Linn-Benton Community College Department of Communication

**Course Information**   
  
**Course Title:** **Interpersonal Communication**  
  
**Course Number and CRN:** COMM 218 CRN 40238  
  
**Credits:** 3.00  
  
**Course Date:** Spring 2020  
  
**Course Meeting Times:** TR 2:30 – 3:50 pm  
  
**Course Location:** Online  
  
**Instructor:** Steven Merge (merges@linnbenton.edu), Phone: 541.490.2456

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

*The biggest communication problem is we don’t listen to understand. We listen to reply*. –Stephen R Covey

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*Did you know: A human can make more than 10,000 facial expressions to express a wide variety of subtle emotions.*

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

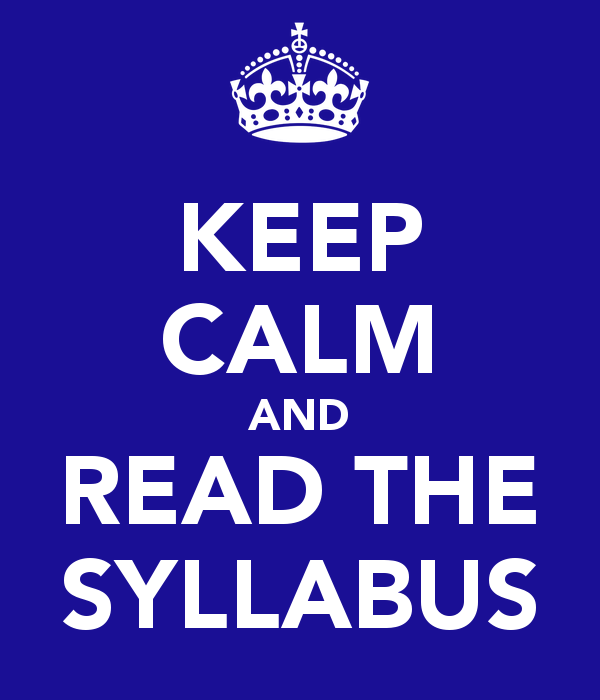
Introduces students to various aspects of the communication process in one-to-one relationships. Emphasis is placed on enhancing personal and professional relationships by expanding knowledge, increasing understanding and developing practical skills necessary for competent communication. Recommended: College-level reading and writing skills ([WR 121](https://linnbenton.smartcatalogiq.com/current/Catalog/Courses/WR-Writing/100/WR-121)) are strongly recommended for success in this course.

***COURSE OUTCOME:***

Upon successful completion of this course, students will 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 the interpretation of the context.

**KEEP IN MIND…**Interpersonal communication forms the basis for many of the most important relationships in our lives. The purpose of this course is to allow students to develop their interpersonal communication skills, gain insights into their own communication activities, and to explore the role that communication plays in the construction of their world.



**COURSE MATERIALS:**

**Adler, Ronald B. INTERPLAY. ISBN 9780190646257. 14th Edition**



**GENERAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Please be aware assignments may change or vary week to week.

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| Week 1 April 6th | Read Chapter One and complete first week’s listening exercise |

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| **Week 2 April 13th** | **Read Chapter Two, complete second week of listening assignment, take quiz 1** |
| **Week 3 April 20th** | **Read Chapter Three, complete third week of listening assignment, take quiz 2** |
| **Week 4 April 27th** | **Read Chapter Four, complete fourth week of listening assignment, take quiz 3** |
| **Week 5 May 4th** | **Read Chapter Five, complete fifth week of listening assignment, take quiz 4** |
| **Week 6 May 11th** | **Read Chapter Six, complete sixth week of listening assignment, MIDTERM** |
| **Week 7 May 18th** | **Read Chapter Seven, take quiz 6 & 7** |
| **Week 8 May 25th** | **Read Chapter Eight and Eleven, take quiz 8 and 11** |
| **Week 9 June 1st** | **Read Chapter Nine and Ten take quiz 9 and 10** |
| **Week 10 June 8th** | **Read Chapter 12, take quiz 12 Wednesday June 10th Final Review *Friday June 12th- The Final*** |

**Two people looking at the camera

Description automatically generated**

*Ah Harry, how often this happens, even between the best of friends. Each of us believes that what he has to say is much more important than anything the other might have to contribute. ~ Albus Dumbledore*

**CLASS ASSIGNMENT:**

Weekly Listening Skills Assignment

You will do this every week for six weeks!

The goal of the weekly assignment is to better understand the concepts from the text and how they apply to your everyday interpersonal interactions with others.  The emphasis is almost entirely on developing your listening skills. You will do this assignment for six weeks during the term.

The assignment will provide you with opportunities to apply these concepts, gain important insights into your communication practices, and begin to think critically about how well you and others communicate successfully.

**Explanation**: Pick a conversation you had with another person. It could be anyone from family to the checker at the grocery store. Listen carefully to everything being said to you. Be responsive to everything being said (verbal and nonverbal) and make sure to answer every question asked.

Each week, please write a 1-2 page paper that includes the following:

**1. Describe:**  In great detail, describe the encounter. Explain the situation, the environment, the mood, exactly what was said, and the outcome.

**2. Relate** the event to the material in this course, particularly with the current week’s reading. Please either CAPITILIZE, **bold,** or highlight the textbook terms that you use.

3. **Provide Insights:** Conclude by providing some type of insightful discussion of the interpersonal exchange that you are discussing.

Suggestion: This assignment is not as easy as it looks. I highly recommend starting the first week with someone who is providing a service to you. Examples would be a server, barista, or the checker at the grocery store.

The second week you can try a more personal conversation. Examples would be a teacher or a salesclerk.

Save more intimate conversations until at least the third week.

**Major graded work: There will be weekly quizzes, mid-term and final, class assignments. You will also be graded on class participation.**

You will be graded on:

Class participation

Quizzes (10 points each)

Mid-term 50 points)

Final (70 points)

Assignments (10 points each)

**\*\*\*Grading and Assignments: All assignments must be turned in by Sunday at midnight, the week it was assigned. Example: Any assignments or quizzes assigned the second week must be turned in by the Sunday before the start of the third week. Assignments turned in late will receive 20% lower grades. There is no extra credit offered for this class.**

**Grading Scale**:

A 90-100%  
B 80-89%  
C 70-79%  
D 60-69%  
F 0-59%

I Incomplete (OPTIONAL: include your policy on incompletes. For examples, see [web link])

W Withdrawal (Indicate here under what conditions you would **not** support a student requesting a withdrawal from the course which by LBCC policy is available from the 8th week into finals week with instructor permission. If you would consider such requests, you do not have to include an explanation.)

**Behavior and Expectations:**

One of the goals is to See Issues from Multiple Perspectives. Therefore, part of this class will involve hearing and reading perspectives different than your own. Everyone in class has a right to learn and express their views in a comfortable environment, so please be considerate of others’ rights to express their ideas and participate in class. You can do this by keeping your discussion relevant to the topic. Respond to discussions in a thoughtful matter considering that it is okay to have differences in perception, and complete your work, whether it be in discussions or group work, on time.

Attendance is expected and necessary, if you want to achieve the maximum grade and results from taking the course. **CELL PHONES WILL BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY.**

**PLEASE REVIEW THE FOLLOWING:**

[**Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct Policy**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/current-students/administration-information/policies/students-rights-responsibilities-and-conduct.php)

[**Student Conduct**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/faculty-and-staff/associations/FacultyHandbook/StudentConduct.php)

[**Classroom Ettiquette**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/faculty-and-staff/associations/FacultyHandbook/ClassroomEtiquette.php)

**Student support:** [**CFAR Website**](https://www.linnbenton.edu/cfar)

Statement of Inclusion: To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

Basic Needs Statement: Any student who has difficulty affording food or finding a safe and stable place to live, or who needs assistance with resources for transportation, childcare, etc., is urged to contact the Single Stop office in Takena Hall, LBCC Albany campus, for support and referral to community resources. 541-917- 4877, linnbenton.edu/singlestop or SinglestopatLBCC@linnbenton.edu Also, please talk with your instructor if you are comfortable doing so. This can help them direct you to the appropriate office and resource.