

COMM 218 - Interpersonal Communication
Winter Term 2020

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No Office: Available by
in-person appt., zoom, and email



Mon/Wed | CRN 30319 | 10:00 - 11:20am | Industrial A Building 232

■ **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 communication is when it becomes a problem for us.

This course considers the subtle nuances of the oft-forgotten 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.

■ **REQUIRED MATERIALS** ■

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

■ **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.

■ COURSE EXPECTATIONS ■

Attendance: Attendance is the most basic requirement of this class; it is the cornerstone to commanding a good understanding of interpersonal communication ideas. The best way to receive the highest grade is to attend class. Discretionary & merit points are impacted from attendance. I am also realistic; life is unpredictable, please read below.

Please note: ***Each student is allowed TWO free absences. For any additional absences, each one will result in (-2%) lost from your final grade. Wisely save your three free absences for serious illness, driving hazards, or emergencies only. Please contact me ASAP when you know you will miss class.***

(Perfect attendance = +2.5% e.c.)

Tardiness: Please come to class on time. I take attendance at every class meeting; it is your responsibility to be here on time. *I allow for a five minute grace period.* If you are late after attendance has been taken, you must speak with me after class to be marked present.

Courtesy: It is of the utmost importance to demonstrate courtesy to your fellow classmates and your teacher. Distractions have a negative effect on the class. Please read below.

Cell Phones: Do not use/text/play on your cell phone during class. If I see someone use their phone for an extended period of time in class, expect point deductions.

■ TASKS, QUIZZES, & TESTS ■

Identity Collage: In this initial project, you will present aspects of your self-concept visually. You will create a collage on poster board identifying the different facets of your identity and self-concept, w/ a particular focus on culture. You will present your poster to the class, and thus must attend class on presentation day. **(10%)**

Tests & Quizzes: There are four in class quizzes that consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, short answer. Each one is worth 5% each. **(20%)**. You will have a semi-comprehensive final exam at the end of the term consisting of approx. 50 questions **(20%)**

Moodle Exercises: There are four online Moodle 1-page exercise responses. You will reflect on a “communication event” in which you participated during the past few weeks & apply at least two course concepts of your choosing. Your paper should be organized as follows: (1) Describe the nature of the experience. (2) Discuss & analyze the effects. (3) Conclude the underlying ideas/theories that shaped the experience. Each one is worth 2.5% **(10%)**

Movie Response Paper: We will watch one interpersonal & relationship-oriented movie in-class and apply it to ideas & concepts from lecture. You will then write a response & critique paper (min. 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 **(5%)**

Semi-Group Project: As a victim of bad group projects, this is the semi-group project. In groups of 3-4 (of your choosing), you as a group will select one communication theory and will write individual papers on, while synthesizing your different perspectives on the theory into a group presentation that simply presents to us your most interesting discoveries and applications on the theory. **(20% for paper, 10% for group presentation)**

Participation, discussion, and commitment are my discretionary points, to represent your final grade more aptly. This includes whether your participation, engagement in class, teamwork, courtesy, dedication, and effort were commendable **(5%)**.

■ POLICIES ■

Quizzes & Exams cannot be taken on a day earlier than scheduled without special approval from the instructor. -50% point deductions apply to all other situations.

Papers must be submitted on the deadline via Moodle or otherwise as hard copy. Papers received outside the deadline are late. The penalty for late presentations is an F. The penalty for late paper submissions is a 50% point deduction & for only 48 hours after the deadline. Catastrophic medical or family emergencies will be dealt on a case-by-case basis.

Technical problems (including, but not limited to, power outages, deleted/lost files, downed systems, networks, and malfunctioning equipment) are not sufficient conditions for avoiding late work penalties. Prepare & (print) ahead of time.

■ COMMUNICATION ■

24 Hour Rule: I am available to discuss any grade you receive on an task, quiz, or test. I ask that you wait 24 hours before visiting me. I do this because this gives you time to think about the grade and develop the questions you have about it.

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, at least within 24-48 hours.

■ LINN BENTON POLICIES ■

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.

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.

Childcare Conflicts: I understand the unforeseen disruption in childcare often puts students that are parents in a position of having to miss class to stay home with a child. If this is something you are experiencing, please contact me.

■ **GRADING** ■

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

A	=	1000 - 900 points	D	=	699 - 600 points
B	=	899 - 800 points	F	=	Below 600 points
C	=	799 - 700 points			

Grading Breakdown	(1000 points possible)
Identity Collage	100 points
Moodle Exercises (25 pts ea) (4)	100 points
Movie Response Paper	50 points
Theory Group Project	200 points
Theory Group Presentation	100 points
In-Class Quizzes (4) (50 pts ea)	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
Participation, Discussion, & Commitment	50 points

Class Schedule (tentative to change)

	Monday	Wednesday	
Week 1	1/6: The Process; Nature of Communication (Ch. 1)	1/8: Syllabus & Introductions; Social Media	
Week 2	1/13: Culture & Identity (Ch.2) & (Ch. 3)	1/15: Culture & Identity Moodle Exercise Due	
Week 3	1/20: Perception (Ch. 4) Identity Collage Overview	1/22: Perception In-Class Quiz 1	
Week 4	1/27: Media Effects; Future of Social Media	1/29: Identity Collage Due Moodle Exercise Due	
Week 5	2/3: Nonverbal Communication (Ch. 6)	2/5: Nonverbal Communication In-Class Quiz 2	
Week 6	2/10: Relationship Maintenance & Development (Ch. 9)	2/12: Relationship Maintenance & Development (Ch. 10) Moodle Exercise Due	
Week 7	2/17: <i>Film Screening</i>	2/19: <i>Film Screening</i> In-class Quiz 3	
Week 8	2/24: Discuss Film; Emotions (Ch. 8)	2/26: Listening (Ch. 7) Movie Response Paper Due Moodle Exercise Due	
Week 9	3/2: Group Communication Theory Projects	3/4: Group Communication Theory Projects In-class Quiz 4	
Week 10	3/9: Conflict Management Negotiation & Persuasion (Ch. 11)	3/11: Final Exam Review	
Week 11 Finals	3/16: FINAL EXAM, March 16th, Monday @ 8:00AM - 9:50AM	3/18:	