

**COMM 180: Interpersonal Communication**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Dr. Anna Carmon**  
**Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus**

**TEXTBOOK:**

West, R., & Turner, L. H. (2011). *Understanding interpersonal communication: Making choices in changing times*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth

**COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Interpersonal Communication provides an introduction to communication between individuals. Course content focuses on the application of theory and research to interpersonal communication. Content also focuses on how you can apply the concepts learned in this class to life experiences.

Upon completion of this course,

1. The student will be able to define and explain terms and concepts discussed in the textbook.
2. The student will be able to apply and model communication strategies to everyday situations.
3. The student will be able to describe and evaluate actions of yourself and others.
4. The student will be able to explain how communication choices affect interpersonal communication.
5. The student will be able to list and describe basic theories of Interpersonal Communication and apply those theories to a variety of contexts.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Exams (200 points total):** A midterm and a final exam will be given. The exams may be comprised of true-false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and/or essay questions. The material for these exams will come from the textbook, class discussions, and class activities. The final exam will be given in the university-assigned final exam time slot.

**2. Chapter Presentation (100 points):** In groups of 3-4 students, students will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation about an interpersonal concept/theory related to one of the textbook chapters. The presentation should provide a more in-depth understanding of the chosen concept/theory using scholarly articles and other sources. You will choose your groups during the second week of class.

**3. Final Paper (100 points):** Students will write an 8-10 page term paper about a chosen interpersonal communication theory/concept as it relates to a movie. Students will examine scholarly articles using their chosen communication theory. Students will also explain and evaluate their chosen interpersonal theories/concepts in relation to their movies.

**4. Workbook Chapter Quizzes (90 points):** Students will complete the quizzes (i.e., multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions) in the student workbook (included at the end of the textbook) for each chapter assigned. These questions should be used to guide your reading and highlight key points in the chapters. These quizzes will be collected six times over the course of the semester and will each be worth 15 points.

**5. In-class Activities/Other Assignments (TBD, up to 100 points):** Throughout the semester, students will complete in-class and out-of-class writing assignments. These points cannot be made up if you are not in class. These points are an approximate total and may change over the course of the semester.

**6. Attendance and Participation (50 points total):** Attendance and active class participation are necessary to fully engaging in the communication process. Because life continues to happen in spite of our best laid plans, students who are unable to attend class may receive an excused absence if the excuse is acceptable to the instructor. An excuse is not oversleeping or alarm clock problems. The instructor decides if the absence is excused. **You will lose five points for each unexcused absence.** The class needs you because you provide an important part of the learning for the course. Students arriving late for class must enter unobtrusively.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	Course and class introductions	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 1
	Introduction to interpersonal communication	
2	Introduction to interpersonal communication	
	Detailed overview of major assignments Assign group presentations and final paper	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 2
	Communication, perception, and self	<b>Reading:</b> Article to be distributed in class
3	<i>Special Topic: Social identity theory</i>	
	Communication, perception, and self	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 3
4	Communication, culture, and identity	
	Communication, culture, and identity <b>Group #1 presents</b>	
5	Communicating verbally	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 4
	Communicating verbally <b>Group #2 presents</b> <b>Final Paper Topic Due</b>	
6	Communicating nonverbally	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 5
	Communicating nonverbally <b>Group #3 presents</b>	
7	Effective listening	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 6
	Effective listening <b>Group #4 presents</b>	
8	Review for the midterm	Study for midterm exam

9	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
	Academic Writing Using APA Style Questions about Final Paper Prospectus	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 7
10	Communication and emotion	
	Communication and emotion <b>Group #5 presents</b>	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 8
11	Sharing personal information	
	Sharing personal information <b>Group #6 presents</b> <b>APA Style Worksheet Due</b>	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 9
12	Communicating and conflict <b>Final Paper Prospectus Due</b>	
	Communicating and conflict <b>Group #7 presents</b>	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 10
13	Communicating in close relationships	
	Communicating in close relationships <b>Group #8 presents</b>	
14	Technology and interpersonal communication <b>Group #9 presents</b>	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 11
	Technology and interpersonal communication <b>Group #10 presents</b>	<b>Reading:</b> To be announced
15	<i>Special Topic:</i> To be announced <b>Final Papers Due</b>	
	Review for the final exam	Study for final exam
<b>Final Exam given during the university-assigned final exam time slot</b>		