

# Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

**Course Description:** This course examines the current theory and research traditions in the areas of interpersonal communication. Topics in the course will include scripted and role-based interaction, intimate relationships and relationship development, deception, verbal and nonverbal aspects of communication.

*The syllabus for this course is subject to change at any time. This includes, but is not limited to, such elements as required assignments, grading requirements/scales and the course calendar. Updates will be communicated through the Canvas announcement system.*

There are no prerequisites for this course, but students who need to complete ENGL 110 will find this course significantly more difficult.

## Meeting Information

This is an online asynchronous class and there are no scheduled class meetings. Assignments are generally due at 11:59 pm, US Eastern Time on Mondays and Thursdays.

## Instructor Information

Kurtis D. Miller, PhD.

- Office: Garland Library, Room 126
- Office Phone: 423-636-7300 Ext. 5783
- Email: [kdmiller@tusculum.edu](mailto:kdmiller@tusculum.edu) (<mailto:kdmiller@tusculum.edu>)
- Online: [kurtismiller.com](https://kurtismiller.com) (<https://kurtismiller.com>)

The Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas is the preferred method of communication for most student questions. Questions of a confidential or personal nature should be sent by email. I do not accept assignments by email. I typically check email once daily during business hours Monday to Thursday. Additional information is available below in my [email policy](#).

## Office Hours

Office hours are reserved specifically for meetings with students in my classes. Contact me by email to set up an appointment. Please include multiple times that work for you in your email to speed up scheduling. Use the same Zoom link you use for class meetings. My availability this semester is:

- Mondays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, US Eastern Time

- Mondays from 2:30 am to 3:30 pm, US Eastern Time
- Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, US Eastern Time
- Other times may also be available, so please ask

I also hold drop-in office hours on Wednesdays from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, US Eastern Time. To preserve bandwidth on Campus, I do not keep Zoom active when I do not have an appointment, so please call my office phone line.

## Required Texts and Materials

The textbook for this course is "Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication" (Adler, Rosenfeld, & Proctor). 13th or 14th edition are both acceptable.

## General Education Student Learning Outcomes

This course is a part of the General Education Program. The following learning outcomes will be assessed:

1. Writing: Students will structure evidence to convincingly support their arguments. This outcome will be assessed in the Literature Review.
2. Public Speaking: Students will create messages appropriate to the audience, purpose, and context. This outcome will be assessed in the Panel Discussions.
3. Public Speaking: Students will evaluate personal communication strengths and weaknesses. This outcome will be assessed in the Final Exam.

## Other Learning Outcomes

1. Students will employ interpersonal communication theory. This outcome will be assessed in the Literature Review.
2. Students will understand the location of interpersonal communication as a field within communication studies. This outcome will be assessed in Exam 1.

## Course Assignments and Grade Determination

There are three major components of your grade in this class:

- **Content Knowledge** (55%)
  - 10% First Exam
  - 10% Second Exam
  - 15% Final Exam
  - 20% Literature Review
- **Panel Discussions** (30%)
  - 15% Best Discussion

- 10% Middle Discussion
- 5% Worst Discussion
- **Participation and Professionalism** (15%)
  - 4% Phase 1
  - 4% Phase 2
  - 4% Phase 3
  - 3% Phase 4

## Content Knowledge

Content knowledge contributes a total of 55% of your final grade. The largest graded component in the class is the Literature Review, which is worth 20% of your final grade. Exams are worth a total of 35% of your final grade. You will take three exams, one at the conclusion of each of the content phases of the class. The final exam will have about twice as many questions as the first and second exam. Approximately half of the questions on the final exam will come from the first and second exam.

### Final Exam Policy

A final exam is a required part of this course. The Final exam is administered only on the date established in the course calendar. Consult the syllabus and the Tusculum website to determine when your exams will take place and do not make travel, family, or any other plans that conflict with any of your final exams. If you see that there will be an unavoidable conflict, drop this course before the Add/Drop period concludes and sign up for a different section or course.

## Panel Discussions

Panel Discussions contribute a total of 30% of your final grade. You will have the opportunity to participate in three Panel Discussions: one during each of the content phases of the class. The discussion grades will be weighted according to how well you do on each of them. Your highest scoring discussion is worth 15% of your final grade, the middle discussion is worth 10% of your final grade, and the lowest discussion is worth 5% of your final grade.

## Participation and Professionalism

Participation and Professionalism contributes 15% of your final grade. Displaying basic professionalism is an expectation in this class and one of the most useful skills to have when you graduate. Class activities (formative assessments) are designed to help you understand the class content and to help you develop your literature review. These class activities include example activities, drafts, and being an involved audience member during panel discussions. Your participation and professionalism will be totaled for each phase of the class.<sup>1</sup>

Students who require an alternate deadline for any work, including class activities, should see the

section on [Alternate Deadlines](#).

## Extra Credit

Students can earn up to a maximum of a 4.5% bonus on their final grade. Students are encouraged to propose extra credit opportunities. When deciding whether to offer extra credit, my primary considerations are the ability of all students to participate if they choose and how students are able use the activity as a way to demonstrate their understanding of the course material. Extra credit opportunities will be announced as they become available. Extra credit may not be turned in after the last regular class meeting.

## Grading Scale

The total score recorded in the grade book shows what your grade would be if you did nothing else in the class. A projected final grade will be posted in Canvas at the end of each phase of the class based on your scores on assignments up to that point. Final grades are allocated according to the official University grading scale for undergraduate courses:

- 98-100% = A+
- 93-97% = A
- 90-92% = A-
- 87-89% = B+
- 83-86% = B
- 80-82% = B-
- 77-79% = C+
- 73-76% = C
- 70-72% = C-
- 67-69% = D+
- 63-66% = D
- 0-62% = F

## Course Policies

Please review the [Tusculum University Support Systems and Institutional Policies](#). These support systems and policies apply to all courses at Tusculum University.

## Appropriate Behavior Policy

We are a community of learners, and your classmates are entitled to the standard professional courtesies. Each student is required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Show respect for every person in the class. Complete your assigned work on time. Be ready for discussion and activities. Ask questions. Be supportive audience members. Racist, sexist, or other

offensive or discriminatory language will not be tolerated. Unprofessional behavior will result in penalties to your [Participation and Professionalism](#) grade.

## Email Policy

The Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas is the preferred method of communication for most student questions. Questions of a confidential or personal nature should be sent by email. I do not accept assignments by email. I check and respond to my email once daily during business hours, however I dedicate my Fridays to research and larger projects. I typically do not see emails sent late on Thursday or during the day Friday until Monday the next week.

Engaging in professional communication with your professors and the university staff is important. I am unlikely to respond to emails that do not contain any questions. Emails asking course-related questions of a non-confidential nature will be answered in the Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas. Brief emails asking questions which are already answered in course documents (syllabus, calendar, assignment descriptions, etc.) will typically receive brief replies referring to course documents.

Some students benefit from the below email template, which comes from a post I wrote to help students with [writing professional emails](https://kurtisdmillier.com/post/writing-professional-emails/) (<https://kurtisdmillier.com/post/writing-professional-emails/>). Whether you are in my class or any other class at the university, this template should work well. Just replace the information in brackets as needed:

Subject: [class number **and section**]: [your issue]

Dear [Title Last Name – if you can't find out, use "Professor" to be safe],

I am in your [time] [class name] class on [days class meets]. I have checked the [syllabus/assignment instructions/rubric/textbook/class resources] for an answer, but it does not adequately answer my question. I need some additional help with [your issue].

[Second paragraph explaining your question. Describe where you looked for answers, what you found, and how that information is not enough for you to have a clear answer to your question. You may also include other relevant aspects of your situation.]

[OPTIONAL third paragraph where you propose answers or next steps.]

Thank you,

[Your First and Last Name]

## Grade Challenge Policy

If you believe that you have been graded unfairly, wait 24 hours after receiving the grade, review the

rubric, and schedule a meeting to discuss it with me. Come to this meeting prepared to provide *evidence* supporting the need for a grade change. Grades are considered final one week after they are posted in Canvas. The privacy of student educational records is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). I will not respond to any communication about a student which does not come from an official school email address, and I will not discuss your grades publicly.

## Late Work Policy

Late work may be turned in up to 1 calendar day after the deadline. Late work will lose 10% of the available points, and will not receive feedback. Presentation preparation materials that are turned in after the presentation is delivered receive an automatic zero. No late work is accepted after the last class due date.

## Technology Problems

Using technology is a basic expectation of students at this level of study. You are responsible for the functionality of any and all personal or third-party devices and software you use. Issues with these are not an excuse for late or missing work. If you encounter a problem with technology owned or operated by the university, [report the problem to information services](https://web.tusculum.edu/forms/is/isrequests.php) (<https://web.tusculum.edu/forms/is/isrequests.php>). After the issue is resolved, include a copy of your messages with information services along with any requests for alternate deadlines to my email address.

### Alternate Deadlines

In some cases an emergency may require you to turn in work after the assigned due date. These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis and, depending on the situation and documentation, this work may be assigned an alternate deadline. Coursework assigned an alternate deadline is graded for full credit, but will not receive feedback.

Alternate deadlines will not be assigned for events that can be planned for – this includes school-sponsored events, such as athletics.

## Footnotes











1. Keaton, A. F. (2015). Teaching students the importance of professionalism. *Teaching Professor*, 29(6). <https://www.magnapubs.com/newsletter/the-teaching-professor/114/Teaching-Students-the-Importance-of-Professionalism-13541-1.html>










## Course Summary:

**Date**











**Details**










**Due**










Date	Details	Due
Thu Mar 18, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29721">L1: Communication as a Field of Study</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29721">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29721">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29721</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29719">L2: Assignments Overview</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29719">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29719">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29719</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 22, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29674">Practice Exam</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29674">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29674">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29674</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29701">Assessment Pre-test</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29701">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29701">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29701</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29695">L3: Reading Scientific Research</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29695">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29695">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29695</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29696">L4: Plagiarism &amp; Intellectual Property</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29696">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29696">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29696</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32067">Practice Panel Discussion (submit recordings here)</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32067">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32067">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32067</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29717">Practice Panel Discussion (submit summaries here)</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29717">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29717">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29717</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 25, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29718">Practice Panel Discussion Response</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29718">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29718">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29718</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com">L5: Interpersonal Process</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com">(<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com">https://tusculum.instructure.com</a>)</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29693">/courses/1297/assignments/29693)</a>	
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29694">L6: Culture and Interpersonal Communication</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29694">/courses/1297/assignments/29694)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 29, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29697">L7: Interpersonal Comm. and the Self</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29697">/courses/1297/assignments/29697)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29698">L8: Perceiving Others</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29698">/courses/1297/assignments/29698)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32068">Panel Discussion, Phase 2 (submit recordings here)</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32068">/courses/1297/assignments/32068)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 1, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29707">Panel Discussion, Phase 2 (submit summaries here)</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29707">/courses/1297/assignments/29707)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29685">Student-Led Review Questions, First Exam</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29685">/courses/1297/assignments/29685)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29680">First Exam</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29680">/courses/1297/assignments/29680)</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 5, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29712">Literature Review Step 1</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29712">/courses/1297/assignments/29712)</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29704">Panel Discussion Response, Phase 2</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29704">/courses/1297/assignments/29704)</a>	due by 11:59pm



Date	Details	Due
Thu Apr 8, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29686">A10: Nonverbal Communication</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29686">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29686</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29699">A9: Language</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29699">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29699</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 12, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29687">A11: Listening: Receiving and Responding</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29687">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29687</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29688">A12: Emotions</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29688">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29688</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 15, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29684">Student-Led Review Questions, Second Exam</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29684">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29684</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32069">Panel Discussion Recordings, Phase 3</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32069">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32069</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29708">Panel Discussion, Phase 3 (submit summaries here)</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29708">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29708</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 19, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29713">Literature Review Step 2</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29713">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29713</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29705">Panel Discussion Response, Phase 3</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29705">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29705</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com">Second Exam</a> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com">https://tusculum.instructure.com</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	<a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29681">/courses/1297/assignments/29681</a>	
Thu Apr 22, 2021	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29689">A13: Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29689">/courses/1297/assignments/29689</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29690">A14: Communication in Close Relationships</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29690">/courses/1297/assignments/29690</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29716">Peer feedback on Literature Review Step 2</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29716">/courses/1297/assignments/29716</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 26, 2021	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29691">A15: Communication Climate</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29691">/courses/1297/assignments/29691</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29692">A16: Managing Conflict</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29692">/courses/1297/assignments/29692</a>	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 29, 2021	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29683">Student-Led Review Questions, Final Exam</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29683">/courses/1297/assignments/29683</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29700">Assessment Post-test</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29700">/courses/1297/assignments/29700</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29711">Literature Review Presentation</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29711">/courses/1297/assignments/29711</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <b><a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29714">Literature Review Step 3</a></b> <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29714">/courses/1297/assignments/29714</a>	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32070">Panel Discussion Recordings, Phase 4</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32070">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/32070</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29709">Panel Discussion, Phase 4 (submit summaries here)</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29709">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29709</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 3, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29706">Panel Discussion Response, Phase 4</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29706">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29706</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Fri May 7, 2021	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29676">Final Exam</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29676">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29676</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29702">Best Discussion</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29702">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29702</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29703">Extra Credit</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29703">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29703</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29715">Middle Discussion</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29715">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29715</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29677">Syllabus Quiz</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29677">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29677</a> )	
	 <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29720">Worst Discussion</a> ( <a href="https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29720">https://tusculum.instructure.com/courses/1297/assignments/29720</a> )	