COMM 1318 – Interpersonal Communication  
Spring 2012; Section 001; Classroom OCNR 145  
Professor: Dr. Virginia Wheeless

Instructor: Dr. Virginia Wheeless  
Office: Bay Hall 328  
Phone: 361-825-2729  
virginia.wheeless@tamucc.edu  

Office Hours:  
Tuesday – 2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday – 11:00-12:00 a.m. and 2:00-3:00  
Other times are available by appointment

Course Description and Objectives: This course focuses on theories and exercises in verbal and nonverbal communication with a focus on interpersonal relationships.  

Student Learning Outcomes  
At the end of this course, students will be able to  
1. describe the basic theories and principles of interpersonal communication;  
2. apply these theories and principles in interpersonal relationships;  
3. identify the communication strategies used in various types of relationships; and  
4. demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental dimensions of different cultures as they relate to interpersonal communication.


Method of Instruction: Discussions of material in the text and other assigned readings; in-class learning exercises (involves some group work); out-of-class activities (some group work); exams; dyad presentation; and journal recordings.

Method of Evaluation: The professor will grade all exams, activities, and journals. A description of how each assignment fits into the final grade for the course is presented below. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor to discuss grades on assignments as grades are given and not wait until the end of the semester.

Course Assignments and Grade Calculation:  

Two examinations (100 pts. each) = 200 points  
#1–_______  
#2–_______  

Take home quizzes (11 x 10) = 110 points  
110 points  

Presentation in class (dyads) = 100 points  
100 points  

In-class and out-of-class activities – 100 total points = 100 points  
(each assignment varies 5 – 15 points)  

Journals (these will be checked 3 times in the semester) (30 x 3) = 90 points  
90 points  

Total Points = 600 points 

Grade Calculation:  
A 90% of the total points 540 and above  
B 80% of the total points 480 – 539  
C 70% of the total points 420 – 479  
D 60% of the total points 360 – 419  
F Below 360

If you are not satisfied with your exam scores, you can take a comprehensive final and use the score on that exam to replace one of your exam scores. The final is given during the time scheduled for our final examination.
**Attendance:** Attendance is essential to your success in this class. Absences will result in an inability to engage in class discussion and/or take part in learning exercises. Therefore, excessive absences will negatively impact your grade. **All assignments are due as designated on the attached schedule.** **No late assignments will be accepted and no exams will be given at a later time** unless the student has a university excuse or a documented illness. **IF YOU CONTRACT THE FLU, PLEASE STAY HOME UNTIL 24 HOURS AFTER YOUR FEVER IS GONE.** Please plan accordingly. Since this class meets once a week, a student missing more than 2 sessions should consider seriously dropping the course.

**Dropping the course:** I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation **WILL NOT** automatically result in your being dropped from the class. **March 30th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.**

**Assignments:**

**Examinations:** The exams are designed to test your knowledge of material presented in the text and in class. Questions are multiple-choice, true-false, and short answer/list. If you are not satisfied with the scores on your exams, you may take an optional final examination which is comprehensive over all class material and use that grade to substitute for one of your exam grades.

**Quizzes:** The quizzes are designed to help you comprehend material in the class and be able to participate in class discussions. They are either completed out of class or in class for 10 points each.

**Journals:** The journals provide you with the opportunity to implement some of the strategies we will discuss in class in some of your relationships. You do not have to use the same relationship throughout the semester. You will write about your implementation and if it was successful or not. Format for each entry is as follows:

- Relationship of you and the other person:
- What strategy was implemented? (what did you do?):
- Date of implementation:
- Write about how successful the strategy was.
- What did you learn from this experience?

You must have **at least 3 entries** each time you turn-in your journals on these dates:

**Presentations:** Students will choose topics that will pair them into dyads. Each dyad will research their topic and make a 12-15 minute presentation to the class on specified dates. The purpose of the presentations is to inform us about topics not previously covered in class. Fifteen points of the grade will be determined by the student’s attendance when others make their presentations.

**In- and out-of-class Activities:** During the semester, you will be involved in learning exercises in and out of class. Points for the activities will vary.

**Classroom Etiquette:** Please do not leave your seats or the room unless instructed for in-class exercises; we will take breaks for your comfort. **All cell phones and computers should be turned-off before class begins and stay off during class-time.** If you want to text message, email, or surf the web during the time we are in class, please do so outside the classroom. **Class will begin on time; please be here to join us from the start.**

As professors and students, we all want to treat each other with respect. Examples of being disrespectful are talking on a cell phone or texting during class; playing games on a computer or answering email; reading assignments for other courses; interrupting students or the professor; talking when someone else is talking (student or professor); being overly argumentative in class with another student or professor; and using inappropriate language in class. The professor has the right to ask a student to leave a class if they are being disrespectful to others or obstructing the learning process. **If you arrive late for class and we are hearing student presentations, please remain outside and enter when the student/s have finished.**
**Academic Honesty:** Students unaware of the university’s statement on academic honesty should review it in the *Undergraduate Catalog* or *Student Handbook*. Examples of academic dishonesty and plagiarism are using someone else’s ideas and not giving them credit; presenting a paper or speech that is not originally yours; handing in assignments that are not originally yours; presenting “facts” or lifting ideas from sources without crediting the source; presenting falsified opinions and figures; cheating on an exam; and/or not participating in group activities, but taking credit for the product. If you are uncertain as to what actions constitute plagiarism or dishonesty, please ask your professor. Students who violate the code of honesty in this class will receive a 0 on that assignment. Any student receiving more than one 0 for academic dishonesty or plagiarism will fail the course. Note: All violations of the academic dishonesty are reported to the college dean and Office of Students Affairs who maintains documentation of such offenses for at least 5 years.

**WebCT and WEB Access:** Some class items will be posted on WebCT and students should know how to use it. If you have difficulty, call the university’s Help Desk at 825-2825 or long distance 866-353-2491.

**Equity Statement:** All persons, regardless of gender, age, class, race, ethnicity, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, nationality, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this class. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially with your professor or department chair.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class, must notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements within reason may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide written documentation of his/her disability to the Director or Assistant Director of Disability Services who may be reached at 361-825-5816 or in Driftwood 101.

**Academic Advising:** TAMUCC colleges require that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they declare a major in the college. The Academic Advisor will work with the student to set-up a degree plan in the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) which must be signed by the student, major department faculty mentor, and department chair. CLA’s Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process:**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
### Schedule for Class Meetings*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Discussions in Class and Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Overview of course syllabus, assignments, and text. Tell us who you are and learn who we are. Discuss Chapter 1 – <em>A First Look at Interpersonal Communication</em>. Quiz 1 – complete in class. Pick-up Quiz 2 to be turned-in January 26</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Discuss Chapter 2 – <em>Communication and Identity: Creating and Presenting the Self</em>. (pp. 40-81) Turn-in Quiz 2. Pick-up Quiz 3 to be turned-in February 2</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Discuss Chapter 3 – <em>Perception: What You See is What You Get</em>. (pp. 82-119) Turn-in Quiz 3. Pick-up Quiz 4 to be turned-in February 9</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Discussion Chapter 4 – <em>Emotions: Thinking, Feeling, and Communicating</em>. (pp.120-155) Turn-in Quiz 4. Pick-up Quiz 5 to be turned-in February 16</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Discuss Chapter 5 – <em>Language: Barrier and Bridge</em> (pp.156-193) Turn-in journals. Turn-in Quiz 5. Pick-up Quiz 6 to be turned-in February 23.</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>EXAM ONE (Chapters 1 – 6) Discuss Chapter 7 – <em>Listening: More than Meets the Ear</em>. (pp. 232-265) Quiz 7 completed in class. Pick-up Quiz 8 to be turned March 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Discuss Exam One Discuss Chapter 8 – <em>Communicating and Relational Dynamics</em> (pp. 266-295) Turn-in Quiz 8 Pick-up Quiz 9 to be turned March 23</td>
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| March 7    | Discuss Chapter 9 – *Intimacy and Distance in Relational Communication* (pp. 296-327)  
**Turn-in journals.**  
**Turn-in Quiz 9**  
**Pick-up Quiz 10 to be turned-in March 30.** |
| March 14   | Spring Break      |
| March 21   | Discuss Chapter 10 – *Improving Communication Climates* (pp. 328-362)  
**Turn-in Quiz 10**  
**Pick-up Quiz 11 to be turned-in April 6.** |
| March 28   | Discuss Chapter 11 – *Managing Interpersonal Conflicts.* (pp. 364-398).  
**Review for Exam Two.**  
**Grade Quiz 11 in class.** |
| April 4    | **EXAM TWO (Chapters 7 – 11)**  
**Meet with partners and work on presentations.** |
| April 11   | **Student Presentations** |
| April 18   | **Student Presentations** |
| April 25   | **Student Presentations.**  
**Turn-in Journals.**  
Discuss journals and what works and what does not work.  
Develop a model of interpersonal communication competence. |
| May 11; 4:30 p.m. | **Final Examination** (optional) |

*The Professor may change dates for assignments if special circumstances arise and will share changes in writing for the students.

Presentations are in dyads on pre-assigned topics relating to interpersonal communication. Dyads will draw for a presentation date.