

**Speech 16: Interpersonal Communication**  
**Office Hours: M-Th 9:00-9:30 or by app't**  
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**academic advisor: Judy Coleman (ColemanJudy@deanza.edu ~ 864-8630)**

**Instructor: Matt Abrahams**  
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Advisory: Speech 1 or 10 and English Writing 1A or English as a Second Language 5.

4 units of credit

### **Course Description**

*Interpersonal Communication* is a hands-on practical class that examines communication in the context of interpersonal relationships. Relationships are an integral part of our daily lives and help us define who we are. In this course, we will study concepts and theories relevant to interpersonal communication and apply these to communication issues and problems facing individuals as they relate with others. This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of strategic interpersonal communication -- the ability to analyze a situation, select appropriate communication strategies from a number of available options, and enact those strategies effectively.

I believe that true learning only occurs when everyone is involved and interested in the material presented. Our class will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, activities, projects, and presentations. Through constructive feedback, we will all have the opportunity to teach and help each other. I encourage you to use this course to explore and broaden your world view. Please, challenge yourself and explore issues that matter to you.

### **Course Objectives**

Students will:

- A. Acquire knowledge about the discipline by examining specific theoretical perspectives, the historical development, and the definition and principles of interpersonal communication.
- B. Evaluate how culture and language influence all interpersonal relationships.
- C. Analyze the development of the self-concept and evaluate how it is asserted, negotiated and redefined in interpersonal relations.
- D. Examine principles and develop skills necessary for building and maintaining relationships appropriate to various interpersonal contexts and across cultural, social, and business contexts.

### **Course Materials and Requirements**

Text:

Canary, D.J., Cody, M.J. and Manusov, V.L. Interpersonal Communication: A goals based approach, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (2008). Bedford/St. Martin's.

Active email address that is checked twice a week by 10PM on the night prior to class

## **Course Requirements**

- (1) Regularly attend class, on time, with an inquisitive mind (see attendance policy).
- (2) Participate actively in class discussions and activities (see participation policy).
- (3) Complete, on time, the required reading, assignments, and presentations.
- (4) Purchase and bring with you to every class a copy of the course textbook.
- (5) Check email address twice a week by 10PM on the night prior to class.

## **Policies**

Please review these policies carefully and thoroughly. Failure to comply with them will adversely affect your grade and, perhaps, result in either removal from or automatic failure of this course.

### ***Attendance Policy***

Your attendance is essential in any Speech course that requires performance, participation and evaluation. One of the most valuable learning tools in a course like this one is the experience of observing others' presentations, evaluating them, and then applying what you have learned.

Absences are a very serious matter. By enrolling in this class, you are committing to attend promptly. Anything less than timely attendance (read: no tardies) will affect your participation grade and could result in removal from the class. Attendance will be taken first thing at every class meeting. Make-up exams and presentations will only be granted for verifiable excuses (e.g., a doctor's note for an illness). If you are going to miss a class or know that you will be late, you must notify me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to get yourself caught up.

### ***Participation Policy***

Because this class is an experience-based, skills-focused course, your participation is critical. Your participation grade includes being prepared and adding constructively to the class. You are expected not only to write and deliver your best work, but to be an intelligent and constructively critical discussion participant and audience member.

Specifically, any absence during the first two weeks of class will result in being dropped from the course. Each absence after the first that does not have a legitimate excuse (e.g., doctor's note) will result in a loss of points from your participation grade in addition to the loss of points of any assignment due that day. Three absences will result in a loss of all participation points and possibly result in removal from class. More than two late arrivals will also result in a loss of participation points. Please do not ask if you can make up an assignment or turn one in late.

Participation includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Active, constructive involvement in discussions, activities, and group work
- On time and thorough completion of your assignments
- Staying focused on your work and tasks at hand
- Asking questions
- Fulfilling your commitments to your fellow students and me
- Turning off all pagers and cell phones during class time

### ***Plagiarism and Cheating Policy***

Simply stated: Don't. Academic dishonesty and cheating in any way will not be tolerated. To deter plagiarism (claiming others' ideas or words as one's own), most assignments written at home will be scanned by an anti-plagiarism software package. Additionally, cheating is grounds for immediate, automatic expulsion.

## Assignments

We will cover six major units in class. Most units will consist of the same pattern of activities:

- Lecture/discussion
- Major deliverable
- Case studies
- Skills practice

Your graded assignments by unit will be as follows:

Unit	Assignments
Listening/Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active listening report</li> <li>• Feedback report</li> </ul>
Understanding Ourselves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-reflection paper</li> </ul>
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship interview paper</li> </ul>
Conflict	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dear Abby letter</li> </ul>
Persuasion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agent &amp; Victim of persuasion</li> </ul>
Deception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deception journal</li> </ul>

## Speaking Order

Each student and group is expected to present at his or her designated time. Severe grade penalties will be applied to anyone who does not present when he or she is expected.

## Quizzes

This course has no mid-term or final exams. However, you will be required to take three, non-cumulative quizzes. Quizzes will be on information found in both the reading as well as lecture.

## Case Studies

Beyond the assignments already detailed, you and a few others will be required to lead a case study. You will be discussion leaders who will provide questions aimed at stimulating specific, topic-relevant conversations. You are to help us diagnose and understand your case study with the goal of developing best practices we can employ in the future.

## Grade Break Down

Quizzes	90 points	3 quizzes at 30 points each
Case Study	30 points	
Active listening report and Feedback report	30 points	15 points each
Agent & Victim of persuasion	30 points	15 points each
Relationship interview paper	30 points	
Dear Abby letter	30 points	
Self-reflection paper	30 points	<b>A+ = 100%; A = 99%-93%; A- = 92%-90%; B+ = 89%-88%;</b>
Deception journal	30 points	<b>B = 87%-83%; B- = 82%-80%; C+ = 79%-78%; C = 77%-70%;</b>
		<b>D+ = 69%-68%; D = 67%-63%; D- = 62%-60%; F = 59% or less</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>300 points</b>	

\*\* I will round up to the .50. For example, a 89.50% becomes an A-. However, a 89.49% is a B+.

## Class Schedule

Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment (Due Date)
Apr 7	Welcome Interpersonal Communication	2-8, 34-35, 58-65	
Apr 9	Why relationships?	Packet	
Apr 14	Listening	93-116	<b>Listening/Feedback (4/23)</b>
Apr 16	Feedback		
Apr 21	Practical: Listening/Feedback		
Apr 23	The Self: Identity <b>Quiz #1</b> <b>Listening/Feedback</b>	158-169	<b>Show and Tell (4/30)</b>
Apr 28	The Self: Impression Management	186-191	<b>Self-reflection Paper (5/12)</b>
Apr 30	The Self: Disclosure <b>Show and Tell</b>	201-209	
May 5	<b>**MEET IN ATC103**</b> Computer lab: Personality Inventories		
May 7	Deception I	Packet	<b>Deception Journal (5/19)</b>
May 12	Deception II <b>Self-reflection Paper</b>		
May 14	Practical: Deception		
May 19	Relationships <b>Quiz #2</b> <b>Deception Journal</b>		
May 21	Relationships: Initiation	245-272	<b>Relationship Interview Paper (6/4)</b>
May 26	HOLIDAY		
May 28	Relationships: Maintenance	282-311	
June 2	Relationships: Dissolution	322-354	
June 4	Conflict I <b>Relationship Interview Paper</b>	397-417	<b>Dear Abby (6/16)</b>
June 9	Conflict II	421-424	
June 11	Power	376-377	
June 16	Practical: Conflict and Power <b>Dear Abby</b>		
June 18	Persuasion	363-375 & 378-386	<b>Agent and Victim of Persuasion (finals)</b>
June 23	Practical: Persuasion		
<b>**TUES,</b> June 24 <sup>h</sup> 9:15-11:15	<b>Quiz #3</b> <b>Victim of Persuasion</b>		