

## COM 212: Interpersonal Communication Spring 2012 – Syllabus

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Office Hours:  
10:30 to 11:30, MTWF  
Also by Appointment

**Textbook:** Trenholm, S., & Jensen, A. (2008). Interpersonal Communication (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

**Course Overview:** Communication in face-to-face interaction is the focus of this class. In order to further the students' understanding of such interpersonal processes, a number of current theories and concepts will be introduced. Students are encouraged to draw connections between these ideas and their own experiences. It is hoped that each student will acquire knowledge of current research and theory and will also become sensitized to the beauty and dynamics of the interpersonal interchanges in which he/she participates.

**Readings:** Content of assigned readings is important, and may not be reviewed in class. Quizzes and exams will include content from assigned readings which has not been covered in class.

**Attendance:** Attendance is strongly encouraged. Attendance will be taken during the first two weeks, per university policy.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Purdue has strong policies against academic dishonesty. Anyone engaging in academic dishonesty will be reprimanded and subject to disciplinary action which can result in a minimum of a ZERO on an assignment but may include failure of the course or expulsion from the university. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Plagiarism, which includes:
  - 1. Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
  - 2. Paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it as your own.
  - 3. Collaborating with another person and claiming the work solely as your own.
- B. Using work from another course or from a previous semester. For example, you may not reuse papers from another course. The work must be original to this course and this semester.
- C. Cheating on a quiz.

Students are advised to become familiar with Purdue's Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities to resolve questions about this matter. The following publication from the Office of the Dean of Students may prove helpful as well:

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/aboutodos/academicintegrity.php>.

**Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who need accommodation (seating placement,

arrangements for examinations, etc.) should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course so appropriate arrangements can be made. Accommodations cannot be retroactive, so work from the beginning to get the most possible from this course. Students may also contact the Office of the Dean of Students for additional information on accommodation:  
<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/drc/welcome.php>.

**Grading Policy:** Grades are a system of communication, and as such must be used in similar ways by everyone in order for them to have meaning. In general, modern society interprets grades as follows:

A	Far Above Average, No/Few Flaws, Innovative, Among the Best
B	Above Average, Has Some Flaws, Exceeds Requirements
C	Acceptable, Not Above Average, Met Requirements, Followed Directions
D	Substandard, Barely Sufficient, Missed a Few Requirements, Trying
F	Learned Essentially Nothing, Not Trying

**Exams:** There will be three exams. They will include a variety of question types, but most will be short answer. The last exam will be given during our assigned final exam slot and will be longer than the first two exams. The additional questions on the final will come from the first two exams. Exams will be graded according to the class average (mean). Exams scoring above the class average (mean) will receive a “B-” or higher. Exams scoring below the class average (mean) will receive a “C+” or lower. Exams which do not demonstrate progress in the course will receive an “F.”

**Quizzes:** There will be several quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will cover both the reading and the content of lectures. Each quiz will include 4 questions worth 3 points each for a total of 12 points. Questions answered correctly will receive all 3 points; partially correct answers will receive 1 point; incorrect answers will receive no points. Students may correct answers on the back of the quiz to receive +1 point on their quiz score for each corrected answer. Corrections must include a page number from the textbook or other reading where the answer was found or the date of the lecture when the answer is not in these resources. Corrections are due the next class after graded quizzes are returned.

If you come to class late on the day a quiz is given, you will not be able to take the quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up. Low quiz grades may be dropped by participating in research or, if a student does not wish to participate in research, by completing additional skill-work field reports, as discussed in those sections.

**Skill-work Field Reports:** Students will be responsible for turning in 5 skill-work field reports. These are an important part of the course because they are an opportunity to apply the principles discussed in class in the real world. These reports will be typed in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, and double spaced with 1 in. margins. There should not be additional spacing between paragraphs. They should be free of spelling, grammar, and punctuation

errors. Each skill-work field report will be no more than one page long (front and back is fine). Reports should display a clear understanding and application of the appropriate concepts. Reports that are turned in late will receive no credit.

Reports will be graded on a 12-point scale. A paper that is free of errors, meets the requirements of the assignment, and reflects a solid grasp of the topic will typically receive a 7; additional points will be awarded for exceptional insight, clarity of writing, logical organization, compelling examples, and application of additional concepts from the course. Although this is not a grammar or writing class, professionalism is expected. Students will lose one point for every significant spelling, grammar, and punctuation error because these undermine a professional appearance.

Students may choose to turn in up to 2 additional skill-work field reports instead of participating in research to earn a maximum of 2 dropped quiz grades (one for each dropped quiz). Reports turned in to substitute for research participation should be clearly labeled, and must score 7 or higher. Additional guidelines will appear in the extra skill-work field report assignments, which can be obtained by e-mailing the instructor.

***Important: Regardless of their performance on exams and quizzes, students must submit all five skill-work field reports in order to pass this course!*** All essays (even those you cannot receive credit for) must be submitted by the end of the last class period of the semester in order for you to pass.

**Research Participation:** Participation in research is not a requirement of this course. However, for each 1% a student earns through participation in research administered through the Department of Communication's Research Participation System, that student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the quiz average, up to a maximum of 2 dropped quiz grades. This opportunity allows you to see how we develop the communication theories that underlie the principles and advice covered in this course. The sessions usually last between 30 minutes and one hour. For information about times and dates of specific studies visit the Department of Communication's Research Participation's website at <http://purdue-comm.sona-systems.com/>. The website will allow you to register for the study of your choice. Please note that if you sign up to participate in a study and fail to show up without canceling your appointment in advance (up to 2 hours before the study), you will be automatically restricted from signing up for any studies for 30 days.

**Extra Credit:** Extra Credit is not available in this course.

**Grading Disputes:** You must wait twenty-four hours after receiving a grade to discuss it with your instructor. A meeting must be scheduled between the instructor and student. I will not discuss grades (good or bad) in front of other students, in the classroom before or after class, in the hallway, or if you run into me around campus or in town. Grades and scores are considered final unless the instructor is contacted within two weeks of their return. The instructor cannot discuss the grades of other students, and will not discuss student grades in the presence of other students, friends, family, etc.

**Calculating Final Grades:** Final grades are a weighted average of Exams, Quizzes, and Field Reports, and are calculated in the same way that a GPA is calculated. Weights, and the relative point values of different grades, can be found in the following tables (these point values can be converted to a traditional 4-point scale by dividing by 3):

	Weight
First Exam	20%
Second Exam	20%
Quiz Average	15%
Skill-work Field Reports	20%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	12.00	C	6.00
A-	11.00	C-	5.00
B+	10.00	D+	4.00
B	9.00	D	3.00
B-	8.00	D-	2.00
C+	7.00	F	0.00

For example, a student has the following grades: Exam 1, A- (11); Exam 2, C+ (7); Quiz Average, A (12); Reports, B (9); Final Exam, B- (8).

The final grade would then determined as follows:

$$0.20(11) + 0.20(7) + 0.15(12) + 0.20(9) + 0.25(8) = 9.20 = B$$

**Classroom Environment:** Please be respectful to other students. Electronic devices (including computers) will not be used in a way that is distracting to yourself or to others. The instructor will determine what is “distracting.” Students who cannot show this basic level of respect will be asked to leave.

**Campus Emergencies:** In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control. Information about course changes related to campus emergencies can be accessed via Blackboard.

**For all COM Majors & Minors:** If you are planning to count this class toward your requirements for either the COM major or the COM minor, you must earn at least a C- in this course.

## Communication 212 Schedule

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Information about changes will be distributed in class and/or on the Blackboard web page.

#	Day	Date	Topic	Due
1	T	10 JAN	<i>First Day of Class</i> Introductions Syllabus and Course Intro.	
2	R	12 JAN	Defining Communication Defining Interpersonal Communication	Read Ch. 1 (pp. 4-10) Read Ch. 2 (pp. 25-29)
3	T	17 JAN	Relationships	Read Ch. 2 (pp. 29-38)
4	R	19 JAN	Structure of Nonverbal Communication Skill-work Field Report 1 Assigned	Read Ch. 3
5	T	24 JAN	Functions of Nonverbal Communication Compensation	<b>Skill-work Field Report 1</b>
6	R	26 JAN	Language Structure and Functions Language and Reality	Read Ch. 4
7	T	31 JAN	Relational Message Types & Functions Message Sequences	Read Ch. 5
8	R	02 FEB	Make-up and Exam Review Day	
9	T	07 FEB		<b>Exam 1</b>
10	R	09 FEB	Social Cognition Attribution Skill-work Field Report 2 Assigned	Read Ch. 6
11	T	14 FEB	<i>St. Valentine's Day</i> Processes of Interpersonal Perception Listening	<b>Skill-work Field Report 2</b>
12	R	16 FEB	Social Roles Social Role Effects on Communication Social Role Expectations Skill-work Field Report 3 Assigned	Read Ch. 7
13	T	21 FEB	The Self	Read Ch. 8 <b>Skill-work Field Report 3</b>
14	R	23 FEB	Strategic Interaction Influence Theories	Read Ch. 9
15	T	28 FEB	Source Characteristics and Influence Message Strategies and Influence	
16	R	01 MAR	Make-up and Exam Review Day	
17	T	06 MAR		<b>Exam 2</b>
18	R	08 MAR	Defining the Family	Read Ch. 10 (pp. 272-280)

			History of the Family Changes in the Family	
--	T	13 MAR	<i>Spring Break</i>	(No Class)
--	R	15 MAR	<i>Spring Break</i>	(No Class)
19	T	20 MAR	Family Communication Patterns	Read Ch. 10 (pp. 259-272) Read Ch. 10 (pp. 280-293)
20	R	22 MAR	Attraction Formation of Intimate Relationships	Read Ch. 11
21	T	27 MAR	Relationship Maintenance Relationship Dissolution Questions about Article 1	
22	R	29 MAR	Friendship Skill-work Field Report 4 Assigned	Article 1
23	T	03 APR	Romantic Relationships Questions about Article 2	<b>Skill-work Field Report 4</b>
24	R	05 APR	Special Cases in Intimate Relationships	Article 2
25	T	10 APR	Professional Relationships	Read Ch. 12
26	R	12 APR	Workplace Interaction Patterns Skill-work Field Report 5 Assigned	
27	T	17 APR	Teams	<b>Skill-Work Field Report 5</b>
28	R	19 APR	Culture	Read Ch. 13
29	T	24 APR	Cultural Influences and Effects	
30	R	26 APR	<i>Last Day of Class</i> Make-up and Exam Review Day	
		TBD		<b>Final Exam</b>