

Syllabus AMS 3316 Interpersonal Communication

Fall 2017

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1 – 2:15pm

CB2 1.202

Professor Contact Information

Professor	E. Lynn Winstead, Ph.D.
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Office Location	HH 2.140
Office Hours	Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00 – 10:00am; 2:15pm-4pm Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays by appointment; Skype & Facetime appointments also available.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

No pre-requisites required

Course Description

This course is about interpersonal communication. Because this class focuses on relationships, and some of the intricate communication dynamics in different types of relationships, it provides the opportunity for things to get "personal". Please only share what you are willing to share with the entire group, and be mindful that this is technically a "public forum". This course is designed to examine different communication situations and different ways of communicating on different levels and in varying types of relationships. This course is designed to teach about these interpersonal communication issues through lectures, assigned readings, film/video screenings and writing assignments. Achievement of these goals, though, is primarily up to you. Not only do you need to attend carefully to readings, class discussions, and video presentations, you need to THINK about these materials and ideas.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. Students will be able to describe various forms of interpersonal communication and analyze how obstacles in the communication environment can help or hurt interpersonal communication and interpersonal relationships.
2. Students will be able to compare and contrast various different types of interpersonal communication.
3. Students will be able to identify and assess three areas of their interpersonal communication skills that need improvement and will be able to articulate the steps necessary to positively influence their interpersonal communication skills.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Required Text

Interpersonal Communication : Everyday Encounters, 8th edition by Julia T. Woods

Required Materials

A computer, access to the internet, an elearning account

Suggested Course Materials

Please notice examples of outside interpersonal communication; both good examples and poor examples, and come prepared to share them and relate them to our textbook.

Assignments & Academic Calendar: Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates:

AMS 3316 ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

	Tuesdays	Thursdays
Week 1	August 22nd	August 24th
	Class Expectations, Syllabus, Policies and Procedures	Group Meetings, Read Chapter 1 Presentation Preparations-Meet w/ Group
Week 2	August 29th	August 31st
	Group Meetings, Read Chapter 1 Presentation Preparations-Meet w/ Group	Chapter 1 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 2
Week 3	September 5th	September 7th
	Chapter 2 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 3	Ch. 2 Activity - Discuss Ch. 2 - Read Ch. 3 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 4	September 12th	September 14th
	Chapter 3 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 4	Chapter 3 Activity - Discuss Ch. 3 - Read Ch. 4 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 5	September 19th	September 21st
	Chapter 4 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 5	Chapter 4 Activity - Discuss Ch. 4 - Read Ch. 5 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 6	September 26th	September 28th
	Chapter 5 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Discussion & Group Presentation Test 1 Posted - Chapters 1-6
Week 7	October 3rd	October 5th
	Work on Test Read Chapter 7	Work on Test - TEST 1 DUE 11:59 PM Tonight UPLOADED TO ELEARNING/TURNITIN.COM
Week 8	October 10th	October 12th
	Chapter 7 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 8	Chapter 7 Activity - Discuss Ch. 7 - Read Ch. 8 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 9	October 17th	October 19th
	Chapter 8 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 9	Chapter 8 Activity - Discuss Ch. 8 - Read Ch. 9 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 10	October 24th	October 26th
	Chapter 9 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 10	Chapter 9 Activity - Discuss Ch. 9 - Read Ch. 10 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 11	October 31st	November 2nd
	Chapter 10 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 11	Chapter 10 Activity - Discuss Ch. 10 - Read Ch. 11 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 12	November 7th	November 9th
	Chapter 11 Discussion & Group Presentation Read Chapter 12	Chapter 11 Activity - Discuss Chapter 11 - Read Ch. 12 Group Meetings & Presentation Prep
Week 13	November 14th	November 16th
	Chapter 12 Discussion & Group Presentation Discuss Test	Chapter 12 Activity - Discuss Chapter 12 Test 2 Chs 7-12 Posted on elearning-Work on Test
Week 14	November 21st	November 23rd
	Winter Break	Winter Break
Week 15	November 28th	November 30th
	Individual Presentations (Only Make Ups) and Class Wrap Up and Work on Test	TEST 2 DUE 11:59PM TONIGHT Uploaded to elearning/Turnitin.com
Week 16	December 5th	December 7th-14th
	University Scheduled Reading Days	University Scheduled Final Exams

Grading Policy

25%	Attendance-Participation-Quizzes-Online Assignments-Classroom Activities
25%	Group Presentation and Summary Paper
25%	Test 1 – Chapters 1-6
25%	Test 2 – Chapters 7-12

Course Policies:

Tests: There will be two tests. Each is worth 25% of your grade (for a total of 50% for both tests) and they are ALL ESSAY and will be posted online through elearning. The tests will be turned in through elearning as well. The bulk of the questions are taken from readings and presentations but it is important to pay attention to videos and participate in class discussions. I sometimes draw from these sources as well to design the test. I will explain more about the test taking procedures in class as the time for that draws closer. **PLEASE SEE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE FOR WHEN THE TESTS ARE DUE UPLOADED TO ELEARNING/TURNITIN.COM.** Again, see the late work policy. Also, any student collaboration of ANY KIND on tests will result in a zero and a referral to the Dean over academic integrity for investigation and potential disciplinary and academic penalties. I reserve the right to change the format of the test if another form of test appears to be more appropriate for the class. This could be changing to a multiple-choice test, an essay test in blue books during class time, or a combination. This will be at the professor's discretion.

Make-up exams

Make-up exams will be given only in highly unusual circumstances and at my discretion; it would be VERY RARE that I would allow someone to make up a test. No "extra time" and no extra credit.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit. No exceptions.

Late Work

There are no make up activities for in-class assignments if class is missed. Any online assignments will not be accepted after the cut-off period and the assignment is restricted from view. On tests, 20 points will be removed for each day a paper or test is late, after 5 days the test will not be accepted and will result in the grade of "0" for the test or assignment.

Special Assignments/Online Assignments

At times we will have quizzes, outside assignments, in class activities, or online assignments that will be reflected in the daily grade for the day for which they were assigned. Again, see the late work policy above, but these daily grades will not be accepted late for any reason.

Group Presentation

Every week for every chapter, a few students will be assigned to present key topics/concepts from the chapter for the week as a group presentation. You will be required to bring in an outside resource to illustrate the concepts, show as an example, etc. (using a current event, a video, a website, or something in the media related to the chapter) assigned for that date. This will be a major portion of the class grade (25%). The grading criteria for this presentation will be presented by the instructor and explained and please reference the teacher grading rubric and the handout for how this assignment is graded. Each student in the group presentation will rate all of the other students on 5 criteria regarding participation and effort towards the completed group presentation. The average of the student ratings will be averaged with the teacher score of

the overall quality, effort and relevance of the presentation. If a student is absent on the day of the group presentation that they are supposed to do their presentation, the ONLY make up opportunity will be an individual presentation at the end of the semester on a topic relevant to interpersonal communication of the professor's choosing, and the highest grade available will be an 70 (30 point penalty for not doing the group presentation). Please see the handout for more information about the group presentation.

Class Attendance and Participation

Students are required to attend class. You will be given an attendance/ participation grade for every class made up of firstly, just being there, participation in the discussion, activities, etc. Any distracting talking amongst students, cellphone activities, texting, etc. will count against your attendance/participation grade. You will start out with an attendance/participation grade of 100. If you miss one class meeting/discussion, you will still have a 100 because there is one "free" absence. After that first absence, 5 pts will be deducted from the grade of 100, and for every class absence after that, another 5 pts will be deducted. Please note that absences and lack of participation will have a significant impact on your grade. This portion of the class makes up 25% of your grade. Participation is more than just showing up; it is getting engaged in the discussion and actively learning. Points will be taken off of your participation grade for talking/whispering to other students while I or another student is presenting material to the class. The attendance and participation policy has been outlined so you should be aware of the related grading criteria. There is no need to contact me about missing class unless there is some specific circumstance that you would like for me to be aware of. You should check elearning for any class assignments, announcements, etc. You are responsible for all class information regardless of whether you were in attendance. Also, please forward your UTD email if you do not check it regularly, so that you will receive any emails, announcements and important class information. **PLEASE NOTE: leaving early, coming late and lack of participation will affect your grade. Attendance, being on time, staying through class and participating ALL factor into your attendance and participation grade.** Leaving early and arriving late will be noted and an appropriate penalty will be applied to the attendance/participation grade. Please understand that you will be asked to leave class, marked absent and points taken off of your participation grade if you are disruptive by use of an electronic device, talking or disruptive in any other way. Attendance is an important part of the learning experience in this interpersonal communication class. **You will AUTOMATICALLY receive a failing grade if you miss 8 or more classes.** There is no way that you could have absorbed the material if you have missed 8 or more classes, therefore you will not be eligible to pass the class, REGARDLESS of other grades in the class. Attendance and class interactions play a vital role in teaching the interpersonal concepts set out in the learning objectives for the class. In addition to losing points for not attending and/or not participating, you can also lose points on quizzes and daily/weekly type assignments.

Classroom Citizenship

Disrespect of any student or of the professor will not be tolerated. This behavior will be reflected in the Class Participation Grade. We are here to listen, with an open mind, and learn; i.e.: to be good citizens.

Elearning

Elearning is a major source of communication and involvement in this class. You will use elearning for various class participation activities throughout this class. Please make yourself familiar with elearning if you are not already. It will be an essential part of this class.

Email

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email

from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts. PLEASE FORWARD YOUR UTD EMAIL TO YOUR REGULAR EMAIL ACCOUNT IF YOU DO NOT CHECK YOUR UTD ACCOUNT DAILY!

Scholastic Dishonesty:

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.