

Linn-Benton Community College
Department of Communication

COMM 218: Interpersonal Communication (CRN: 30318 OR 30691)
Course Syllabus
Winter 2018

Schedule:

January 8- March 21

Days: MWF

Time: 9:00-9:50 (CRN: 30318) OR 11:00-11:50am (CRN: 30691)

Location: NSH 210

Instructor:

Hailey Goplen, M. A.

goplenh@linnbenton.edu

Office: SSH 204

Office phone: 541-917-4757

Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:30pm; T/Th 11:30-12:30pm

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 demonstrate the ability 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

Required Text:

Adler, R., Rosenfeld, L.B., & Proctor II, R.F. (2015). Interplay: The process of interpersonal communication (13th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

POINTS POSSIBLE	LEARNING ACTIVITY	DUE DATE
35	Homework/Journals	Ongoing
20	“What do you carry with you?” Presentation	Jan. 19 & Jan. 22
30	Celebration of Learning (Exam #1)	Feb. 9
25	Breaking Social Norms Essay	Feb. 26
25	Cultural Experience Presentation	March 9
35	Cultural Experience: Individual Reflection Essay	March 9
30	Celebration of Learning (Exam #2- FINAL)	March 19 10:00-11:50
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 handed out in-class.

- **Homework/Journals (35 points; 5 points each)**- There will be seven random participation assignments throughout the course of the semester. **These points cannot be made up and may not be turned in late.** Assignments may include (but are not limited to) homework worksheets, reflection journals, reading questions, etc. While I am not a fan of pop-quizzes, I’m not against “surprising” you with one if it looks like the class isn’t doing the assigned readings.
- **Celebrations of Learning (60 points; 30 points each)**- While some people like to call these “exams” or “tests”, I prefer to call them “Celebrations of Learning”! This course has two “Celebrations” throughout the semester. Material covered will come both from your textbook and class discussions/activities. HINT: If you do not read the text, you will not do well during the “Celebration”.

- **“What do you carry with you?” Presentation (20 points)**- This assignment is designed to help you examine and explore the many dimensions of yourself. Fill a bag/backpack/purse with objects that are representative of how you view yourself. Objects should illustrate major life events, personal goals, challenges you’ve faced, successes you’ve achieved, and/or individual values that have impacted your life and made you who you are. Your objects should help us get to know you on a deeper level. Additionally, you **will turn in a typed list** of every object in your “backpack” with a description of how they influenced/shaped you.
- **Breaking Social Norms Essay (25 points)**- This assignment will show your understanding of interpersonal concepts, especially verbal/nonverbal concepts, by recognizing and explaining the socialized “norms” of everyday life. You will be required to step out your “traditional” comfort zone and explore why we may do the things we do.
- **Cultural Experience Presentation (25 points)**- The purpose of this assignment is to help strengthen your interpersonal interactions by exploring a culture different than your own. As we will discuss in class, culture has a major impact on our interpersonal behaviors and interactions as well as how we interpret and assign meaning to the behaviors of others. You will have a “cultural experience” and present the findings in class as it relates to interpersonal communication concepts. We will brainstorm ideas for cultural experiences in class. While you may go to the experience with a partner from class, you must have separate presentations.
- **Cultural Experience: Individual Reflection Essay (25 points)**- In this assignment, you will show your understanding of the content of this course by reflecting on your cultural experience and how it relates to interpersonal communication concepts. Essays will be graded based on how you are able to synthesize the concepts discussed in class with a reflection of your cultural experience.

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	=	139-120 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. I will not discuss grades via email or during class. If you would like to discuss your grade, please come talk to me during scheduled office hours or by setting up an appointment with me. **There is absolutely no rounding up in this course.**

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Late Work:

All assignments are to be turned in on time. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Attendance:

Due to the interactive nature of this course, attendance is critical for your success and understanding of content. Therefore, students are allowed to miss only three days of class. Thereafter, your final grade will be lowered by five points for each day you miss class without a valid, documented excuse (must be approved by me—vacation, sleeping in, etc. are not valid excuses). Additionally, keep in mind there will be seven random homework/journal assignments throughout the term. These assignments make up the 35 points of your grade. It is up to you whether you attend class, however, be aware that if you miss an in-class assignment, **these points cannot be made up.**

Tardiness: If you are tardy by over 15 minutes, **you will be marked as absent.** If you leave class early, you will be marked as absent for the day.

Cell/Media Phone Policy: While internet and cell phone access have become a regular part of our culture, I expect you to silence your mobile devices during the duration of class out of respect for myself and your classmates. If you are expecting an urgent phone call/text, please notify me before class and excuse yourself from the room when responding. If I have to remind you to put away your phone more than once in a class period, you will be asked to leave and counted as absent.

Classroom Culture: In order to explore interpersonal communication concepts, it is crucial to be open to sharing your experiences and listening to the experiences of others. With my background and passion for civic engagement and diversity, I will most likely also encourage you to engage in dialogue around relevant social justice issues impacting our communities as it pertains to the course topics. The beauty of our country is that we are each allowed to have and share our opinions and viewpoints. That being said, I expect us to form a community of respect within our classroom. Healthy disagreement and discussion are a central component of this class and is encouraged, but must be done on a professional and constructive basis. While I have never experienced this in all my years of teaching, if you are disrespectful to your class members, you will be given a warning and then asked to leave.

Communication and office hours: Though surprising to some students, I do have a life outside of this class. While I check email often, after 5:00pm M-F and during weekends are times I set aside for my family. If you respond to me after 5:00pm M-F or on the weekends, do not expect a response until the next business day. While the best way to get ahold of me is typically email, I thoroughly enjoy when students stop by my office. Students that do best in my class tend to be the ones that come to my office hours. If my office hours do not work with your schedule, please let me know and I will try my best to meet with you at a different time.

Writing Guidelines

All written assignments for this class must follow APA guidelines. This means papers should be written in 12 point, Times New Roman font, be double-spaced, and have 1 inch margins. All reference pages and citations should also follow APA guidelines. Failure to follow APA will result in a deduction of points. For help with APA, visit:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> or Google Purdue APA Owl.

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.

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, see the instructor.

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.

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 at www.linnbenton.edu/cfar for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

Tentative Course Schedule: Winter 2018

Date	Topics/Activities	Readings (readings should be completed prior to coming to class on the date listed)	Assignments
Jan. 8	Introduction to course		
Jan. 10	Interpersonal Process	Chapter 1	
Jan. 12	Communication and the Self	Chapter 3	
Jan. 15	MLK Day- NO CLASS		
Jan. 17	Communication and the Self		
Jan. 19	Presentations: "What do you carry with you?"		"Carry with you" assignment due
Jan. 22	Presentations: "What do you carry with you?"		"Carry with you" assignment due
Jan. 24	Perceiving Others	Chapter 4	
Jan. 26	Perceiving Others		
Jan. 29	Culture and Communication	Chapter 2	
Jan. 31	Discuss and Assign Group Presentations		
Feb. 2	Language	Chapter 5	
Feb. 5	Language		
Feb. 7	Midterm Prep		
Feb. 9	Celebration of Learning (Exam #1: Ch. 1-5)		
Feb. 12	Listening: Receiving and Responding	Chapter 7	
Feb. 14	Nonverbal Communication	Chapter 6	

Feb. 16	Nonverbal Communication Breaking Social Norms Essay Overview		
Feb. 19	President's Day- NO CLASS		
Feb. 21	Emotions	Chapter 8	
Feb. 23	Interpersonal Relationships	Chapter 9	
Feb. 26	Communication in Close Relationships	Chapter 10	Breaking Social Norms Essay Due
Feb. 28	Communication in Close Relationships		
March 2	Communication Climate	Chapter 11	
March 5	Managing Conflict	Chapter 12	
March 7	Managing Conflict	Chapter 12	
March 9	Presentations		Individual Reflection Paper Due
March 12	Presentations		
March 14	Presentations		
March 16	Presentations/Celebration of Learning prep		
March 19	FINAL CELEBRATION OF LEARNING (EXAM) Monday, March 19 10:00-11:50am	Chapters 6-12 covered on exam	

*Please note that assignments, policies and schedule are subject to change upon instructor's discretion.

