be held accountable for missed information regarding the course.

Technology use during class time however should be kept to a minimum. Texting in class, especially while someone else is talking, is rude and will not be tolerated. If you would like to use a laptop or electronic device (other than a phone) for note taking, you will be allowed to do so. If you’re using such technology for other, non-educational reasons however, your technology use will be suspended for the rest of the semester.

**Classroom Civility.** Civility in the classroom is not only expected, but also required. We may discuss some sensitive issues in this class. Please be mindful that although you have not experienced certain things first hand, it is very possible and highly likely that some of your classmates have. A vast array of opinions, points of view, and experiences will be expressed during class, and we will work together to create an environment where everyone feels safe to express their ideas. While different opinions, experiences, and ideas will be welcomed, incivility and disrespect will not be tolerated.

“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.”

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

“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)”

**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,
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/.”

**Important Due Dates***

Reading responses due weekly throughout the semester—TBA

Friday, March 4th—Exam One

Monday, March 14th through 18th—Spring Break, NO CLASS

Friday, March 25th through 28th—Easter Break, NO CLASS

Monday, April 25th—Book Chapters due to D2L

Monday, April 25 through 29th—Book Chapter Presentations in Class

Monday, May 9th—Exam Two

*This schedule is subject to change. It is your responsibility to stay abreast any changes made to the schedule throughout the semester.