

**COMM 221: Interpersonal Communication**  
**MWF 11:00- 11:50      Fall 2016**

<b>Faculty Advisor:</b>	Jessica Fabbricatore	<b>E-mail:</b>	fabbricatore_j@wwvc.edu
<b>Phone:</b>	8233	<b>Office Hours:</b>	MWThF: 12:00-1:00
<b>Office:</b>	ADM 24B (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor, Comm. Dept.)		T: 10:45-11:50 *Please make appointment
<b>Campus Box:</b>	118		

**Required Readings**

Mottet, T. P., Vogl-Bauer, S., & Houser, M.L. (2011). *Your interpersonal communication*. New York, NY: Pearson.

Supplemental Readings/videos will be provided in various formats.

**Also, we will use APA style. If you don't have it:**

Schwartz, B. M., Landrum, R. E., Gurung, R. A. R. (2016). *An easyguide to APA style: Easyguide series* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). London: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Information can also be found at: [www.apastyle.org](http://www.apastyle.org) & <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>

**Course Description:** A study of the situational and developmental views in building interpersonal communication and its influence in the enhancement, maintenance, and/or deterioration of relationships. Students will explore interpersonal communication theories, styles, competence levels and coding structures. Emphasis will also be given to various relational contexts, functions and patterns.

*Prerequisite:* COMM 211.

**Course Objectives:** Students successfully completing this course will:

1. to increase student awareness and understanding of the interpersonal and relational processes inherent in interpersonal communication.
2. to develop students' ability to think critically about their own and others' communication.
3. to introduce students to the theoretical and research base underlying the study of interpersonal communication and assist them in applying communication theory to everyday interactions.
4. to explore and apply strategies for interacting in particular communication situations in order to develop criteria by which to make informed choices in particular interpersonal dilemmas.

**Course Policies--**

**Attendance**

Your attendance will be factored into your final grade. Attendance will be taken. Because COMM 221 emphasizes cognitive as well as experiential learning, it is important you attend every class. Students may miss up to three classes without penalty. If you must, use absences for illness, emergencies, field trips, or sporting event commitments. Every missed class counts as one absence regardless of the reason for the absence. Therefore, if you know you will miss class due to sports, performing arts, other

academic or extracurricular activities, etc. plan your class attendance wisely. **After the third absence, five points will be deducted per absence beyond the third** from your final course grade.

Students with excessive absences will be strongly encouraged to drop the course since a passing grade will be difficult to attain. Punctuality is defined as being no more than five minutes late at the beginning of class and remaining until the class is officially dismissed. Being more than five minutes late to class constitutes an absence. Being late to class (less than five minutes) will count as being tardy. Once you are tardy three times, you will be credited as being absent from class for one day. Late assignments are not accepted.

#### **Class assignments:**

You are responsible for all material covered and for submitting all assignments on time whether or not you are in class. All written assignments must be submitted by the due date and time and must conform to assignment guidelines. Be sure to read all of the assignment guidelines carefully.

#### **Participation:**

Student interaction is an essential part of the learning process. Active participation is necessary for increasing communication competence! Participation in class discussions and exercises is designed to provide a clearer understanding of course concepts.

You are expected to actively participate in class. This includes, but is not limited to, being prepared to discuss the assigned readings, participating in class discussions, as well as participating in group discussions and activities.

#### **Academic Integrity/Plagiarism Policy**

“A true community requires that all participants share common goals and respect the particular contributions that each member makes toward achieving them. The common enterprise of a college is learning, which is a discipline of the mind, not merely a manipulation of assignments, activities, and information. This process involves interacting with teachers and fellow learners on the one hand, and personal reflection and critical inquiry on the other. In all cases, it demands integrity. Thus, claiming another person’s work as one’s own is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action.

The College considers academic dishonesty a serious offense as it diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who eventually depend upon our knowledge and integrity. The penalties for violating these standards are based on our firm belief in academic integrity.” (Student Handbook, p. 10). <http://www.wvwc.edu/students/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Any violation of academic integrity is subject to disciplinary action, including failure of this course.

#### **Technology Policy**

All non-class related technological devices (including laptops unless otherwise stated) should be off when class begins and should remain off until class ends.

#### **Behavior Policy**

Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct. Please review it on pages 20-36 of the student handbook: <http://www.wvwc.edu/students/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf>. Any student who constantly disrupts the learning process will be asked to leave the classroom, possibly be asked to withdraw from

the course, and will be referred to the Dean of Students. Also see <http://www.wvwc.edu/campus/judicial> and pages 36-44 of the student handbook: <http://www.wvwc.edu/students/pdf/StudentHandbook.pdf>.

**Grading:** You have the opportunity to earn up to 450 points in this course. Below are the details of the allocation of those points. At the conclusion of the semester, your earned point total will be totaled and divided by the number of points possible. The resulting percentage will determine your final course letter grade, based on the scale below.

Final grades will be assigned on the following basis:

90% and above = A	88-89% = A-	86 - 87% = B+
80 - 85% = B	78-79% = B-	76 - 77% = C+
70 - 75% = C	68 - 69% = C-	66 - 67% = D+
60 - 65% = D	58 - 59% = D-	57% and below = F

Grading Philosophy: Grades are an evaluation of a student’s level of competence in the subject matter as indicated by meeting the objectives of an assignment or the course. Thus, they are a reflection of performance and not effort made. According to the West Virginia Wesleyan College Catalog, A= excellent, B=good, C=average, D=poor, F=failure. A student who performs competently by meeting minimum objectives and assignment guidelines will earn a C. To earn an A or B range grade, a student must go beyond the minimum requirements by demonstrating higher levels of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students alone are responsible for keeping track of their own grades. Do not email the instructor to learn of your current standing in the course!

**Assignment Overview & Descriptions—**

Final grades will comprise of:

Attendance & Participation	See above policy
Assignments a-e* (20 points each)	100
Exams	300
Final Project	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500 points</b>
*Keep copies of these projects for use in the research and/or internship course or in other classes!	

**Assignments— 20 pts each x 5:**

- a. PP: Personal Paper (20 points)

This paper will allow you to reflect upon who you are and how your self-concept developed. You will consider who has influenced you and what experiences formed your current life perspective. For this paper, you will apply concepts from Chapters 1 and 2.

- b. ILP: Influence of Language use on Perception (20 points)

Select a person (can be real or fictional) and observe that person’s language use. Provide a brief description of the person you have chosen and the language that he or she uses. What does that person’s choice of language do to your perception of him or her? Does the language match your expectations? How could this person change his or her language to make a more positive impression on you? For this paper, you will apply concepts from Chapters 3 and 4.

c. SDAS: Self-Disclosure Article Summaries (20 points)

You need to find and summarize three scholarly journal articles related to chapter 10. Once you summarize each article, you will need to synthesize the information from each article into a few paragraphs demonstrating how the three articles are related to one another and the material in the textbook. Be sure to cite appropriately utilizing APA, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. More information will be provided.

d. FRAS: Family OR Friend Relationships Article Summaries (20 points)

You need to find and summarize three scholarly journal articles related to chapter 11. Once you summarize each article, you will need to synthesize the information from each article into a few paragraphs demonstrating how the three articles are related to one another and the material in the textbook. Be sure to cite appropriately utilizing APA, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. More information will be provided.

e. WRAS: Workplace Relationships Article Summaries (20 points)

You need to find and summarize three scholarly journal articles related to chapter 12. Once you summarize each article, you will need to synthesize the information from each article into a few paragraphs demonstrating how the three articles are related to one another and the material in the textbook. Be sure to cite appropriately utilizing APA, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. More information will be provided.

**Exams—100 pts each x 3:** Each exam will cover the specified chapters and will consist of a variety of types of questions. There will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, short essay, and long essay questions.

**Final Project—100 pts- CHOOSE ONE:** The final project for this course will be a paper (approximately 10 -12 pages). I recommend that you work in groups (2-3 people) on this project. You have three options:

Option 1: Research Proposal – For communication majors or students who are interested in conducting a larger scale study in the future, the research proposal may be the best option for you. You will design a 10 page proposal that includes an introduction, a review of literature, a proposed methods section, and a discussion section. Think of this paper as a justification for studying a context of interpersonal communication.

Option 2: Advice Chapter – Since we have discussed several concepts concerning building and maintaining a relationship, this option will ask you to write a chapter for a popular press book that aims to provide relationship advice. This will be in a 10 page minimum chapter. You should include images, graphics, surveys, and other elements as well as support from at least 8 external sources.

Option 3: Review of Literature – Finally, you can choose this option if you are interested in a particular area of interpersonal communication and would like to know more. In this paper, you would read through several articles and write about what is known in this specific area of interpersonal communication. For example, if you wanted to review Internet Dating, you would read several articles and book chapters on the current research. Then write an overview of the subject. You would also include a section on where future research needs to look.

*The following page is a general outline and schedule for this course. If the course schedule must be modified, you will be notified in advance if at all possible.*

Week	Date	Topics	Assignments and Presentations	Readings
1	8/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction &amp; Expectations</li> </ul>		Ch 1
	8/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 1: Interpersonal Comm &amp; Personality</li> </ul>		
	8/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 1: Interpersonal Comm &amp; Personality</li> </ul>		Ch 2
2	8/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 2: Understanding Self, Personality, &amp; Comm</li> </ul>	ASSIGN: (A) PP	
	8/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 2: Understanding Self, Personality, &amp; Comm</li> </ul>		Ch 3
	9/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 2: Understanding Self, Personality, &amp; Comm</li> </ul>		
3	9/5	<b>NO CLASS (Labor Day)</b>		
	9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 3: Understanding Your Perceptions of Others</li> </ul>	DUE: (A) PP	Ch 4
	9/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 3: Understanding Your Perceptions of Others</li> </ul>	ASSIGN: (B) ILP	
4	9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 4: Assessing and Developing Verbal Message Skills</li> </ul>		
	9/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 4: Assessing and Developing Verbal Message Skills</li> </ul>		
	9/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Review</b></li> </ul>		
5	9/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>EXAM ONE (Chapters 1-4)</b></li> </ul>	DUE: (B) ILP	Ch 5
	9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 5: Understanding, Assessing, &amp; Developing Nonverbal Messages</li> </ul>		
	9/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 5: Understanding, Assessing, &amp; Developing Nonverbal Messages</li> </ul>		Ch 6
6	9/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 6: Assessing &amp; Developing Listening &amp; Responding Skills</li> </ul>		

	9/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 6: Assessing &amp; Developing Listening &amp; Responding Skills</li> </ul>		<b>Ch 7</b>
	9/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 7: Emotions &amp; Comm</li> </ul>		
<b>7</b>	10/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 7: Emotions &amp; Comm</li> </ul>		<b>Ch 8</b>
	10/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 8: Conflict in Relationships-Awareness &amp; Resolution</li> </ul>		
	10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 8: Conflict in Relationships-Awareness &amp; Resolution</li> </ul>		
<b>8</b>	10/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 9: Understanding Relationships</li> </ul>		
	10/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 9: Understanding Relationships</li> </ul>		
	10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film Application</li> </ul>		
<b>9</b>	10/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film Application</li> </ul>		
	10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>EXAM TWO (Chapters 5-9)</b></li> </ul>		
	10/21	NO CLASS (Fall Recess)		
<b>10</b>	10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scholarly Journals</li> <li>Choose partner/group</li> </ul>	<b>Assign: Final Project</b>	
	10/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>APA Workshop</li> </ul>		<b>Ch 13</b>
	10/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 13: Interpersonal Comm Research</li> </ul>		
<b>11</b>	10/31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 13: Interpersonal Comm Research</li> </ul>		<b>Ch 10</b>
	11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 10: Self-Disclosure &amp; Intimacy in Relationships</li> </ul>		
	11/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 10: Self-Disclosure &amp; Intimacy</li> </ul>		

<b>12</b>	11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catch-up/Meetings</li> </ul>	<b>DUE: (C) SDAS</b> <b>ASSIGN: (D) FRAS</b>	<b>Ch 11</b>
	11/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 11: Family &amp; Friend Relationships</li> </ul>		
	11/11	No Class: NCA Conference		
<b>13</b>	11/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 11: Family &amp; Friend Relationships</li> </ul>		
	11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class workshop</li> </ul>	<b>DUE: (D) FRAS</b> <b>ASSIGN: (E) WRAS</b>	
	11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In class workshop</li> </ul>		<b>Ch 12</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Break November 23 – 27</b>				
<b>14</b>	11/28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 12: Workplace Relationships</li> </ul>	<b>DUE: Final Paper</b>	
	11/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 12: Workplace Relationships</li> </ul>		
	12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ch 12: Workplace Relationships</li> </ul>	<b>DUE: (E) WRAS</b>	
<b>15</b>	12/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mock Interviews</li> </ul>		
	12/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review</li> </ul>		
<b>Exam #3 given during Finals: Friday, Dec. 9, 8:00-10:00 a.m. Covers Chapters 9-13</b>				