

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

PSYC-3480-050, Fall Term 2018

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COURSE TEXT: Beebe, S. A., Beebe, S. J., Redmond, M. V., Geerinck, T. M., & Salem-Wiseman, L. (2018). *Interpersonal Communication: Relating to Others* (Seventh Canadian Edition). Toronto, ON: Pearson Canada.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course emphasizes the multilevel communication processes that underlie and support social interaction and relationship formation and change. Special attention is given to the differences and connections between verbal and nonverbal communication and to the rules and rituals of social interaction in everyday life. The methodologies basic to the understanding of communication processes are also stressed. **PREREQUISITES:** PSYC-2400 or permission of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Since “communication” is so basic, many of us take it for granted and don’t think about it seriously. At least, not until something “goes wrong.” Unfortunately, this attitude tends to result in such difficulties as misunderstandings, conflict, avoidance, and stereotyping. We will examine basic concepts, theories, and research findings about communication and the role it plays in initiating, developing, and maintaining (or terminating) relationships.

Interpersonal Communication is designed to increase your understanding and implementation of effective interpersonal communication behaviors and skills. Throughout the term we will examine basic verbal and nonverbal concepts affecting the communication process between individuals in various interpersonal contexts.

Readings: Please read the assigned material before each class meeting. This will allow you to see connections and ask questions about the related material presented in lecture.

Lecture and Discussion: Questions and discussion are encouraged during class. The lectures are designed to highlight, explain, update, and enhance material in the text as well as cover issues that the text does not. I encourage you to participate by asking questions, answering questions, and offering comments. If you must miss a class, be prepared to get notes from a classmate.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three term tests will be given based on assigned chapter readings and lecture material on the dates provided below. These may consist of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and fill-in-the-blank questions and will **not** be cumulative. The first two exams will take place at the beginning of class and run for approx 1 hour, after which we will continue with a lecture. The third exam will take place during the December final exam period. Each exam will constitute 25 percent of your final grade.

Make-up exams: If you miss a test, a grade of 0 for the test will be recorded, unless you provide a physician's certificate (with phone number) stating that you were unable for health reasons to write the original test, or in the case of other compassionate-grounds reasons (e.g., death in the family, family crisis, etc.), some other kind of documentation. Only then will you be able to write a separately scheduled out-of-class make up test. Please note: Make-up tests will be comprised entirely of long-answer essay-style questions.

REMEMBER: The purpose of an examination is to test your ability to comprehend, integrate, and apply the information that you have learned in the course. Exam questions will require you to conceptualize and apply important research and theories. Cramming "factoids" the night before the exam will probably be a futile endeavor. If you cram, you will probably know just enough material for the exam questions to look vaguely familiar, but not enough depth of understanding to pick the correct answer. Keep up with the readings, review, rewrite your notes, and feel free to ask questions.

Ten (10 x 2.5) in-class and online activities and discussion questions will constitute the other 25 percent of your grade in this course. These will be distributed and/or announced more or less on a random basis throughout the course. Online assignments will typically follow class meetings and be due by the following class date. These assignments may take the form of short reaction/thought papers (1 page), quizzes, activities, internet searches, etc.

You must be in class when an announcement is made or activity is held in class, as well as meet the deadlines for assignments posted online. They will not be provided afterwards. However, a few extra assignments or activities (totaling perhaps somewhere near 12 or 13) will be made available throughout the course as well, in the event that some are missed. This will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to complete at least ten, but not more, of them.

Although, for the reason(s) stated above, regular attendance is not mandatory, it is highly recommended. Students are encouraged to attend all classes (the full class!), as much of the material covered in class is not included in the text. Similarly, students should become very familiar with the assigned textbook chapters, as much of the material covered in the text is not included in lectures.

GRADING:

<u>Category of Achievement</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
Excellent	A+	95 -100
	A	90 - 94
	A-	85 - 89
Superior	B+	80 - 84
	B	75 - 79
Slightly Above Average	C+	70 - 74
Average	C	60- 69
Marginal Pass	D	50- 59
Failure	F	less than 50

Fractions of $\frac{1}{2}$ or greater on the final mark total will be rounded up to the next highest whole number, for purposes of assigning the letter grade.

Grades at the University of Winnipeg are awarded by the Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee of the University Senate, based on the grade recommendations submitted by the course professor. Prior to approval by Academic Standards, grade distributions are reviewed by the Psychology Departmental Review Committee. I will base my grade recommendations upon the cut-off points presented on page 2. However, they should be considered tentative until they are officially released to you by the University, since they could be revised in either direction if the Departmental Review Committee or the Academic Standards and Misconduct Committee require it for the sake of maintaining academic standards.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Important course announcements, grades, Power Point lecture outlines, and other useful information will be posted on Nexus. Please check it frequently to make sure you receive all the necessary information about the course. <https://nexus.uwinnipeg.ca/>
- Students should read the University of Winnipeg Calendar information on appeals, withdrawal from courses, and academic misconduct (e.g., cheating, plagiarism) at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>
- Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit the UWSA website at www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy or call 204-786-9780.

- All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect
- Students with documented disabilities or medical conditions (temporary or chronic) requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
- We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).
- Students may choose not to attend classes or write exams on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays is posted at:
<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

Avoiding Academic Misconduct: uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or essay trader sites (file sharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) involves “aiding and abetting” plagiarism. Students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct.

Avoiding Copyright Violation: Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to file sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the same class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also obtain instructor/presenter permission before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

September 06	Introduction, Chapter 1	Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
13	Chapter 2	Interpersonal Communication and Self
20	Chapter 3	Interpersonal Communication and Perception
27	Chapter 4	Interpersonal Communication and Diversity: Adapting to Others
October 04	Test One, Chapter 5	Listening and Responding Skills
11	Mid-term reading week, No class	
18	Chapter 6	Verbal Communication Skills
25	Chapter 7	Nonverbal Communication Skills
November 01	Test Two, Chapter 8	Conflict Management Skills
08	Chapter 9	Understanding Interpersonal Relationships
12	Final date to VW without academic penalty	
15	Chapter 10	Managing Relationship Challenges
22	Chapter 11	Interpersonal Relationships at Home and at Work
29	Last class	
December 13	Test Three	