

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY
Department of Speech Communication and Theatre
SPEECH 214
INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
Course Credit: 3 Semester Hours

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Mark G. Henderson, Ph.D.
Class Hours: TR 1:00-2:20 p.m.
Classroom: Room 102 McCoy Auditorium
Office: Room 100 McCoy Auditorium
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-5:00 p.m.
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"I don't understand why she got so angry with me. It was out of the blue..." Interpersonal communication skills training can teach you to send the message you intend to send so others get the message you want them to get!

"It seems like I always get taken advantage of. I wish people could just be nice..." Interpersonal communication skills training can teach you to how to teach others more effective ways of treating you.

"People say I'm my own worst enemy!"

"What can I do about my critical inner voice?" Interpersonal communications skills training can improve your relationships and increase your emotional IQ.

"If I change, will my partner still love me?"

"Our relationship seems so empty these days." Interpersonal communication skills training can help you and your partner enrich your relationship.

"We argue so much. Is that healthy?" Good therapy can help you and your partner resolve difficult issues

Nature of Course

Interpersonal Communication is the first in a core series and is the study of the theory and application of principles of interpersonal communication. This course will focus on the communicator's identity, and the process of developing interpersonal relationships in various types of communicative environments with the hope that improved interpersonal relationships will improve the quality of life for all.

General Objectives

To assist students in understanding themselves as persons:

a. by acquiring knowledge that will help them understand their judgments of the messages of others as well as to understand the inner needs and motivation that influence their own messages.

b. by observing and analyzing their own behavior, attitudes, and feelings in communication transactions.

c.by acquiring knowledge that will help them understand and appreciate how human relationships are created, developed, maintained, and destroyed through communicating transactions.

General Course requirements

1. **Thought Papers.** You will write and hand in three Thought Papers, on topics assigned to you by the professor. You will be expected to use correct spelling in these papers. Use of appropriate grammatical skills in oral and written communication is also very important. Throughout the course you will expand your personal vocabulary through the study of terms related to the course. Your written work will be evaluated on both content and mechanics. Good writing should be reasonably free of mistakes and without compositions errors which are called gross errors (sentence fragments, run-on sentences, subject-verb disagreement, misspelled words, and typographical errors which result in such errors). All of your work **MUST BE TYPED** (using no more than 12 point type with margins not exceeding 1 inch on the top, right, and bottom, nor 1.5 inches on the left) and double-spaced, and should not exceed 2 pages.
2. **Mini-Bag Presentation.** Each student will prepare a bag that reveals his or her “self”. The outside of the bag should represent the student’s “public” (presenting) self. This may be done by the bag itself, or any artifacts or pictures pasted on the bag. What is in the bag should represent the student’s “private” (perceived) self– aspects of the ‘you’ that you do not show to the world. The items could represent any aspect of your experience, aspirations, or personality. You will have 3-5 minutes to present your collage to the class. The grade will be based on content, creativity, organization, and delivery. Time range will be strictly enforced.

CLASS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

Attendance.

Regular attendance is required. You need to be present to learn and practice skills introduced in class. A student’s final grade will be reduced by **one letter grade** after three absences; the student will receive a grade of **F** after five absences. This means that you have been absent too many times to maintain continuity in improvement. **THERE ARE NO EXCUSED ABSENCES.** When you are absent, please do not bring me a doctor’s note, an obituary, or any other information in hopes of excusing an absence. Notice that you are given three free absences for situations for which you really have an emergency or sickness. Don’t use those “freebies” for blowing off the class and then come to me later (after you have gone over the limit) when you are really sick or have an emergency and expect an excuse. In short, please don’t take advantage of your “freebies”.

Please arrive to class on time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is not fair to me or to your classmates. You will have missed class if you are not there for the entire class period. That is, staying for only half the class, coming in 5-10 minutes before the end of class, or consistently coming in 5-10 minutes late does not mean that you attended. 3 Tardies equal one absence. If you come in after roll has been called, it is your responsibility to let the instructor know at the end of that particular class. Moreover, do not expect me to cover any missed material.

Assignments

If you miss an assignment and are allowed to make it up, you must make it up within a reasonable time (normally 1 week or less). All arrangements for missing an assignment must be made **prior** to the time of the class. If such arrangements are not made, then you will receive a zero for that assignment.

Classroom Civility

There are certain basic standards of classroom civility that should be adhered to, particularly in a communication course. Civility does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom community. Classroom civility does, however, include the following:

1. Displaying respect for all members of the classroom community, both your instructor and fellow students.
2. Attentiveness to and participation in lectures, group activities, workshops, and other classroom exercises.
3. Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, reading campus or any type of newspaper, and doing work for other classes.
4. Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

These features of classroom civility do not comprise an exhaustive list. Rather, they represent the minimal sort of behaviors that help to make the classroom a pleasant place for all concerned.

PLEASE! TURN OFF ALL CELLULAR TELEPHONES DURING CLASS TIME, AS IT CAN BE DISRUPTIVE TO THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION!--TEXTING IS TALKING....

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

I LOVE YOU ASSIGNMENT	100
MINI BAG PRESENTATIONS	100
3 THOUGHT PAPERS @ 100 EACH	300
3 EXAMINATIONS	300
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE	800

720-900	A
672-719	B
600-671	C
560-599	D*
Below 560	F

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO GRADE OF 'D' AVAILABLE FOR SPEECH MAJORS**