

SPCM 1500: Interpersonal Communication Syllabus
Summer 2009

Instructor: Mandi Strickland
Meeting Time: 2:15 pm to 3:15 pm DAILY in Moore 302
Office Address: 222 Terrell Hall
Office Phone: 706-583-0952
Office Hours: I am happy to schedule appointments to accommodate you.
E-Mail Address: als219@uga.edu

As I share an office, it is possible that I will not receive a telephone message in a timely fashion. Therefore, e-mail is my preferred method of communication with students. I respond to student e-mails within 48 hours. Thus, if you have a question about an assignment due on Friday, you are not guaranteed a response if you e-mail me Thursday at midnight.

Required Textbook:

West, R., & Turner, L. H. (2006). *Understanding interpersonal communication: Making choices in changing times*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth.

WebCT:

You will be required to use WebCT (<http://webct.uga.edu/>) in this course. Students should familiarize themselves with WebCT (WebCT has an extensive online help section). If you have a problem, you may contact the helpdesk for information concerning WebCT (2-3106). You are responsible for learning to use WebCT – pleas of ignorance will not be accepted.

Required Readings:

Additional readings will be available on-line through WebCT.

Course Goal:

The goal of this course is to help students become better communicators. We seek to introduce students to a wide array of perspectives on interpersonal communication and encourage students to enlarge their understandings of the theory and practice of interpersonal communication.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will understand the need to reflect upon interpersonal communication practices.
2. The student will gain knowledge of concepts, theories, and research findings in interpersonal communication.
3. The student will develop and practice communication skills in a supportive environment.
4. The student will learn the vocabulary of interpersonal communication theory and practice.
5. The student will understand various contexts (friendship, family, etc.) in which interpersonal communication occurs.

Course Policies:

1. Registration: Only students who are officially enrolled in the class may attend.
2. Attendance: Attendance will be taken at every class. Absences due to university activities (e.g., debate, sports, etc.) must be discussed with the instructor no **later than one week before** the relevant class period(s). Written documentation for a university sanctioned absence must be provided. Arrangements concerning absences are entirely at the instructor's discretion.

Your regular attendance is necessary as examinations not only cover material from the book, but also material covered only in lectures. Additionally, participation points will be earned through your involvement in class activities and pop quizzes. During the semester, you will be given 25 opportunities to earn participation points by completing class activities and pop quizzes. Such activities will go toward your final course grade, and cannot be made up regardless of the reason for the absence. Please note that if you should miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain missed materials from a classmate, not the instructor. Handouts, activities, assignments, etc. will be available from the instructor only on the date distributed in class. Should you be absent, you will need to make a copy of a classmate's handout, etc.

Tardiness is not appropriate. Ensure that you allow yourself enough time to be in class before it begins. Additionally, leaving class early is strongly discouraged.

3. Learning Accommodations: Any students who need special accommodations for learning or who have particular needs are invited to share these concerns or requests with me as soon as possible. The Office of Disability Services (542-8719, Clark Howell Hall) provides written documentation that specifies the needed modifications (i.e., note taker, extra time for tests) to the instructor. If you have not contacted The Office of Disability Services to request a letter be sent to your instructor, please do so.
4. Emergencies: If an emergency arises and you know that you will not be able to get to class on an exam day please let me know ahead of time by sending me an email or leaving a message with the department secretary.
6. Exams: Three exams are scheduled on the syllabus. Students are expected to take the exams on the dates assigned. (See also the *Final Exam Policy*). Exams will not be given early or late to accommodate student travel plans.
 - a. **Make up exams are allowed** for full credit for excused absences with proper documentation. Students may make up their exam when they are absent due to a university sanctioned activity where prior notice has been provided, an emergency which has been documented through their advisor or Student Affairs, or an illness which has been verified in writing from your private physician or the Student Health Center. In the case of illness, you must get a note from either your private physician or from the Student Health Center signed by a clinician (Not a Health Center Nurse)

that says something to the effect: “In my opinion, this student should not be in classes today and/or tomorrow (specify the particular date[s] involved).” Typically, a private physician or clinician will write a note for an illness for one or two days. However, if your illness lingers, you will need to recheck with the private physician or clinician and request an additional note to document your absence. The note does not have to indicate the specifics of your illness, but that the physician or clinician does not think you are well enough to attend class.

- b. **Make up exams are not allowed** without proper documentation. Make-up exams are not allowed for any type of unexcused absences, including missing class to study for a test, oversleeping, not being ready to take the exam, or having to work at an outside job. You will receive a ZERO for that exam.
6. Papers: If you are sick the day a paper is due, please have a friend or roommate drop the paper off in my mailbox at the Speech Communication Main Office (110 Terrell Hall). Each day a paper is over due, 10% of the grade is deducted. Overdue starts at the end of the class period the paper is due. If you do not come to class on the due date, please make sure the secretary in the Speech Communication Main Office puts the time and date the paper was received on your paper before she puts it in my mailbox.
7. Research Requirement: As part of your participation in this class, you must satisfy a departmental research requirement. This requirement may be satisfied in one 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 a written analysis of a colloquium presentation at the Department of Speech Communication. For information about all three options, see the attached document titled: *The UGA Speech Communication Research Participation: Information for Students*. Failure to fulfill the research requirement will result in a grade of Incomplete (I) for this class. Note: You will need to complete a separate research project or paper for each Speech Communication class that requires or offers research participation.
8. Receiving a Final Grade: Students must complete all exams, papers, and the research requirement to receive a grade.
9. Academic Honesty: “Academic honesty is – defined broadly and simply – the performance of all academic work without cheating, lying, stealing, or receiving assistance from any other person or using any source of information not appropriately authorized or attributed” (From the Preamble to “A Culture of Honesty”). The University, the Department of Speech Communication, and I personally take academic honesty very seriously. Every student at the University of Georgia should be familiar with the booklet, “A Culture of Honesty: Policies and Procedures on Academic Dishonesty.” If you are not, please obtain one of these booklets and read it carefully. This document has a thorough presentation of four types of academic dishonesty including plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, lying/tampering, and theft, as well as the procedures that are in place to adjudicate alleged incidents of academic dishonesty. The policies and procedures described in “A Culture of Honesty” will be strictly followed.

University Mandated Statement Concerning the University Honor Code & Academic Honesty
All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. More detailed information about academic honesty can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>.

9. Final Exam Policy: The final exam will be given at the assigned time per the official university schedule. The final exam will NOT be given early or at a different time unless changed by the university. There are no exceptions to this policy. Please mark your calendars and make your travel plans based on the final exam time noted below:

Thursday, July 30th from 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

10. Grievance Procedure: Occasionally, students are unsatisfied with some dimension of the course. If you have a concern at any time during the course, please come speak with me directly during office hours, by appointment, or via email.

If you want to appeal a grade, department policy is that you *must* make the grade appeal in writing to me. Prepare and submit a typed argument indicating what your specific appeal is and what grade you believe you deserved. Turn in the appeal before or after class, during office hours, or at a scheduled appointment within one week of the grade being returned. If you have employed these measures and are still dissatisfied, or feel that an appropriate resolution may not be reached by working with me, then I encourage you to contact the chair of the department, Dr. Jerold L. Hale at jhale@uga.edu. He will also need a written grade appeal in order to assist you.

11. Electronic Devices: The use of electronic devices (such as cell phones, pagers, etc.) in class is prohibited. Although these items may be necessary in life, they are disruptive to the learning environment and unnecessary in this class. All such items are to be turned off (not to vibrate) during class. Additionally, students who have an electronic device visible during a quiz or exam will receive a ZERO on that quiz/exam – NO EXCEPTIONS. I reserve the right to answer any cell phone that rings during class.
12. Freedom of Expression – Safe Classroom Environment: One of the purposes of education is the free exchange of ideas. This class is a safe space to engage in discussion of diverse ideas related to communication. I do not expect you to agree with every idea/theory discussed in this course (I’m quite confident that I will not). Informed disagreement is critical to the learning process and I welcome it in this space. However, I WILL NOT TOLERATE any form of disrespect to another classmate. This is an environment open to the discussion of ideas, but not to degradation. I will ask any student who cannot comport himself/herself in an appropriate manner to leave until such a time as s/he can behave acceptably. If you are asked to leave, you CANNOT make-up any work missed due to your absence.

Course Evaluation:

Your grade for this course will be calculated according to the following point system:

Exam One	150				
Exam Two	150	Grading Scale			
Exam Three	150				
Paper One	150	A	930 – 1000	C+	780 – 799
Paper Two	150	A–	900 – 929	C	730 – 779
Quizzes	150	B+	880 – 899	C–	700 – 729
Class Activities	100	B	830 – 879	D	600 – 699
Research Requirement	Required to Pass	B–	800 – 829	F	below 600
TOTAL	1000				

Please note: (a) Neither I, nor the Department of Speech Communication consider a C to be a punitive grade. (b) Additionally, it is the policy of the basic course director in the Department of Speech Communication that no extra credit be awarded in SPCM 1500. (c) I do not round up grades – you must have 900 points to receive an A– (899 is a B+, **no exceptions**). (d) It is your responsibility to keep all exams, papers, quizzes, and activities until final grades are posted. These will be necessary for any grade dispute (i.e. to reconcile a recording error).

Course Assignments:

Exams

Three examinations will be given throughout the semester and comprise 45% (450 points) of your final grade. Each examination will consist of a combination of true-false, multiple choice, listing, matching, fill in the blank, and/or short answer items. Exams cover material from class discussion, course readings, and the textbook. We will not cover all of the material in your text in class, so make sure you have done the readings before exams.

Papers

The two required writing assignments comprise 30% (300 points) of your overall grade. The first paper will ask you to reflect on a theory related to interpersonal communication. This paper is due on June 24, 2009. The second paper will ask you to analyze the communication behaviors of characters in a film we watch in class. This paper will be due during the final exam time (3:30 pm on July 30, 2007). Detailed information concerning each of these assignments will be distributed later in the course.

All papers submitted in this course must be typed, doubled-spaced in Times New Roman 12 point font with one-inch margins and page numbers. Papers are to be stapled and include a title page and reference page. *Papers should not be submitted in any type of “professional binding” – this is NOT high school.* Your title page should include: title, ID number, course and section, and date. Each of your papers is to be 5 – 8 pages in length (excluding the title page and references). References and citations should conform to the guidelines specified in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) 5th Edition*. Papers are to be free of spelling and grammatical errors! Papers that do not conform to these guidelines will

be docked a letter grade. Additionally, you *must* submit a hard copy of your paper – I do not accept papers via e-mail. I strongly encourage students to make use of the Writing Center.

Quizzes

Quizzes comprise 15% (150 points) of your final grade. These serve as a reading check and help prepare you for exams. In order to succeed on the quizzes, you need to complete the assigned reading prior to each class period. Quizzes may or may not be announced prior to the class they are given, vary in point value, and cannot be made up regardless of the reason for the absence. There will be 16 quizzes throughout the semester, the top 15 of which will count toward your final grade. Plan your absences wisely!

Class Activities

Throughout the semester, you will complete various class activities that comprise 10% (100 points) of your final grade. These activities involve individual and group assignments, require participation both in class and outside of class, and vary in total point value. Some class activities will require a one-page reflection statement in which you link the activity to course readings and/or your life experiences. You will be informed if a class activity is being graded and the total points available for the assignment. There will be 11 class activities throughout the semester, the top 10 of which will count toward your final grade. Class activities cannot be made up regardless of the reason for the absence – plan wisely. From time to time, class activities may require work outside of class. In this event, the assignment is due at the beginning of the specific class period. *Late work WILL NOT be accepted.*

Research Requirement

As part of your participation in this class, you must satisfy a departmental research requirement. For information about the three options for completing the research requirement, see the attached document titled: *The UGA Speech Communication Research Participation: Information for Students.*

Please be aware of the choices you make. Failure to fulfill the research requirement will result in a grade of Incomplete (I) for this class. Note: You will need to complete a separate research project or paper for each Speech Communication class that requires or offers research participation.

University Mandated Statement

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Tentative Schedule

This schedule is tentative and may change due to the needs of the class. Students should be prepared to discuss assigned readings (or take a quiz over the readings) on the assigned day.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic to be Covered</i>	<i>Assignment(s) Due</i>
<i>Week 1</i>		
5 June	Introduction to the Course (DROP/ADD)	
<i>Week 2</i>		
8 June	Interpersonal Communication (IPC): An Overview (DROP/ADD)	Read ch. 1; Foster
9 June	IPC, cont...; Perception and the Self (DROP/ADD)	Read ch. 2
10 June	Perception, cont... (ADD)	Read Beebe, Beebe, & Redmond
11 June	Perception, cont...	
12 June	Identity and the Self	Read ch. 3
<i>Week 3</i>		
15 June	Identity, cont...	Read McIntosh, Deutsch, & Unpacking II
16 June	Identity, cont...	Read Abkowitz
17 June	Emotion	Read ch. 7
18 June	Emotion, cont...	
19 June	EXAM ONE	
<i>Week 4</i>		
22 June	Communicating Nonverbally	Read ch. 5
23 June	Nonverbal, cont...	
24 June	Nonverbal, cont...	Paper One Due
25 June	Communicating Verbally	Read ch. 4
26 June	Verbal, cont...	
<i>Week 5</i>		
29 June	Verbal, cont...; Listening and Responding	Read ch. 4
30 June	Listening, cont...	
1 July	Sharing Personal Information	Read ch. 8
2 July	Sharing, cont...	
3 July	HOLIDAY: FOURTH OF JULY	
<i>Week 6</i>		
6 July	Sharing, cont...	
7 July	EXAM TWO	
8 July	Communicating in Close Relationships	Read Bryant et al.; ch. 10

9 July	Close Relationships, cont...	Read Goodboy et al.
10 July	Close Relationships, cont... (WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE)	Read Vangelisti
<i>Week 7</i>		
13 July	Communicating in Marriage/Families	Read Noller
14 July	Families, cont...	Read Turner & West
15 July	Families, cont...	
16 July	Families, cont...	
17 July	Communicating Power & Conflict	Read ch. 9
<i>Week 8</i>		
20 July	Power & Conflict, cont...	Read Gray
21 July	Technology & IPC	Read ch. 11
22 July	Technology, cont...	Read Campbell
23 July	EXAM THREE	
24 July	Paper Two Overview/Film	
<i>Week 9</i>		
27 July	Paper Two Film, cont...	Research Requirement
28 July	Paper Two Film, cont...	
29 July	Paper Two Film, cont...	
30 July	<i>Paper Two Due (Final Exam) – 3:30 PM TO 6:30 PM – Attendance Required</i>	

UGA Speech Communication Research Participation:
Information for Students

Questions? Contact your course instructor.

Your class requires you to satisfy a departmental research requirement. Failure to fulfill the research requirement results in a grade of Incomplete (I). Note: You will need to complete a **separate** research project or paper for each Speech Communication class that requires or offers research participation. You may choose to do one of the following options.

OPTION 1: PARTICIPATION IN A SPEECH COMMUNICATION RESEARCH STUDY

The Speech Communication Department regards your participation in studies as an educational experience. The participation of students is appreciated and essential to the research of the Department of Speech Communication. The research contributions made by the students are a lasting part of the body of social scientific knowledge about communication.

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PARTICIPATION OPTION:

Step 1: Sign-Up For One of the Studies Posted on the “Research Opportunities” Bulletin Board in Terrell Hall

Guidelines:

- a. You may choose what study in which you wish to participate.
- b. When signing up for a study, please note what time you chose to participate, what will be expected of you, and the approximate amount of time the study will take to complete. Also, be sure to leave your phone number or email address so the researcher can contact you if he or she needs to reschedule.

Step 2: Participate in a Study

Guidelines:

- a. It is your responsibility to show up at the designated time and location. If it is necessary for you to miss an appointment because of illness or an emergency, please call the phone number listed on the sign-up sheet.
- b. When you show up for the study, please **sign in** using both your name and your instructor’s name. We need both your name and your instructor’s name to ensure you receive credit.
- c. Make sure that you keep a copy of the consent form from the study; this is **your proof of participation**.
- d. If for some reason you do not receive credit later for participating in a study, notify your instructor and ask him/her to check with the researcher. The researcher keeps a copy of the sign-in sheet that you signed and also the list of participants that were given to the instructor. He/she has the responsibility to double check and find out

whether you participated.

- e. Research must be completed **before the beginning of final exams week.**

OPTION 2: COMMUNICATION ARTICLE SUMMARY

This option is designed primarily for students who are not able or do not wish to participate in speech communication research studies. You must adhere to the following guidelines carefully; shoddy work will not be accepted. **Note: Any paper that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from a research article (or from another student) is not acceptable.** This is plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense. Both your instructor and the research pool coordinator will check to make sure that your work is original.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY OPTION:

Step 1: Select an article from one of the following journals:

<i>Communication Quarterly</i>	<i>Communication Reports</i>
<i>Communication Research Reports</i>	<i>Communication Studies</i>
<i>Southern Communication Journal</i>	<i>Western Journal of Communication</i>

Guidelines:

- a. The article must have been published **within the last year.** **NOTE: It is your responsibility to locate a hard copy of the journal in the library (check in the current periodicals section first).**
- b. The article must describe a research study (hint: look for headings such as “Method,” and “Results”).
- c. Check with your instructor to make sure the article is one that is suitable before you write your paper.

Step 2: Write a 2-Page Summary and Analysis of the Article

Guidelines:

- a. Your summary and analysis of the article should be 2 pages. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have read and have understood the research article. It should be partly a summary and an astute description of what you learned from the article. Papers that contain simple phrases like "I didn't like the article" or "it didn't make much sense" will be not be accepted for credit. You need to critically evaluate the material. The paper should contain at least two full pages of text.
- b. Include a title page for the paper that includes the following:

1. Your name
 2. Your instructor's name & class time
 3. The title of the article you read and the author of the article
 4. The name of the journal
 5. The date and/or volume number of the journal
 6. The page numbers of the article
- c. A photocopy of the article you read stapled to the back of your paper.
- d. The paper must be typed and double-spaced. You must use a standard 12 point font size. Failure to heed these guidelines will result in the paper not being accepted for credit.

Step 3: Turn In Your Paper

Guideline:

Submit your paper to your instructor **before final** exam week. Any papers turned in during final exam week will not be accepted for credit. Any unacceptable papers turned in at the last minute will not count for credit and you will receive an incomplete.

OPTION 3: PARTICIPATION IN A SPEECH COMMUNICATION COLLOQUIUM

This option is also designed primarily for students who are not able or do not wish to participate in speech communication research studies. A colloquium is similar to a speech; each speaker takes about 1 hour and talks about his or her most recent communication research. In addition to attending the colloquium, you must write a 2-page summary of the talk in order to receive course credit. **Note:** Any paper that is entirely or partly copied word-for-word from another student is not acceptable. This is plagiarism, which is a very serious academic offense. Both your instructor and the research pool coordinator will check to make sure that your work is original.

GUIDELINES FOR THE COLLOQUIUM OPTION:

Step 1: Select a Speech Communication Colloquium To Attend

Guideline:

The colloquium schedule is posted in the department; your instructor may also notify you of upcoming colloquia. Most of the colloquia take place on Tuesdays at 12:30 in Terrell 214.

Step 2: Attend a Speech Communication Colloquium

Guidelines:

- a. Make sure that you are able to attend the entire colloquium (usually an hour).

- b. Make sure your instructor verifies you are there or get another instructor to write down your name.
- c. Take notes during the colloquium so that you are able to write an analysis of the talk.

Step 3: Write a 2-Page Summary & Analysis of the Colloquium Presentation

Guidelines:

- a. Your paper should contain at least two full pages of text (not including title page, headers, and references).
- b. The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate that you have carefully listened to and understood the talk. It should be partly a summary and an astute description of what you got out of the talk. Papers that contain simple phrases like "I didn't like his/her research" or "it was confusing" will be not be accepted for credit. You need to critically evaluate the research content of the talk.
- c. Your paper should be prefaced with a **cover page**, which must list the following (in order):
 - 1. The title of the speaker's talk
 - 2. The speaker's name
 - 3. The date of the colloquium
 - 4. Your name
 - 5. Your instructor's name
- d. The paper must be typed using a 12-point font and double-spaced.

Step 4: Turn In Your Paper

Guideline:

Submit your paper to your instructor **before final** exam week. Any papers turned in during final exam week will not be accepted for credit, nor will any unacceptable papers turned in at the last minute.