

COMM125: Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2015
Brian Grewe Jr, MA
Arapahoe Community College

TEXTBOOK:

McCornack, S. (2012). *Reflect and relate: An introduction interpersonal communication*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins.

COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The art of communicating "one to one" is the focus of this course. Theories of self-concept, self-disclosure, nonverbal communication, listening and conflict are among those discussed and applied to romantic, social, family and professional relationships.

The successful student will be able to

- Define important interpersonal concepts
- Distinguish interpersonal communication from other communication contexts
- Recognize and describe the basic aspects of self-concept development and the role interpersonal communication plays in this process
- Distinguish among self-concept, self-esteem, and self-image
- Demonstrate an awareness of the process of perception in interpersonal communication and discuss issues such as dogmatism, prejudice and stereotyping as addressed through expanded world view
- Evaluate emotional expression in terms of appropriateness and maturity, and recognize the effects of emotional expression on interpersonal interaction
- Develop greater understanding of the role of language use in relationships
- Recognize and interpret nonverbal cues in interpersonal interaction
- Recognize and describe the developmental and interactional effects of listening and response strategies in the interpersonal context.
- Recognize and describe appropriateness, individuality, and reciprocity in self-disclosure in interpersonal relationships
- Analyze conflict situations and propose approaches for conflict management and resolution
- Gain insight into communication with respect to gender and cultural phenomena

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Ten Chapter Reflections

These reflections will ask you to choose a topic or idea from the readings assigned for the week. In this response, you will pose a single question or discussion idea. I expect a minimum of three paragraphs fleshing out your thoughts, concerns or questions. Each paper is expected to be typed, printed out and brought to class. If these requirements are not met, you will not be allowed to turn them in. This assignment is pass/fail and will not be returned to you. I use this assignment to gauge the level of understanding

surrounding the ideas from the chapter and will address any discrepancies during the following class period. Each reflection is worth 10 points for a total of **100 points**.

2. Life Story Scrapbook

This assignment asks of you to create a beautiful, creative and wonderful scrapbook (glitter and stickers and glue, Oh My!) that contains seven core concepts from our course, and seven corresponding applications of these concepts pulled from your everyday life. Each concept should be approximately one page in length and be written in your own words, unpacking the relevant ideas as they relate to your application. These concept pages should correlate with existing research, which you will have to cite within the paper. The relevant direct application of these concepts should be taken directly from your own lived experiences and should follow one or two people throughout the project. Rubric and Detailed Assignment Sheet will be posted on D2L. This assignment will take you between 10 and 20 hours to complete. This project is worth **150 points**.

3. Perception Paper

Watch a movie or television program that discusses the specific communication phenomenon called perception. Other items included with perception include: attributions, cultural differences, gender differences, impressions, personality differences, prejudice, the entire perception-checking process, stereotyping, and the uncertainty reduction theory.

This paper should include a discussion on how the various characters in the movie or television program display the communication concepts listed above. Type a two-to-four page paper that thoroughly examines the phenomenon of perception. Only 10-20% (less than a page total) of the paper should be dedicated to discussing the movie or television program and 80-90% of the paper should be dedicated to the communication concepts referred from the textbook.

The paper must be formatted in APA format, include at least three sources (one can be the textbook) and formatted appropriately for an academic paper. Not following any of these guidelines will result in a deduction of points. Submit paper in the Dropbox. Rubric will be posted on D2L for paper. This assignment is worth **50 points**.

4. Life Story Interview – Friend & Corresponding Paper

This project employs a modified life story interview protocol created by McAdams. This project will require you to interview a friend, colleague or co-worker and solicit from them, stories surrounding key moments that have occurred within their life.

Throughout this interview, you will be prompting this person to disclose very personal information. Please remember to be kind, empathic and friendly during this interview. Once you have collected the interview, you may be creative in how you choose to report your findings in class during an informal presentational setting.

This interview requires up to a two page review of the experience, knowledge and communicative phenomena present during the interview. You may also write reflexively and focus specifically on the affect present within an interaction; Or you may choose a completely different outlet to express what you have learned.

You must change real names and any other identifying within the write up of this assignment and also for the presentations.

You may choose to audio record this interview, but all data must be destroyed by the end of the semester.

The interview itself should take about 60 minutes to complete.

This assignment is worth **150 points**. Rubric will be posted on D2L for the paper.

5. Life Story Interview – Family

This project employs a modified life story interview protocol created by McAdams. This project will require you to interview a member of your family and solicit from them, stories surrounding key moments that have occurred within their life. Remember, not all families are blood or legally bound (or recognized) and if you choose a less common/normative family structure, please be prepared to explore and probe your participants.

Throughout this interview, you will be prompting this person to disclose very personal information. Please remember to be kind, empathic and friendly during this interview. Once you have collected the interview, you may be creative in how you choose to report your findings in class during an informal presentational setting.

This interview requires up to a five to seven page review of the experience, knowledge and communicative phenomena present during the interview. You may also write reflexively and focus specifically on the affect present within an interaction; or you may choose a completely different outlet to express what you have learned.

You must change real names and any other identifying within the write up of this assignment and also for the presentations.

You may choose to audio record this interview, but all data must be destroyed by the end of the semester.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Content	Reading	Due
1	Introduction to the Course Syllabus Ice Breaker		
	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication	Ch. 1	Reflection
2	Considering Self	Ch. 2	Reflection
	Considering Self (Cont)	Ch. 2	
3	Perception	Ch. 3	Reflection
	Perception (Cont)	Ch. 3	
4	Emotions	Ch. 4	Perception Paper Reflection
	Emotions (Cont)	Ch. 4	
5	Listening	Ch. 5	Reflection
	Listening (Cont)	Ch. 5	
6	Movie – Jerry Macguire/Good Will Hunting		
	Movie – (Cont)		Movie Reflection
7	Verbal	Ch. 6	Perception Paper Reflection
	Verbal (Cont)	Ch. 6	
8	Nonverbal	Ch. 7	Reflection
	Nonverbal (Cont)	Ch. 7	Life Interview Friend Paper Due
9	Conflict	Ch. 8	Reflection
	Conflict (Cont)		
10	Romance	Ch. 9	Reflection
	Romance (Cont)	Ch. 9	

11	Family	Ch. 10	Reflection
	Family (Cont)	Ch. 10	
12	Friends	Ch. 11	Reflection
	Friends (Cont)	Ch. 11	
13	Friends	Ch. 11	Reflection
	Friends (Cont)	Ch. 11	
14	Movie – Lars and the Real Girl		
	Movie (Cont)	Movie Reflection	
15	Scrapbook Presentations – Book Due		
	Work	Ch. 12	Reflection
16	Work (Cont)	Ch. 12	Final Life Interview Family Presentations – Paper Due