

**Welcome to
Com 280: Interpersonal Communication
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Spring 2016**

Instructor: Darla Leick **Email:** dleick@uwsp.edu **Office Hours:** by appointment

Class Hours: Monday, 3:35 - 6:05 pm

Textbook: Interplay: The process of interpersonal communication. 12th edition.
Adler, Rosenfeld and Proctor.

Course Description: An introduction to Interpersonal Communication designed to increase your understanding and implementation of effective verbal and nonverbal face-to-face interactions. This course requires you to participate in activities designed to develop interpersonal communication skills. In respect to interpersonal communication, topics include: theory, self and others, verbal and nonverbal, emotions, relationships, listening, conflict management, climate, cultural, gender and ethics.

Course Objectives:

Many individuals believe that “communication” is so basic that it is taken for granted and not thought about seriously. Unfortunately, this attitude tends to result in such difficulties as misunderstandings, conflict, avoidance, and stereotyping. At the conclusion of this course, it is expected that students will demonstrate knowledge and skills in several core areas.

Specifically, students should demonstrate an increased understanding of:

1. The options and alternatives for action in a wide variety of interpersonal situations.
2. Individual preferences and an increased appreciation for the differences of others, including those of other cultures and co-cultures.
3. How the process of perception affects communication behavior.
4. The ethical dimensions of interpersonal communication.
5. The role of nonverbal communication in interpersonal contexts.
6. Defensive and supportive communication climates.
7. Competence and appropriateness of interpersonal strategies.
8. The role communication plays in determining the nature and quality of interpersonal relationships.
9. Conflict management principles and its application.

Instructional Modes

The course is comprised of limited lecture by the instructor, with more of a focus on class discussion of assigned textbook readings, classroom activities involving group/team work, audio/visual materials, oral presentations, and exams. Out of class work may include online readiness assessments, written exercises and research. NOTE: Assigned chapters are to be read and online readiness assessment completed prior to class period so that you will be able to make a contribution to class discussions and activities.

General Class Requirements

You are expected to:

- Be on time for all class meetings
- Interact productively in class discussions and small group activities

- Be prepared for discussions and quizzes by reading all assigned material as noted on the syllabus.
- Submit all written assignments, typed, and at the beginning of the class period on the date it is due.
- Complete “your own work”. If you are unsure of what that means, please refer to the information on academic misconduct in the 2014-2015 UWSP Student Rights and Regulations handbook.
- Acknowledge all sources and cite them according to the APA format.

Classroom Civility

There are basic standards of classroom civility that will be adhered to, particularly in a communication course. Civility does not eliminate appropriate humor, enjoyment, or other features of a comfortable and pleasant classroom environment, but does include the following:

1. Respect all members of the classroom community.
2. Attentiveness to and participation in class.
3. Avoidance of disruptions during class such as holding private conversations, reading or doing work for other classes. Please turn off your cell phones prior to this class. You are not allowed to send text messages during class.
4. Avoidance of racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

This list is not exhaustive, but rather it represents the minimal sort of behaviors that help make our classroom pleasant for all.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities and other special needs should feel free to contact me privately if there are adaptations which are to be made. If you have questions about services or setting up an accommodation plan, contact disability services via email at: disserv@uwsp.edu or refer to the information on their website: <http://www.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. Readings, class discussions and activities increase your understanding of interpersonal communication theory and the development of your interpersonal skills. Class attendance and participation are important in accomplishing the goals of this course. No makeup work is available for in-class exercises or exams.

You will be allowed a total of one missed class period without penalty. Consider this a “freebie”. For each subsequent absence 15 points will be deducted from your final grade. I suggest you save your “freebie” in case you are sick or have to miss class for an unexpected emergency. I have a “no excuses” policy. Perfect attendance is rewarded with 15 bonus points.

Please arrive to class on time. Tardiness is unprofessional and is a disruption to the classroom environment. You can expect to have 5 points deducted from your final grade for each tardy.

Late Assignments

All assignments are due by the beginning of class on the day designated or according to the due date in D2L. Most will need to be submitted prior to class via D2L dropbox. Please see specific instructions in this syllabus and in the dropbox area of D2L. Late assignments may earn no more than 50% of the total points.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Oral

Your feedback, ideas and questions are welcome. Activities will be provided for you to develop oral and interpersonal communication skills. In addition to general class participation there will be in class activities, presentations and discussion. Some of these in-class activities may be turned in for grading purposes and count toward your final grade. These assignments are not allowed to be made up if you are absent from class. Please be considerate of others while they are talking and allow them to express their views. In order to participate fully, you need to be aware, awake, and interested. Please consider your attitude and attention span as you enter the classroom.

Written

All of your work must be typewritten using no more than 12 point type with margins not exceeding 1 inch on all sides of the page. Most assignments note minimum word requirements. You will be expected to use correct spelling and grammar.

The final grade for this course will be determined by adding the total points you earn in each category below. This may change at the discretion of the instructor. Grades will be posted in D2L.

IC: Assessment and Objectives

25 points

Located in the D2L dropbox, this worksheet is to be completed during the first week of the semester and submitted via D2L dropbox. Please be conscientious in completing this worksheet as you will be referring to it at the end of the semester to complete the Response to Objectives. Due: February 1.

Readiness Assessments

Individual

10 @ 20 points each = 200 points

There are eleven readiness assessments (i.e. T/F, Multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, matching, short answer) posted under “quizzes” in D2L. Each RA has a due date. Your lowest readiness assessment score will be dropped.

“I Am” Analysis

50 points

We will complete a class exercise during chapter 3 which will involve participation from family, friends, co-workers, etc. You will write a 500 word typed analysis to submit to the D2L dropbox. This analysis will compare and contrast the perception you have of yourself and the perception others have of you. Detailed instructions are attached to the assignment in the D2L dropbox. Due: February 22.

Field Observation Summary

75 points

You are to write a 750-1000 word summary of what you observed during your field observation. This summary should include what you observed and how that reflects what

you've learned during the first half of the course. Detailed instructions are attached to the assignment in the D2L dropbox. Due: April 4.

Interpersonal Communication in the News-Individual 25 points

Each student will be required to complete a 350 word explanation of how an article of your choosing reflects the chapter we are discussing in class that week. You will be giving a 2-3 minute synopsis of your explanation to the class. **It is imperative that you use chapter key terms in your explanation. Please do not read to the class, but present this information.** You will be graded on content and presentation. Submit your written document with the article (either as a weblink or as an attachment) via dropbox prior to our class time on the date your assignment is due. Approximately 4 students will be reporting each week. Your due date will be determined on the first day of the semester. The article should be from a popular periodical that you are interested in and/or read on a regular basis. It might be Sports Illustrated, Time, Newsweek, People, Better Homes and Gardens, Readers Digest, National Geographic, Good Housekeeping, Men's Health, Field & Stream, Runner's World, Outside, Cosmopolitan, or a daily newspaper, etc.). The objective of this assignment is for you to connect what we are learning in class to the everyday world around us.

Exams-Individual - Bring your Student ID number and a #2 pencil.

Exam #1	March 14	50 points
Exam #2	May 9	50 points

Response to Objectives 25 points

You are to write a 200 word response to the objectives you set for yourself at the beginning of the course. Please note if the objectives were improved upon or if they were not and why or how you believe that outcome occurred. Submit via D2L dropbox. Due: May 2

Points Available for Course: 500

Grading Scale

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62
F	59 or below