

**COMM 1090: Interpersonal Communication**  
**Spring 2019**  
**Dr. Donna R. Pawlowski**  
**Bemidji State University**

**TEXTBOOK:**

Required:

Adler, R. B., & Proctor II, R. F. (2017). *Looking out looking in*. (15<sup>th</sup> ed). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Access to:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

**COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

This course is designed to help you become aware of the processes and theories of interpersonal communication within and about relationships that impact our personal and professional lives. Through self-analysis, case studies, practical application, and critique of cultural practices, you will examine the influence of communicative behaviors on personal relationships, groups, and society. Concepts include perception, ethics, emotion, conflict, cultural awareness, power, technology, language, nonverbal communication, social media, and listening.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and explain theories and concepts of interpersonal communication
2. Apply concepts, research, and ethical decisions to personal relationships
3. Demonstrate interpersonal skills in areas such as listening, ethics, verbal and nonverbal communication, among others within personal and professional relationships
4. Evaluate positive and negative effects of communication behaviors and their impact on relationships and societal groups
5. Critique communication behaviors (e.g., diversity, power, ethics) within interpersonal relationships in various contexts of our society (e.g., new relationships, family, mediated, cultural relationships...) and articulate such analyses orally and in writing
6. Conduct self-reflection and assessment of your own communication behaviors in relationships
7. Recommend strategies for improving communication within relationships

**NCA LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**LOC #1: Describe the Communication discipline and its central questions**

- Explain the origins of the Communication discipline
- Summarize the broad nature of the Communication discipline
- Distinguish the Communication discipline from related areas of study

**LOC #2 : Employ Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts**

- Explain Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts
- Synthesize Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts
- Apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts

### **LOC #3 : Engage in Communication inquiry**

- Interpret Communication scholarship
- Apply Communication scholarship

### **LOC #5 : Critically analyze messages**

- Identify meanings embedded in messages
- Recognize the influence of messages
- Engage in active listening
- Enact mindful responding to messages

### **LOC #6 : Demonstrate the ability to accomplish communicative goals (self-efficacy)**

- Identify contexts, situations and barriers that impede communication self-efficacy
- Articulate personal beliefs about abilities to accomplish communication goals
- Evaluate personal communication strengths and weaknesses

### **LOC #7: Apply ethical communication principles and practices**

- Identify ethical perspectives
- Explain the relevance of various ethical perspectives
- Articulate the ethical dimensions of a communication situation
- Choose to communicate with ethical intention
- Propose solutions for (un)ethical communication
- Evaluate the ethical elements of a communication situation

### **LOC #8 : Utilize communication to embrace difference**

- Articulate the connection between communication and culture
- Recognize individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Appreciate individual and cultural similarities and differences
- Articulate one's own cultural standpoint and how it affects communication and world view
- Demonstrate the ability to be culturally self-aware
- Adapt one's communication in diverse cultural contexts

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **1. Three Examinations: 40%**

You will have three examinations throughout the semester. Examinations will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching, true/false, identification, application and short answer. The material will come from the text/readings discussed in class. Examination one is worth 10%, examinations two and three are each worth 15%.

- Objectives assessed: 1-2-4-6-7

### **2. Chapter Reflections: 10%**

One particular assignment will provide opportunity for you to engage in the readings prior to class and find practical application of concepts in your lives. For assigned chapters (see schedule), you will bring with you brief typed reflective thoughts regarding the chapter. For each chapter, you will provide (1) one question for discussion (What would you like to talk about from the chapter, or would like feedback from your classmates about, what you would like more clarity about or perhaps something you want the class to consider in their relationships?), (2) discuss three "golden nuggets" or take-aways you learned from the chapter (something you will think about in the future or thought was interesting from the chapter), and (3)

one practical example of application of the material. This application may be an example of how this has played out in your life; something you saw on social media related to the chapter; something you saw in the newspaper/magazine, cartoon, or billboard; something you observed/saw in another relationship; something from a poem, music; etc. What did you see, hear, or observe that made you think “Hmm, this relates to X in the chapter.” In describing the example, provide some text connections to your ideas. What is this an example of? What concepts seem to link to this example? What did you learn from this example about relationships? Do not use the same type of example for each chapter – go and find daily, yet unique applications.

You will share these chapter reflections in small groups, as well as with the class for broader discussion. The goal is to bring in student perspectives, become acquainted with classmates, and give personal meaning to the text.

- Objectives assessed: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7

### **3. IPC Papers: 30%**

You will examine interpersonal relationships through the application of class concepts, relational experiences, and research. All papers will be typed. Each paper will reflect on a different interpersonal relationship in your life. Interpersonal relationships are between two people only (you and one other person, or two people total; not a team or all your roommates or with you and both of your parents).

#### **A. *Two Relationship Reflections: (5% each = 10%)***

For each reflection, you will type a one-page single-spaced (minimum 600 words) paper that demonstrates understanding of how specific text concepts or skills are enacted in a particular personal relationship in which you are involved. You will utilize three specific terms/concepts/theories from the text (and identify them with page numbers) to describe and analyze a relationship (no outside research required unless you choose to bring in additional materials). As a brief overview, your paper will entail Three Sections:

- Section One should start with identifying the relationship, why you chose that relationship, and preview the concepts chosen for your paper. In Section Two (main paragraphs of the paper), reflect upon that relationship while you use these concepts to help explain how and why these concepts are playing out in this particular relationship. How did you (or this partner) demonstrate these communication skills? How are these concepts enacted in the communication in this relationship? How do these concepts help to understand the relationship or the communication within the relationship? In what ways (provide examples)? What’s going on in the relationship? Identify terms with page numbers from your text as you make these connections to demonstrate your understanding of the concepts and how they connect to the relationship. In Section Three, end with a brief summary of your concepts, and a self-assessment. How did this analysis help you understand this relationship? What may help to improve upon this relationship (regardless of whether it is positive or negative)? What did you learn about yourself or the relationship through this process? How will you use this information to communicate more effectively in your future relationships?

- Objectives assessed: 1-2-3-4-6-7

#### **B. *Research Application Paper: (20%)***

You will type a 6-7-page (approximately 1500-2000 words) double-spaced (1-inch margins) research application paper to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding about an interpersonal communication behavior or issue within a particular personal relationship. For example, you may

want to examine elements of cultural communication with a new friend, conflict with a parent, listening skills with a romantic partner, power issues with a co-worker, forgiveness with a friend, etc. As an overview, you will synthesize research from at least four scholarly research journal articles related to your communication topic and/or this type of relationship, and then link this new knowledge to the specific personal relationship you have selected for analysis.

Topic Approval:

- You will submit a topic approval that explains the relationship at hand and the main area of focus for your research. Why this relationship? Why this particular focus or why the particular topic?

Article Check:

- In order to make sure you will have relevant research for your topic, you will provide evidence of finding articles early in the process. You will find two research articles related to your paper. For each article, you will type an APA citation, provide a brief summary of the article (150-200 words), and indicate why this article is important and/or how you plan to use this article in your paper.

Paper Sections:

- Introduction and Literature Review: 3-4 pages
  - You will begin your paper with an introductory paragraph enticing your reader to continue (attention getter), introduce your topic and provide rationale why you are interested in this interpersonal topic and relationship, and continue with an overall thesis and preview for the paper.
  - You will then complete a literature review (based on journal articles) that synthesizes the current research about your topic. Your review should be more than just a summary of each source; integrate and find common themes in the research and support these ideas with various scholarly articles. This section should not link your research with your relationship yet; keep this section all about what research has to say about your topic. Your literature review will include a minimum of 4 research-based scholarly sources; 3 of which must be peer reviewed journal articles.
- Application/Analysis: 2 pages
  - After you understand the research, apply the research to relational behaviors you see taking place in the relationship selected by you. Describe the relationship and the communication behaviors in the relationship and reference how the research supports these behaviors. What's happening in the relationship? How does conflict, listening, identity (your topic) take place in this relationship and what from your research helps you understand the relationship? Are there positive and negative effects of communication behavior on this relationship? In other words, examine the communication in this relationship through your scholarly lens. There should be some inherent logical link of the research to the relationship.
- Strategies and Conclusion: 1 page
  - After you have applied your research to the communication in this particular relationship, step back and think about this particular relationship or relationships in general. How does this type of communication affect relationships? Based on this topic, provide some strategies for improving relationships. How will you monitor your own behavior? How are you going to approach your relationships in the future? Why is it important to know this communication concept?

- End your paper with a concluding paragraph reviewing the main areas of the paper and provide some final “golden nuggets” of what you learned about interpersonal relationships and communicative behavior.
- References Page:
  - You will turn in a reference list of your sources using APA (6<sup>th</sup> ed.) writing style.
- Objectives assessed: 1-2-4-5-6-7

**4. Group Analysis Presentation: 5%**

You will be part of a three-person group, and will facilitate a 10-12-minute interactive presentation. As many communication behaviors can be applied to various relationships and cultures, your group will choose a specific IPC situation/dilemma (created by the class) and critically examine how it affects others within a particular interpersonal context. The class will generate interpersonal dilemmas and groups will select particular situations for their topic. The dilemmas will be reviewed by the class and me for appropriateness and depth of analysis. Your presentation should be a cumulation of your IP skills that demonstrate respectful communication, understanding of interpersonal relationships, and strategies for working through various relational situations.

To help you understand this dilemma, you will seek out three additional sources to expand your knowledge base of this particular relationship/topic. Basic format will be (1) providing a quick overview of who is in your group and brief explanation of your relational situation, (2) engaging us in a brief discussion of the importance of knowing more about or understanding how this type of communication or situation affects relationships, (3) offering some recommendations to improve communication in relationships, and (4) leaving us with an important “IPC golden nugget” or take away that will help us in our future relationships and professional lives. In other words, what did you learn and how can we be more rhetorically respectful in our interpersonal relationships?

- Objectives assessed: 1-2-3-4-5-7

**5. Chapter Activities/Application/Preparation: 15%**

To demonstrate understanding of course material, chapter concepts will be applied to activities and assignments throughout the semester. These activities may be in the form of out-of class chapter assignments (e.g., application activities, topic approvals, chapter assessments, assigned discussion questions, etc.), creative small group activities, and in-class activities (e.g., individual and group application exercises, case studies, group worksheets, discussion of chapter activities, etc.). Activities are cumulatively worth 15%.

- Objectives assessed with chapter activities: 1-2-3-4-5-6-7

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Material Covered/Chapters</b> (reading assignments to be read for this day)	<b>Specific Related Assignments</b> (turned in, prepared for, in-class activities, assignments due)
Week 1	Introduction to Course, Syllabus, & Expectations  Chapter 1 - A First Look at Interpersonal Communication	IP self-assessment Paired interviews and introductions

Week 2	Chapter 1 con't Ethics of Relational Communication  Additional outside notes on cultural communication	Ethical code/Communication civility activity  Diversity/Cultural Mapping activity
Week 3	Chapter 2 - Interpersonal Communication and Social Media	Chapter 2 reflection due  Social Media analysis
Week 4	Chapter 3 - Communication and Identity: Creating and Presenting the Self	Chapter 3 reflection due  Case study activity
Week 5	Chapter 4 - Perception: What You See Is What You Get Review for exam	Chapter 4 reflection due  Cipher in the Snow reflection due Topic approvals for IPC research paper
Week 6	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-2-3-4</b>  Chapter 5 - Emotions: Feeling, Thinking, and Communicating	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-2-3-4</b>  Chapter 5 reflection due
Week 7	Chapter 6 - Language: Barrier and Bridge	<b>Relational Reflection #1 Due</b>  Verbal Language activity
Week 8	Chapter 7 - Nonverbal Communication: Messages Beyond Words	Chapter 7 reflection due  IPC Research Article Check due
Week 9	Chapter 8 - Listening: More Than Meets the Ear	Chapter 8 reflection due
Week 10	Finish chapters - Review for exam  <b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-6-7-8</b>	Partial workshop for research papers  <b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-6-7-8</b>
Week 11	Chapter 9 - Communication and Relational Dynamics  Chapter 10 - Interpersonal Communication in Close Relationships	<b>Relational Reflection #2 Due</b>  Chapter mapping exercise due
Week 12	Chapter 9 & 10 con't	Chapter 10 reflection due  Case study activity

Week 13	Chapter 11 - Improving Communication Climates Chapter 12 - Managing Interpersonal Conflicts	Chapter 11 reflection due Conflict Analysis due
Week 14	Finish chapters (if needed) Review for exam	Workshop for IPC research papers <b>IPC Research Application Paper Due</b>
Week 15	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 9-10-11-12</b> Wrap-up of semester/course evaluations/final questions for group presentations	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 9-10-11-12</b>
Finals Week	<b>Group Analysis Presentations</b>	<b>Group Analysis Presentations</b>