

COM 2404 Interpersonal Communication

New York City College of Technology
Humanities Department

Course Outline for Interpersonal Communication

Course Credits: 3 Course Hours: 3
Pre-requisite: ENG1101 OR COM1330 or higher
PATHWAYS: Individual and Society
Writing Intensive

Instructor Name

Contact Information
Office Hours:

Course Description

A communication course providing students with broad and important knowledge of, and training in, communication between individuals across varying sociocultural contexts and case scenarios. This course covers following topics: verbal and nonverbal communication, cross-cultural and familial communication, cyberspace communication, and health communication.

The minimum technological requirements for fully online sections of this course are a working camera and microphone. Students are expected to turn on cameras and microphones at their instructor's request.

Recommended Text:

Campbell, K., Thomas-Maddox, C., & Wanzer, M. B. (2011). *Interpersonal communication: Building rewarding relationships* (1st ed). [VitalSource Bookshelf Online]. Retrieved from <https://online.vitalsource.com/#/books/9781465203434/>
Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company.

Scope of Assignments:

This course requires a minimum of seventeen pages of formal writing, two major exams, and the satisfactory completion of all assigned in-class activities.

- 1) Written assignments include three analytical papers that can demonstrate students' critical engagements with the assigned readings (2-3 pages long for each paper), one case analysis paper (5-6 pages long), and one final paper (6-7 pages long).
- 2) The two major exams include a mid-term test covering the first nine chapters of the textbook and assigned journal articles, and a final test covering the remaining six chapters and assigned journal articles.
- 3) The in-class activities include group discussions, role-play situations, and impromptu presentations on issues central to interpersonal communication.

Grading policy and procedures

Students are required to complete following major assignments for this class. These assignments include 1) two exams, 2) three analytical papers, 3) one case analysis paper, and 4) one resolution proposal (final paper).

1. Mid-term and final exam (100 points total, 50 for each exam): these two exams cover the key concepts that are emphasized in the assigned reading materials and my in-class instructions. To achieve a satisfactory grade, students need to complete the reading, listen and understand the lectures, and actively participate in the class discussions.
2. Three analytical papers (90 points total, 30 for each paper): For the analytical paper, students need to offer their critical analysis of the assigned readings. Please refrain from repeating, quoting, or summarizing the reading.
3. A case analysis paper (40 points): For the case analysis paper, students need to provide thorough analysis of one particular case/issue that demonstrates a serious problem involving interpersonal communication.

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4. A resolution proposal – final paper (50 points): For the resolution proposal, students need to first identify a specific problem, conflict, or struggle in their prior or ongoing experiences with interpersonal communication, and then focus on developing a plan aimed at resolving the problem.

5. Participation (20 points): Students are expected to attend classes and actively contribute to in-class activities.

METHOD OF GRADING – elements and weight of factors determining the students' grade*

Written Assignments	60%
Midterm/Final Examination	33%
Participation	7%
Total	100%

Course Structure

The structure of this course is developed through a wide and in-depth survey of the interpersonal communication courses offered by some of the leading research and teaching universities in the United States. Written assignments and in-class activities support and reinforce the course content. Throughout the semester, students will be taught to apply the theories to varying practices of interpersonal communication.

Sample Sequence of Weekly Topics

Week 1: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

Week 2: Verbal and non-verbal communication

Week 3: Dynamics in a changing interpersonal communication – perception and listening Week

4: Initiating and sustaining relationships

Week 5: The dark side in interpersonal relationships Week

6: Terminating a relationship

Week 7: Mid-term exam

Week 8: Interpersonal communication in a cross-cultural and familial environment & conducting proper and ethical research

Week 9: Organizational communication and interpersonal relationships Week

10: Students present their papers to the class

Week 11: Health Communication

Week 12: Face-to-face and cyberspace communication

Week 13: Benefits and challenges: modern technology and interpersonal communication Week

14: Final paper presentations

Week 15: Final exam

Humanities Department Attendance Policy

It is the conviction of the Humanities department that a student who is not in a class for any reason is not receiving the benefit of the education being provided. Missed class time includes not just absences but also latenesses, early departures, and time outside the classroom taken by students during class meeting periods. Missed time impacts any portion of the final grade overtly allocated to participation and/or any grades awarded for activities that relate to presence in class.

School of Arts and Sciences Attendance Statement

When students miss class, they do not receive the full benefit of their education. Missing class includes absence, lateness, early departure and stepping out for prolonged periods during the session. Students must attend class consistently and on time: Failure to do so will negatively affect the final grade and could lead to an 'F' in the course.

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Plagiarism and NYCCT Academic Integrity Policy:

“Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the College recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion.” (See pp. 73-76 in the student handbook). The following are some examples of plagiarism:

Accessibility Statement

City Tech is committed to supporting the educational goals of enrolled students with disabilities in the areas of enrollment, academic advisement, tutoring, assistive technologies and testing accommodations. If you have or think you may have a disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments as provided under applicable federal, state and city laws. You may also request services for temporary conditions or medical issues under certain circumstances. If you have questions about your eligibility or would like to seek accommodation services or academic adjustments, you can leave a voicemail at 718 260 5143, send an email to Accessibility@citytech.cuny.edu or visit the Center’s website at <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/accessibility/> for more information.

Humanities Department Commitment to Student Diversity

The Humanities Department complies with the college wide nondiscrimination policy and seeks to foster a safe and inclusive learning environment that celebrates diversity in its many forms and enhances our students’ ability to be informed, global citizens. Through our example, we demonstrate an appreciation of the rich diversity of world cultures and the unique forms of expression that make us human.

Communication Discipline-Specific Policies & Guidelines for Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Analytical and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course and the Communication discipline; therefore, all written and oral assignments must be prepared by the student. The instructor may allow for the limited use of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). Students will learn both when and how these tools may be used, and when and how to provide attribution. Generative AI can produce inaccurate or biased information, based on limited knowledge or citing fake references, and resulting in copyright and confidentiality infringement. Therefore, you will be held accountable for work that includes

- Incorrect, fake, and fabricated sources, or information misattributed to sources
- AI-generated work presented as original work (including essays, research papers, speech outlines, discussion boards, PowerPoints, etc.)
- Any AI generated text copied/pasted without attribution.
- Assessments, quizzes, and exams completed using AI
- AI generated imagery or multimedia without acknowledgement and citation of AI platform as creator
- AI-generated misinformation, including incorrect, biased, misinformed, or misleading claims

Any use of generative AI tools as described above will be treated as academic dishonesty and/or plagiarism and will be reported to the College Academic Integrity Committee. While understanding *how* and *when* to use generative AI tools may be emerging as a professional job skill, ethics still matter and being careful not to spread misinformation is foremost. Developing strong ethics and a sense of responsibility in this area will prepare you for graduation and a competitive workplace. If you allow AI to think for you, then you may not be able to do the kind of thinking that leads to success.

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COURSE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT METHODS

LEARNING OUTCOMES:	ASSESSMENT METHODS:
Develop an accurate and in-depth understanding of various forms of interpersonal communication and relationships.	The three analytical papers require students to show their critical interpretation and assessment of the assigned reading materials, which cover a variety of topics on interpersonal communication. Both the midterm and final exams test students' level of comprehension about different types and forms of interpersonal communication
Provide thorough analysis of scenarios central to the practice of interpersonal communication.	For the case analysis paper, students need to provide thorough analysis of one particular case/issue that demonstrates a serious problem involving interpersonal communication.
Offer effective solutions to the real problems, conflicts, or struggles that are commonly seen or experienced in interpersonal communication.	For the resolution proposal, students need to first identify a specific problem, conflict, or struggle in their prior or ongoing experiences with interpersonal communication, and then focus on developing a plan aimed at resolving the problem.
Provide well-organized and formal in-class presentations on completed research projects	Students are required to develop and provide clear, engaging, well-organized, and formal in class presentations on their case analysis papers and final resolution proposals, with visual aids.

GENERAL EDUCATION INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENT METHODS

PATHWAYS LEARNING OUTCOMES (INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY):	ASSESSMENT METHODS:
Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.	The three analytical papers require students to show their critical interpretation and assessment of the assigned reading materials; the final individual research project requires extensive library research
Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.	For both the analytical papers and final individual research papers, students are required to assess evidence and arguments made by other sources, and develop their own critical understanding of these information through writing and oral presentations.
Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.	Analytical papers, case analysis papers, final research papers, and oral presentations require students to produce and present strong arguments supported with evidence from 1) extensive review of literature central to their chosen topics in interpersonal communication, 2) observation of, or personal experiences with real life interpersonal communication practices, and 3) making logical explanations based on the evidence/data collected through research.

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<p>Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.</p>	<p>Interpersonal Communication is a broad field covering a variety of topics both in Communication Studies and fields outside of Communication. Through studying different topics in interpersonal communication, such as verbal and nonverbal communication, cross-cultural communication, familial communication, organizational communication, and health communication, students will lean interpersonal communication as an interdisciplinary field that incorporate the fields of history, anthropology, cultural studies, psychology, and public affairs.</p>
<p>Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.</p>	<p>The class lectures, activities, and assignments provide students with rich opportunities and knowledge on understanding how individuals' voices, behaviors, sociocultural backgrounds, past experiences, and identities affect their views and practices of interpersonal communication across different social, cultural, political, and temporal contexts.</p>
<p>Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.</p>	<p>Throughout this semester, there will be discussions centering around the ethical issues, concerns, and their underlying premises in different forms of interpersonal communication. For example, in week 8, the lecture and discussion on cross-cultural communication will unpack how different cultures have different understanding of <i>ethics</i> and how these different understandings create misunderstandings or even conflicts between people from different cultural groups. In week 12, the lecture and discussion on cyberspace will examine the <i>ethical</i> and <i>unethical</i> virtual communication practices. The interpersonal communication in cyberspace is a controversial topic because it involves the sensitive issues of privacy, anonymity, and freedom of speech. The discussion focused</p>
<p>Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.</p>	<p>In week 8, a specific lecture will be offered to students on how to conduct proper data collection and cite credible sources. Ethical guidelines involving the protection of intellectual property, proper data collection, correct ways of doing oral and written citations will be specified in the lecture. Critical issues related to academic plagiarism will be emphasized in the lecture as well.</p>
<p>Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.</p>	<p>For week 8, 11, and 12, the lectures and discussions on cross-cultural, health, and virtual communications will unpack how larger sociocultural system, hierarchy, norms, and ideological assumptions affect individuals' interactions with others and guide us to communicate with others.</p>