

# COMMUNICATION 345: NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

**Dr. David T. McMahan**  
**Spring 2019**

Missouri Western State University  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Department of Communication Studies and Journalism

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will increase awareness, knowledge, and understanding of nonverbal communication. It will enhance skills related to one's own nonverbal communication and will enhance the ability to interpret the nonverbal communication of other people.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop awareness of your own nonverbal communication and the nonverbal communication of other people.
2. Develop an understanding of theories and research encompassing nonverbal communication.
3. Develop an understanding of the principles and processes related to various nonverbal codes.
4. Develop an understanding of nonverbal communication in various contexts.

## NCA LEARNING OUTCOMES

LOC #2: Employ communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts

LOC #3: Engage in communication inquiry

LOC #8: Utilize communication to embrace difference

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Readings.* Complete required reading assignments.
2. *Class Attendance and Classroom Participation.* Class attendance and classroom participation are strongly encouraged. Indeed, for this course to be what it should for you, class attendance and classroom participation are a minimum condition necessary to benefit from the participatory nature of the classroom discussion and interaction.

3. *Examinations One, Two, and Three.* The examinations will cover all assigned readings, lecture material, and classroom discussions.
4. *Nonverbal Influence Group Project.* Groups of students will select a specific context of nonverbal influence. Then, based on academic research in the area, they will develop guidelines to maximize effectiveness in that area.
5. *News Analysis Paper.* Students will locate 2-3 articles or segments from the news which address some aspect of nonverbal communication. Claims about nonverbal communication within the articles or segments will be identified and then either confirmed or disconfirmed by scholarly research.

### **GRADING AND PHILOSOPHY**

Examination One	20%	100 Points
Examination Two	20%	100 Points
Examination Three	20%	100 Points
Group Paper and Presentation	20%	100 Points
News Analysis Paper	20%	100 Points

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

In my view, “C” work is done on time, with attention given to the specific requirements of the assignment, and manifests average involvement with the course content. A “B” includes all of the characteristics of “C” work, but also reflects superiority and dedication observable in the product the student offers. An “A” is reserved for work which includes all of the characteristics of “C” and “B” work but which also manifests excellence, creativity, and evidence of meticulous preparation.

### **REQUIRED READING**

Ivy, D. K., & Wahl, S. T. (2014). *Nonverbal communication for a lifetime.* Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt (ISBN: 978-1-4652-3732-3)

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Schedule is subject to alteration as the term progresses. Changes in schedule are dependent upon such factors as class size and student interests.

### **Week One**

#### **Introduction to Nonverbal Communication**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter One

### **Week Two**

#### **A Reflexive Approach to Nonverbal Communication**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Two

#### **Environment as Nonverbal Communication**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Three

### **Week Three**

#### **Proxemics**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Four

### **Week Four**

#### **Physical Appearance**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Five

### **Week Five**

#### **Review for Examination One**

#### **Examination One**

### **Week Six**

#### **Kinesics**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Six

### **Week Seven**

#### **Face and Eyes: Tuesday, February 23**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Seven

**Week Eight**

**Touch:** Thursday, February 25

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Eight

**Week Nine**

**Vocalics**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Nine

**Week Ten**

**Review for Examination Two:** Tuesday, March 8

**Examination Two:** Thursday, March 10

**Week Eleven**

**Nonverbal Communication, Profession, and Education**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Eleven

**Week Twelve**

**Nonverbal Communication, Gender, and Personal Relationships**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Twelve

**Week Thirteen**

**Nonverbal Communication, Gender, and Personal Relationships (Continued)**

A. Read: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Twelve

**Week Fourteen**

**Nonverbal Communication and Technology:** Tuesday, April 19

A. Review: Ivy and Wahl, Chapter Ten

**Week Fifteen**

**Group Presentations**

A. Nonverbal Influence Group Paper Due

**Finals Week**

**Final Examination (Examination Three)**

A. Nonverbal and the News Paper Due