

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

SP 2206 Interpersonal Communication
(Same as CN 2206)
(Updated Summer 2014)

3/0/3

PREREQUISITES: WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing & Ethics

Catalog Description: A practical approach to interpersonal communication that analyzes its underlying concepts leading to the acquisition of communications skills necessary in social and professional life.

Rationale: Although the college student may express himself/herself through speech, writing, music, and other forms of communication, rarely is he or she proficient in interpersonal skills. The requirements of English 1010 and English 1111 emphasize writing skills, which ensure that at a minimum, expression in English is not an outstanding obstacle to the interpersonal process. The development of interpersonal skills is necessary for those whose managerial or administrative skills are being formed. Furthermore for fields of study in which counseling, interviewing, and problem solving are required, this course is essential for coping with the many problems that surface when interaction occurs socially and professionally.

Objectives: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Employ active listening techniques in interpersonal situations.
2. Apply theories of encoding and decoding in processing messages.
3. Understand that choices made in interpersonal communication are guided by ethical considerations as well as other determinable factors.
4. Explain the transactional nature and irreversibility of interpersonal communication.
5. Appreciate the ways in which non-verbal and verbal messages interact.
6. Analyze the rewards and dangers of self-disclosure and evaluate the disclosure of others.
7. Be able to employ corrective techniques to communication problems involving polarization.
8. Understand proxemic distance in communication.
9. Assimilate concepts of primary secondary and public territories.
10. Categorize artifactual communication, including cultural displays.
11. Explain cultural and psychological time
12. Interpret interpersonal interaction in terms of compliancy gaining and resisting strategies.
13. Understand and employ conflict-management strategies.
14. Evaluate roles and responsibilities of primary relationships.
15. Appreciate behavior, that improves communication within primary relationships and families.

Learning Activities: Lectures that demonstrate the principles of interpersonal communication. Group exercises that explore the concept of self-disclosure, role playing exercises that deal with situations found in society in which effective interpersonal skills are vital for the success of intended transactions. Group discussion, surveys, assigned readings and projects.

Evaluation: The student will be tested on the theories introduced in the course by examinations. Moreover, since participation in the group exercises is essential to understanding the dynamics of the course, the exercises will be graded. A term paper, which analyzes a specific interaction in terms of interpersonal communication theory.

Quizzes	20%
Assigned activities	35%
Term paper	20%
Presentation	10%
Final exam	15%

Required Material: Adler, R & Proctor II, R. Looking Out/Lookin In. International Edition: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Latest edition.

Recommended Material: Devito, J. The Interpersonal Communication Book. New York: Harper Collins College Publishers. Latest edition.

- Content Outline:
1. The Elements of Interpersonal Communication
 - 1.1. Encoding and decoding
 - 1.2. Competence
 - 1.3. Ethics
 2. Axioms of Interpersonal Communication
 - 2.1. Communication is transactional
 - 2.2. Communication is irreversible
 - 2.3. Communication is culture-specific
 3. Listening in Interpersonal Communication
 - 3.1. The listening process
 - 3.2. Effective listening
 - 3.3. Active listening
 4. Self-Disclosure
 - 4.1. Factors influencing
 - 4.2. Rewards
 - 4.3. Dangers
 5. Verbal Messages
 - 5.1. Polarization
 - 5.2. Fact-inference confusion
 - 5.3. Indiscrimination
 6. Non-verbal Messages: Body and Sound
 - 6.1. Facial and eye communication
 - 6.2. Paralanguage
 - 6.3. Silence
 7. Non-verbal Messages: Space and Time
 - 7.1. Special messages and territoriality
 - 7.2. Artifactual communication
 - 7.3. Temporal communication
 8. Messages and Conversation
 - 8.1. The conversational process
 - 8.2. Conversational maxims
 - 8.3. Conversational management
 9. Power in Interpersonal Relationships
 - 9.1. Bases of power
 - 9.2. Power plays
 - 9.3. Compliance gaining and compliance resisting

10. Conflict in Interpersonal Relationships
 - 10.1. The nature of conflict
 - 10.2. Conflict resolution
 - 10.3. Conflict-management strategies
11. Primary Relationships and Families
 - 11.1. Nature and characteristics
 - 11.2. Communication patterns
 - 11.3. Improving communication