

SPCM 1010: Communication in Human Society

Instructor:

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Textbook and Required Instructional Materials

West, R. & Turner, L. H. (2008). *Understanding interpersonal communication: Making choices in changing times*. (2nd Edition) Belmont, CA: Thompson/Wadsworth.

Darius goes west: The roll of his life. This DVD is required and available online at www.dariusgoeswest.org for \$20. The DVD will also be available in class for the same price.

Objectives

This class is designed to explore issues, topics, and principles related to interpersonal communication. You will be given the opportunity to grapple with those issues, topics, and principles cognitively and behaviorally. When you complete the course you should have a greater understanding of interpersonal communication, individual differences that affect interpersonal communication, and the role interpersonal communication in the formation, development, and termination of interpersonal relationships. You should be able to carefully monitor the interpersonal behaviors and communication of yourself and others.

Evaluation

Your grade will be determined in the following four ways:

1. Examinations—Three examinations will be given. Each examination is worth 100 points. The examinations will combine true-false and multiple choice items. They will be non-cumulative.
2. Papers—You will be given the option of writing two papers. You do not have to write the papers but may do so if you would like. The papers must be typewritten using 12 characters per inch type, double spaced, and include margins that are at least one inch. There is no minimum page length but papers may not exceed 6 pages of text. Anything after the sixth page of text will not be read or graded. Each paper will be worth 50 points. Papers are due at the beginning of the designated class period and two copies of each paper must be turned in. Electronically submitted work *is not* permitted.
3. Class Activities—Class activities related to the day's material will be conducted in class or be assigned to be completed outside of class. The activities are worth a total of 50 points. The number of points awarded for each activity will depend on the number of activities conducted using the simple formula $\text{Activity}_1 = 50/\#$ of activities. Activities completed outside of class are due at the beginning of the designated class period and electronically submitted work *will not* be accepted. If an activity is completed outside of class it must be typed unless the activity instructions state otherwise. If an activity is completed outside of class two copies of it must be turned in. If an activity is completed in class, then either one copy will be turned in or attendance records for the day will be used as evidence of its completion.
4. Attendance—Because this class meets only 19 days attendance is critical. Attendance figures into your grade both indirectly and directly. It figures into your grade indirectly in that if you miss a class you may miss an activity. Activities cannot be made up unless you missed class while acting as an official representative of the University of Georgia at some University sanctioned event. Attendance figures directly into your grade because if you have excellent attendance you will earn additional points as a reward for your attendance (see course policies below).

Grading Scale

The grading scale for class will depend on how many of the optional papers you complete. See the options explained below.

Option 1: Two papers completed

A total of 450 points may be earned with this option.

A = 418, A- = 405, B+ = 396, B = 373, B- = 360, C+ = 351, C = 315, D = 270, F < 270.

Option 2: One paper completed.

A total of 400 points can be earned with this option.

A = 372, A- = 360, B+ = 352, B = 328, B- = 320, C+ = 312, C = 280, D = 240, F < 240.

Option 3: No papers completed.

A total of 350 points may be earned with this option.

A = 325, A- = 315, B+ = 308, B = 290, B- = 280, C+ = 273, C = 245, D = 210, F = < 210.

Course Policies

1. Attendance—Class meets 19 times. There is no such thing as an excused or unexcused absence. You are either present or absent. If you attend class 17 times I will add 1% of the total possible points to your class total. If you attend 18 class periods I will add 2% to your class total. If you attend 19 class periods I will add 3% to your class total. Your attendance must be for the entire two hour period in order to be counted as being present.
2. Make-up Exams—Make up exams are rarely given. If you will miss an exam date you should notify your instructors as soon as you know it will be missed. The more advance notice we receive, along with a valid explanation for missing, the greater the probability of you being offered some accommodation.
3. Personal Travel—Exams will not be moved to accommodate personal travel plans. If you plan to travel for spring break or at the end of the semester, then make flight or departure arrangements that will give you ample time to travel to some airport or other departure location.
4. Academic Honesty—All work completed in a manner that is consistent with the *Code of Student Conduct* and the publication *A Culture of Honesty*. Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be pursued to the fullest extent allowed by University policies and procedures.
5. Completed Work—Written work in the form of papers or activities completed outside of class is due at the beginning of the class period. If work is submitted electronically it must be submitted due before 10:30 am. You should save all typewritten work to a disk or hard drive to which you will have access for the entire semester.
6. Research Requirement—Students enrolled in SPCM 1010, SPCM 1100, and SPCM 1500 have a departmental research participation requirement. The requirement can typically be met in any of three ways: (a) participation in a research project conducted by the Department of Speech Communication, (b) a summary and analysis of a communication research article, or (c) attendance at and an analysis of a Department of Speech Communication research colloquium. Opportunities for options (a) and (c) may be limited during the summer term. Failure to complete the research requirement will result in the receipt of an Incomplete (I) until the requirement is met. You will need to complete a separate project or analysis for each class in which you are enrolled where the requirement is in place.

Tentative Schedule

This schedule is approximate. Exam dates will not change. Topics considered on any given day may change if we fall behind or ahead of schedule. Readings should be completed prior to class on the date for which the reading is listed.

Introductory Issues

JUNE	5	Course Introduction Why study interpersonal communication? Read: Chapter 1
	8	Differing perspectives on Interpersonal Communication Read: No new reading Optional Paper 1 Assigned
Individual Differences, Relationships, and Interpersonal Communication		
	9	Code Systems: Differentiating Code Systems and Verbal Codes Read: Chapter 4
	10	Code Systems: Nonverbal Codes Read: Chapter 5
	11	Code Systems: Nonverbal Codes Interpersonal Perception: Interpersonal Attributions Read: Chapter 2
	12	Interpersonal Perception: Perceptual Processes Read: No new reading
	15	Exam 1—Bring a #2 Pencil, None Will Be Provided
	16	The Self and Interpersonal Communication: Self Awareness Read: No new reading
	17	Culture and Communication: Basic Principles of Intercultural Communication and Dimensions of Culture Read: Chapter 3
	18	Communication and Emotions Read: Chapter 7
Forming, Maintaining, Repairing, and Terminating Relationships		
	19	Predictors of Affiliation Forming Relationships: Reducing Uncertainty and Predicting Relational Outcomes Read: Chapter 8 & 10
	22	Relationship Development: Stages of Relational Development Read: No new reading
	23	Intensifying Relationships: Self Description, Self Disclosure, & Apparent Self Disclosure Read: No new reading

	24	Exam 2—Bring a #2 Pencil, None Will Be Provided
	25	Maintaining Relationships: Relational Dialectics Read: No new reading
	26	Maintaining Relationships: Working Through Issues of Power and Conflict Read: Chapter 9
	29	Problematic Events In Relationships: Deception in Relationships Read: No new reading
	30	The Bright Side of Relationships: The Experience of Friendship and Love Read: No new reading
JULY	1	Terminating Relationships Read: No new reading

FINAL EXAM, WEDNESDAY JULY 1, 10:45 a.m.