

COMM 218

Interpersonal Communication

Fall 2020 - Online | CRN #: 20512



Asst. Prof. John Drischell

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Virtual Office Hours Thurs: 12pm-3pm



~75% Asynchronous / ~25% Synchronous

(live lecture w/small-group discussion and asynchronous Moodle work)

Zoom Lectures Mondays @ 10am | Tasks Due Friday @ 6pm on Moodle

■ COURSE DESCRIPTION & SENTIMENT ■

We've all been there. An awkward social interaction. A heated argument. A miscommunication. It happens. Interpersonal communication is something we do everyday. Whether it's meeting your in-laws for the first time, asking your boss for a raise, or ending a toxic relationship. Most of the time we take our communication for granted without really thinking about it. The only time we really pay attention to our communication is when it demands our attention.

This course considers the subtle nuances of this human process. With some self-inventory, anyone can improve their communication. It's a life skill; learning to work on it and yourself, is an invaluable thing to do that pays off in silver dollars later in life. Your spouse will thank me later. I believe in using real-life & relatable examples, as well as current events and discussion to illustrate the theoretical ideas of interpersonal communication. Identity, perception, emotions, nonverbals, listening, and conflict management are areas of focus. You will be expected to participate, as well as explain, analyze, and apply concepts.

■ LEARNING OUTCOMES ■

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply interpersonal communication research and theory.
2. Identify interpersonal communication's key functional areas.
3. Analyze, select, and enact appropriate interpersonal communication behaviors based on the interpretation of the context.
- 4.

■ REQUIRED MATERIALS ■

Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication by Adler, Rosenfeld, & Proctor. 14th Ed. Print or EBook.

(Chapter 1 will be scanned for you to use the first week to give you time to purchase a copy)

■ ONLINE TEACHING EXPECTATIONS ■

Asynchronous vs. Synchronous learning: Online classes are typically considered synchronous or asynchronous, or somewhere in between. Synchronous learning happens in real time. This means that you, your classmates, & your professor interact in a live place and time. For our class, we will meet every **Monday @ 10am via Zoom** for lecture material and group activities.

Asynchronous learning happens on your own time. Assignments, tasks, reading chapters, discussion board posts, quizzes, and tests will be due on **Fridays by 6pm**. Our class will primarily operate **asynchronously**, w/ partial **synchronous learning via Zoom**. Some tasks and class points can only be completed by attending Zoom sessions.

Concerns & Considerations: Asynchronous learning does have it's disadvantages. With less in-person urgency in expressing prioritization and importance, procrastination and out of sight, out of mind, are real concerns. I will do my best to express that urgency in my online presence. Here are some practices to consider, and can apply to any online class.

1. **Plan your day:** Take time to create a consistent schedule for yourself. Consistency is key to being successful in an asynchronous online class.
2. **Print out a copy of the schedule:** Use our schedule and syllabus as a grounding anchor to see what you need to do and when you need to do it by.
3. **Invest in a big white board:** A white board can make a huge difference in being aware and accountable for things. A smaller equivalent is a planner or daily calendar. Any kind of visual reinforcement only serves to help you stay on top of things.
4. **Set up a virtual office:** Remote-work has better success when you have a designated place for work. The lines are already likely blurred for many, as to what is home and what is work. You need to pick a place that your mind can associate with work and study.

Zoom Etiquette: We will meet via Zoom every **Monday**. You will need to download Zoom on your computer or phone. Keep the following expectations in mind before attending our sessions. Consider these Zoom sessions to be a professional, yet friendly environment.

1. Please sign in with your full **first and last name** as listed on the class roster. You are expected to arrive **on time**. Attendance will be taken **5 minutes** after the session begins, and if you are tardy, or do not show up, points will not be given thereafter.
2. You are expected to participate, speak up, and add to the conversation during discussion & activities. Sitting silently does not suffice in an interpersonal communication course.
3. Cameras need to be on during class, as it is helpful to see each other while we interact.
4. Find an environment without visual or auditory distractions. Turn off any music, videos, or anything else playing in the background if possible.
5. Please keep it clean, be positive, respectful, show courteous to your peers & instructor.

*Please let me know of any technical issues you have with the internet or technology.
You have **two free absences** to use at your discretion, and advised for only legitimate reasons.*

*Anything beyond 2 absences is **-2% off** your final letter grade.*

*Students with perfect attendance will earn **15 extra credit** points at the end of the term.*

■ TASKS, QUIZZES, & TESTS ■

Zoom Meetings: Points are earned in two ways during Zoom meetings: attendance and participation. Attendance is attending the Zoom meeting on-time, being present when roll is taken, and keeping your camera on the whole time. Participation is engaging in the conversation, staying involved with lecture & activities, while completing any live tasks during Zoom.

Discussion Board Posts: Your participation in class will also involve writing and responding to weekly discussion boards. In general, you should contribute an original posting where you do one of two things: (1) pose a thoughtful answer about the question(s) I will pose at the top of the board every week, or (2) provide an interesting example of a interpersonal communication concept or idea that you experienced in your life outside of the course (conversation, news, social media, etc.). Each discussion post should be approximately 250 words / 1 - 2 paragraphs.

You will also participate by replying to your fellow peers, to offer another perspective or follow-up thought. There is no formal requirement on the length of a reply. Discussion boards will become available to post every Monday.

1. The initial post is due **Wednesday by 6pm** (this is the only task that is not due Friday).
2. Your one reply is due **Fridays by 6pm**.

Chapter Quizzes: There will be a weekly 5-question/5-point chapter quizzes on Moodle. These are meant to check your understanding of the reading material on a weekly basis. Quizzes will be available to take on Mondays and will be due by Fridays by 6pm. Quizzes are open-book, open-notes, and you have 10 minutes to finish the quiz.

Midterm and Final Exam: There will be two exams during the term consisting of multiple-choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. You will receive study guides for each exam. The final exam will not be cumulative.

Movie Response Paper: You will watch one at-home movie that relates to interpersonal & relationship-oriented communication. You will then write a response & critique paper (3 pgs dbl-spaced) that examines the movie through an interpersonal communication lense. You will describe & analyze a few scenes to offer a different perspective on the movie.

Final Project - Identity Collage: Your final project will be to present different aspects of your self-concept. This can include your culture, communication style, personality, life experiences, and much more. You will create a collage on a poster board or on 8 ½ x 11 paper, or if you have photoshop/adobe illustrator or related experience, then you can digitally create yours. You will upload your poster/picture on Moodle, along with a description paper of what you did and why.

Final Project - Show N' Tell: After you have submitted your identity collage, we will all meet once more on Zoom to do a show and tell. These will be 2 - 3 min presentations, semi-informal, semi-prepared, based on your description papers you wrote about your identity collages.

■ COMMUNICATION ■

Email: Email is the quickest way to ask questions, state concerns, or simply reach me. I will respond to emails as quickly as I reasonably can.

Zoom: I am also available via Zoom if you would like to schedule any meetings with me to receive feedback or ask questions.

■ TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS ■

1. A computer, laptop, pc, or related electronic device to access materials on Moodle.
2. Download the Zoom App to either your computer or phone to conduct group meetings with students or to make contact with me. (<https://zoom.us/>)
 - a. The basic Zoom account is free, and can host up to 100 participants, unlimited 1 to 1 meetings, and 40 mins limit on group meetings with more than 2 people.
3. A Google account with a linked Google Drive and YouTube account.

■ LATE POLICIES ■

Discussion Board Posts, Chapter Quizzes, & Exams cannot be completed after the due date. Anything after the due date is considered a zero.

Papers and Projects must be submitted on the deadline via Moodle. Papers received outside the deadline are late. The penalty for late papers and projects is a 50% point deduction & for only 48 hours after the deadline. Anything after 48 hours is a zero. Catastrophic medical or family emergencies will be dealt on a case-by-case basis.

■ LINN BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE POLICIES ■

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom: Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility. Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor. Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this course, paying particular attention to the following:

- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others, their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Academic Honesty: 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 cheat, plagiarize, 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.

Statement on Reporting: Please be aware that I need to report incidents you disclose to me inside or outside the classroom that involve gender or sex-based harassment, violence, or discrimination, including your name, to the Office of Equal Opportunity Access (EOA)

Disabilities & Accommodations: 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 notify me during the first week of class for any accommodations that you will be requesting. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the CFAR website for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

■ ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ■

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 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.

Academic Coaching and Help w/ Remote Work:

<https://www.linnbenton.edu/student-services/library-tutoring-testing/learning-center/academic-coaching/remote-learning.php>

■ GRADING ■

Assignments & Tasks Breakdown	(560 points possible)
Zoom Meeting Attendance (4pts ea)	40 points
Zoom Meeting Participation (6pts ea)	60 points
Discussion Board Posts (6pts ea)	60 points
Chapter Quizzes (5pts ea)	50 points
Movie Response Paper	30 points
Midterm	100 points
Final Project - Identity Collage + Paper	80 points
Final Project - Show N' Tell	40 points
Final Exam	100 points

Final Letter Grade Breakdown

LBCB uses whole letter grades (no pluses or minuses): A, B, C, D, and F.

A	=	560 - 504 points
B	=	503 - 448 points
C	=	447 - 392 points
D	=	391 - 336 points
F	=	Below 335 points

Class Schedule (tentative to change)

Reading Schedule	Mondays @ 10am	Wednesdays (Asynchronous Work)	Fridays (Tasks Due)
Week 1	9/28: Lecture on Introduction to Interpersonal Communication; Introductions	Read Chapter 1 - The Interpersonal Process Transactional Model of Communication	10/2: Submit Discussion Board Post #1 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 1 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 2	10/5: Lecture on Culture; “High Context & Low Context”	Read Chapter 2 - Culture	10/9: Submit Discussion Board Post #2 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 2 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 3	10/12: Lecture on Self Concept and Perception; “Confirmation Bias” and “Social Penetration Theory”	Read Chapter 3 - Self Concept & Chapter 4 - Perception	10/16: Submit Discussion Board Post #3 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 3 & 4 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 4	10/19: Lecture on Language; and “Triangle of Meaning”	Read Chapter 5 - Language “George Carlin - Euphemisms”	10/23: Submit Discussion Board Post #4 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 5 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 5	10/26: Lecture on Nonverbal Communication and Midterm Review	Read Chapter 6 - Nonverbal Comm. “Amy Cuddy - Power Poses” “Pheromone Parties”	10/30: Submit Discussion Board Post #5 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 6 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm Complete MIDTERM on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 6	11/2: Lecture on Listening and Emotions; Discuss Movie Response Paper	Read Chapter 7 - Listening and Chapter 8 - Emotions “Emotions Revealed”	11/6: Submit Discussion Board Post #6 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 7 & 8 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm

Week 7	11/9: Lecture on Dynamics of Relationships; “Knapp’s Relationship Model” Discuss Final Project Identity Collage	Read Chapter 9 - Dynamics of Relationships	11/13: Submit Discussion Board Post #7 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 9 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm Submit the Movie Response Paper on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 8 s	11/16: Lecture on Close Relationships Discuss Final Project Show N’ Tell Final Exam Review	Read Chapter 10 - Close Relationship “Helen Fisher’s - Romantic Love”	11/20: Submit Discussion Board Post #8 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 10 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 9	11/23: Lecture on Communication Climate; “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse”	Read Chapter 12 - Comm. Climate “How to Defuse an Argument”, and “7 Principles for Making Marriage Work”	11/27: Submit Discussion Board Post #9 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 12 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm Submit Final Project - Identity Collage & Description Paper on Moodle by 6:00pm
Week 10	11/30: Final Project - Identity Collage Show N’ Tell	Read Chapter 11 - Managing Conflict “Conflict Styles” and “Dr. Brene Brown on the Two Most Dangerous Words”	12/4: Submit Discussion Board Post #10 w/ 1 Reply AND Chapter 11 Quiz on Moodle by 6:00pm
Finals Week	Complete FINAL EXAM Tuesday, December 8th, between 9:00am to 9:00pm		