**Linn-Benton Community College**

**Department of Communication**

**COMM 218: Interpersonal Communication (CRN: 40764; 40361)**

**Course Syllabus: Spring 2020**

**Schedule:**

Course Dates: April 6- June 12

Location: Online- Moodle

**Instructor:**

Hailey Adkisson, M. A.

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Office: SSH 202

Office phone: 541-917-4757

Office Hours: appointments by Zoom ([adkissh@linnbenton.edu](mailto:adkissh@linnbenton.edu)) or Skype (hadkiss)

**General Course Information:**

This course introduces students to various aspects of the communication process in one-to-one relationships. Emphasis is placed on enhancing personal and professional relationships by expanding knowledge, increasing understanding and developing practical skills necessary for competent communication.

**State of Oregon’s Outcomes Statement**

As a result of taking General Education Speech Communication courses, a student should be able to:

* Engage in ethical communication processes and accomplish goals
* Respond to the needs of diverse audiences and contexts
* Build and manage relationships

**LBCC Course Outcomes**

As a result of taking COMM 218, a student should be able to:

* Apply interpersonal communication research and theory
* Identify interpersonal communication’s key functional areas
* Analyze, select, and enact appropriate interpersonal communication behaviors based on interpretation of the context

**Student Learning Objectives:**

Students who pass this class will be able to:

* Use theory to explain behaviors in interpersonal relationships
* Monitor, analyze and adjust their communication behaviors
* Effectively interact with others in personal and professional settings
* Manage conflict more effectively
* Empathize with people who have different thoughts, beliefs and lifestyles
* Recognize and apply interpersonal concepts while serving the community

**Required Text:**

Adler, R., Rosenfeld, L.B., & Proctor II, R.F. (2018). *Interplay: The process of interpersonal communication (14th ed.)*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

**Additional Course Requirements:** In addition to the textbook, you will need access to the following on a regular basis:

* Moodle
* Computer/laptop
* Reliable internet connection

**ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING**

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| **POINTS POSSIBLE** | **LEARNING ACTIVITY** | **DUE DATE** |
| **50** | **Discussion Journals** | **Original posts: Due every Wed. at 10pm**  **2 Replies: Due every Fri. at 10pm** |
| **60** | **Quizzes** | **Due every other Sunday by 10pm**  **(see schedule)** |
| **40** | **Interpersonal Interview and Essay** | **Sunday, May 17th by 10:00pm** |
| **50** | **“Dear Abby” Final Application Essay** | **Friday, June 12th by 10:00pm** |
| **TOTAL= 200 points** | | |

**Assignment Details:** This list provides an overview of assignments. Due dates and points may be adjusted if need be. More information for each assignment will be discussed throughout the term and be made available on Moodle.

* **Discussions- Posts and Replies (50 points; 5 points each)**- Each week you will need to create an original post in response to the discussion prompt on Moodle, as well as reply to **at least two** of your classmates’ posts. While there is no minimum word requirement, a good original discussion post should be at least 300 words AND show quality in your post (i.e. show me that you have read and spent time reflecting). A good reply to a classmate should be at least 150 words, be relevant to the original poster's message, and show thoughtful reflection. Your grade will be based on the average of all three elements. **Original** **discussion board posts are due by Wednesday at 10:00pm each week. Two replies to your classmates’ posts are due every Friday by 10:00pm.** In order to understand how to create a post a reply, I STRONGLY encourage you to watch the Week 1 “How to complete discussion assignments” video on Moodle.
* **Quizzes (60 points; 10-15 points each)-** There will be five quizzes throughout the term (every other week). Material covered will come both from your textbook and the lectures. **Quizzes are due by Sunday at 10:00pm every other week (see schedule).**
* **Interpersonal Interview and Essay (40 points)-** The goal of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to explore how identity, culture, and perception influences communication through an interview with someone in your life. You will identify key experiences/people in that individual’s life and reflect on how those experiences/people \have influenced how/why they communicate the way they do.
* **“Dear Abby” Final Application Essay (50 points):** The purpose of this assignment is to explore “real-life” challenges in interpersonal communication and provide solutions to these challenges by applying concepts and theories from the course.

**Grading:**

Grades will be assigned based upon points earned in all assignments:

A = 200-180 points

B = 179-160 points

C = 159-140 points

D = 149- 120 points

F = Below 120 points

After I return your assignment, you have one week to discuss a grade with me. **I will not discuss grades after the one week deadline**.

**Extra Credit:** The only way to receive extra credit is by turning in your essay assignments early (1 pt. for each weekday it is early for up to 5 pts). There will be no additional extra credit opportunities.

**COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Attendance:** You must login to Moodle on the first day of the term to secure your spot in the class. You will need to login to Moodle at least 3-4 times a week in order to be successful in this course and complete the required activities and assignments.

**Assignment Submissions:** All assignments must be submitted via Moodle. Email submissions will not be accepted.

**Late Work:** Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive an automatic zero. Please pay attention to assignment due dates listed on the course schedule (below) as well as on Moodle. If you know you will have difficulties meeting a deadline due to an illness or other extenuating circumstance, please contact me as soon as possible so we can help with your success in this course.

**Online Class Participation Expectations:** While an online platform provides many benefits, there are some clear differences between studying interpersonal communication online versus in a face-to-face classroom setting. Reflection and discussion are imperative in this course in order to have a better understanding of ourselves and others, and as a result, become better communicators. With that in mind, it is extremely important to your learning and the learning of others to be intentional and thoughtful in your discussion board posts and replies. Additionally, when I prompt you during slide show videos to think about a certain question or attempt an activity, I strongly encourage you to do so. You will get out of this class what you put into it.

**Communication and office hours:** While I check email often, after 5:00pm M-F and during weekends are times I set aside for my family (and sleeping). If you email me after 5:00pm M-F or on the weekends, do not expect a response until the next business day. While I do not have in-person office hours on campus this term, I still am available for office hours via Zoom/Skype/Facetime. Please email and we can schedule a time to virtually meet and chat about assignments, course content, or life in general.

**Writing Guidelines:** While this is not a writing course, proofreading/editing for grammatical and spelling errors is imperative in effective communication. Excessive spelling or grammatical errors will result in point deductions on assignments. Any information from another source that is included in written papers should be appropriately cited using APA format. If you have any questions about how to do this properly, please see me.

**Honor Code:** LBCC is dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and insists upon academic honesty. To uphold the academic integrity of the institution, all members of the academic community, faculty, staff and students alike, must assume responsibility for providing an educational environment of the highest standards characterized by a spirit of academic honesty. Accordingly, if you exchange information with another student during an exam, use unauthorized sources during an exam, or submit someone else’s work or ideas as your own in any of your assignments, you will receive an F for the exam/assignment and may be subject to further discipline..

**Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy:** LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

**Pronouns & Names:** In order to provide an optimal learning environment for all students, creating a safe space is imperative. If you identify with a particular pronoun/name not represented on the class roster, please feel free to send me an email or come and discuss it with me in-person so I can be sure to recognize this. Your learning and identity are important to me.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

**Class Open Forum:** I recognize that there are a lot of other things everyone is dealing with this term (myself included). I have no doubt there will be moments where you feel overwhelmed, confused, or some other emotion. In order to build community in our class (even at a distance) and provide support, I created an “Open Forum” on Moodle that will be available throughout the entirety of the term. It is located at the top of our course Moodle page.

This is not for a grade. While I encourage you to post and reply to others, it is not a requirement. Posts do not need to have anything to do with the content we are covering in the course. Instead, use it to share when you're struggling (I'm sure others are too), or when you find a funny video or meme that you think would brighten everyone's day, or when you just want to say hello. The only guidelines are that you need to keep it appropriate (PG-13), be respectful and supportive to one another, and avoid anything racist/sexist/homophobic/etc. I've already gone ahead and posted a few things.

**Roadrunner Resource Center:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu , or visit [www.linnbenton.edu/RRC](http://www.linnbenton.edu/RRC) under Student Support for Current Students). This office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that they may possess.

**Childcare Conflicts:** I understand the unforeseen disruption in childcare, especially while most schools and daycares are closed currently, can pose challenges in completing coursework. If this is something you are experiencing, please talk to me and we can figure out a solution.

**Special Needs:** LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR website](https://linnbenton.edu/current-students/student-support/center-for-accessibility-resources/) for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

**Tentative Course Schedule\*: Spring 2020**

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| **Week 1**  **April 6-** | **Introduction to Course and Interpersonal Process (Ch. 1)**   * **Read:**   + Course schedule/syllabus   + Chapter 1 (Interpersonal Process) * **Watch:**   + Video: “Welcome to COMM218/Course Overview”   + Video: “How to complete discussion assignments on Moodle”   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 1     - YouTube Video: “Guys read mean tweets” * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #1-     - Original post: Wed., April 8 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., April 10 by 10:00pm   + Quiz #1 (Syllabus and Ch. 1): Sun., April 12 by 10:00pm (10pts) |
| **Week 2** | **Communication and the Self (Ch. 3)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 3 (Communication and the Self) * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 3   + Video: Hailey’s Discussion Prompt example * **Assignments Due:**    + Discussion #2-     - Original post: Wed., April 15 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., April 17 by 10:00pm |
| **Week 3** | **Culture and Communication (Ch. 2)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 2 (Culture and Communication)   + Interview Essay Assignment * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 2   + Video: Interview Essay Overview * **Assignments Due:**    + Discussion #3-     - Original post: Wed., April 22 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., April 24 by 10:00pm   + Quiz #2 (Chs. 2 & 3): Sun., April 26 by 10:00pm (10 pts) |
| **Week 4** | **Perceiving Others (Ch. 4)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 4 (Perceiving Others) * **Watch:**   + Not as Mini Lecture: Ch. 4     - YouTube video: “Run like a girl” commercial     - YouTube video: “Empathy” by Brene Brown * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #4-     - Original post: Wed., April 29 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., May 1 by 10:00pm |
| **Week 5** | **Language (Ch. 5) & Nonverbal Communication (Ch. 6)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 5 (Language)   + Chapter 6 (Nonverbal) * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 5     - YouTube video: “Dude” Commercial   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 6 * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #5-     - Original post: Wed., May 6 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., May 8 by 10:00pm   + Quiz #3 (Chs. 4, 5 & 6): Sun., May 10 by 10:00pm (15 pts) |
| **Week 6** | **Listening (Ch. 7)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 7 (Listening) * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 7 * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #6-     - Original post: Wed., May 13 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., May 15 by 10:00pm   + Interview Essay Due- Sun., May 17 by 10:00pm     - **EXTRA CREDIT**: 1 pt. for each day early (up to 5 pts) |
| **Week 7** | **Emotions (Ch. 8)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 8 (Managing Emotions)   + “Dear Abby” Assignment * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 8   + Video: “Dear Abby” Assignment Overview * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #7-     - Original post: Wed., May 20 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., May 22 by 10:00pm   + Quiz #4 (Chs. 7 & 8): Sun., May 24 by 10:00pm (10 pts) |
| **Week 8** | **Managing Conflict (Ch. 11)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 11 (Managing Conflict) * **Watch:**   + Mini Lecture: Ch. 11     - YouTube Video: How to deal with conflict     - YouTube Video: Gottman’s Four Horseman of the Apocalypse * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #8-     - Original post: Wed., May 27 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., May 29 by 10:00pm |
| **Week 9** | **Communication and Interpersonal Relationships (Ch. 9 & 10)**   * **Read:**   + Chapter 9 (Interpersonal Relationships)   + Chapter 10 (Communication in Close Relationships) * **Watch:**   + Mini lecture: Ch. 9     - YouTube Video: Dialectical Tensions   + Mini lecture: Ch. 10 * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #9-     - Original post: Wed., June 1 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., June 3 by 10:00pm   + Quiz #5 (Chs. 9, 10 & 11): Sun., June 5 by 10:00pm (15 pts) |
| **Week 10** | **Course Wrap-up**   * **Read:**   + Review “Dear Abby” assignment to make sure you are on track * **Watch:**   + Video: Course wrap-up * **Assignments Due:**   + Discussion #10-     - Original post: Wed., June 10 by 10:00pm     - Two replies: Fri., June 12 by 10:00pm   + “Dear Abby” Assignment: Fri., June 12 by 10:00pm     - EXTRA CREDIT: 1 pt. for each day early (up to 5 points) |