

COM 325: Nonverbal Communication**Winter 2016****Dr. Robert J. Sidelinger****Oakland University****TEXTBOOK:**

Knapp, M. L., Hall, J. A., & Horgan, T. G. (2014). *Nonverbal communication in human interaction* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth

COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In this course, students analyze the effects of nonverbal communication on human interaction in the interpersonal setting. Students learn the major theoretical approaches to nonverbal communication and relate them to specific nonverbal behaviors such as touch, time, environmental contexts, physical appearance, and social communication cues. Drawing on the latest developments in nonverbal communication research, students examine the ways in which verbal and nonverbal communication intersect in everyday encounters with the aim of improving communication outcomes. Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Differentiate between verbal and nonverbal communication.
- Explain basic nonverbal communication concepts, e.g., haptics, proxemics, and kinesics.
- Demonstrate an understanding of nonverbal communication research and theories.
- Apply nonverbal communication to everyday encounters including intimate, work, and intercultural.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exams: There will be three equally weighed exams in this course. Items will include objective questions (multiple choice, true/false) and essay questions. There will be a review prior to each exam. Each exam is worth 100 points.

2. Attendance: This is a participatory classroom and is designed to develop your understanding of the principles of nonverbal communication through class participation and discussion. Attendance is essential so that all students can be included in class discussions and thus is worth one full letter grade. **Arriving late or leaving early will count towards an absence.** Attendance is worth 50 points.

3. Participation: This course will not follow a lecture format but instead a class discussion will make up most of the class time. Each student is expected to frequently participate. The assigned readings should be read before coming to class. This class requires your participation. I expect you to be critical when reading the various assignments and I want you to express and defend your informed view points during class discussions. Participation is subjective and based solely on the instructor's perception. See table below for participation points and guidelines. Participation is worth 20 points.

4. Faux Pas Papers: Over the course of the semester you will write a series of short one to two-page papers highlighting a nonverbal faux pas experience. These papers should focus on something you have seen or experienced in your daily life that deals with nonverbal mistakes or inappropriate nonverbal behaviors. You will write about the experience and the type of nonverbal the experience relates to. Each paper is worth 10 points.

5. Discussion Questions: Each set of discussion questions need to be addressed in typed form and are either due at the start of the next class session OR submitted electronically when noted in the course schedule. This assignment cannot be turned in late regardless of excuse. Each set of questions are worth 5 points.

6. Touch Observation Journal: Keep a record of your own touch experiences with other people for two complete, consecutive days. In paragraph form, record every contact, indicate if it was initiated by you or someone else, mutually initiated (hug or handshake), or whether it was unclear (accidental). The touch journal is worth 50 points.

7. Expectancy Violations Theory Paper: Students will read and summarize the Burgoon and Hale (1988) EVT article, Nonverbal Expectancy Violations: Model Elaboration and Application to Immediacy Behaviors. As an extension and application of EVT, commit a nonverbal expectancy violation with either a stranger or someone you know. Consider who the person is, the violation, the location, and her/his reaction. Include in the summary the major concepts of EVT as you apply the experience to the theory. This paper is worth 20 points.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Chapters	Assignments/ Topics
1	Chapter 1 Chapter 2	Syllabus
2	Chapter 3	NV vs. Verbal Messages, Why NV is Important
3	Chapter 4	Read Expectancy Violations Theory article and answer discussion questions
4	Chapter 5	Review for Exam One Exam One
5	Chapter 6	Video on Attraction
6	Chapter 7	Read chapter, review PP, answer discussion questions Video on Body Language , EVT Paper Due
7	Chapter 8 & 9	Read chapter, review PP, complete Touch Journal
8	Chapter 10	Review for Exam Two Exam Two
9	Chapter 11	Read chapter, review PP, answer discussion questions Faux Pas Paper 1 Due
10		Deception, Deception Video
11	Chapter 12	Faux Pas Paper 2 Due
12	Chapter 13	
13		Nonverbal Communication in the Cultural Context, Read posted chapter and answer discussion questions Fishbowl Film, Exam Three Review
14		Read posted article and answer discussion questions – submit answers electronically
15		Exam Three