Chaminade University of Honolulu
COM 343: Nonverbal Communication
Instructor: Dennis R. Bautista
Summer Session 1998

Program of Study

Course Description

As outlined in the Chaminade catalog, the course examines the theory and research in nonverbal communication, learning how nonverbal dimensions, such as behavior and environmental factors, affect the communication process.

Course Objectives

1.   To gain an understanding of the major characteristics of nonverbal communication

2.   To develop an awareness of the relationship between verbal and nonverbal communication

3.   To experience how nonverbal cues influence attitudes and behaviors in the communication process

4.   To understand how culture, gender roles and social settings define and influence nonverbal behavior

Each of these objectives will incorporate an analysis of the following nonverbal codes: kinesics; facial and eye; artifactual; spatial/proxemics; tactile/haptics; paralanguage and silence; smell/olfactics; temporal/chronemics.

Course Requirements

1.   To produce an annotated bibliography that identifies a collection of sources offering a significant contribution to the study of nonverbal behavior and communication

2.   To write a brief review of literature highlighting key studies that have defined and analyzed each of the eight (8) nonverbal codes

3.   To conduct a research study, manipulating a nonverbal dimension, that demonstrates how research knowledge can be applied to situations in everyday life

Assignment 1: Annotated Bibliography

When beginning to learn about an unfamiliar area of study, it is a good idea to start by consulting credible sources of information. Gathering, summarizing and cataloging significant sources of information is done by creating an annotated bibliography of references. This exercise offers practice in writing an annotated bibliography of available sources on nonverbal behavior.

1. Consult the literature on nonverbal behavior and choose at least 10 sources that provide 'significant' information on the subject.

2. Write down the source's citation following the appropriate documentation format (APA, MLA). For example:

   Fast, Julius. *(1970). Body Language.* New York, NY: Evans.

3. In a few sentences, provide a summary of pertinent information, including the following:

   ❏ significance (why it is an important source of information)
      purpose of the piece
   O strengths
      weaknesses
   ❏ connections drawn to other sources

4. Type up the information gathered and turn it in on the due date.

DEADLINE:

Assignment 2: Review of Literature

Similar to the previous assignment, this one also summarizes relevant sources of information but takes it one step further by combining related ideas and focusing them into one concept. This exercise offers practice in composing a brief review of literature of the eight (8) nonverbal codes.

1. For each of the eight (8) nonverbal codes, consult published sources that analyze the specific nonverbal code of interest (from scholarly/scientific journals, research convention articles, theses/dissertations, on-line sources, books, etc.).

2. Select 2-5 sources and synthesize the information gathered by providing an 'adequate' account of the nonverbal code of interest. Be sure to address the following in a page or less:

O   definition of nonverbal code

O   why it is important (significance; purpose)

❑   what dimension of the nonverbal code was analyzed

Ll   what each study predicted

❑   how the construct of interest was manipulated, measured or operationalized

❑   what was found (conclusions)

❑   strengths and weakness of the study

❑   don't forget to credit all sources of information using the appropriate documentation format (APA, MLA).

DEADLINE:

Assignment 3: Research Study

This assignment provides experience in how research on nonverbal behavior is conducted and reported.

Select an area of nonverbal behavior that interests you.

2. Provide a brief definition, summary of relevant studies and significance (like assignment #2).

3. Explain how you will manipulate, measure, or operationalize the construct of interest and why it gets at what you want to study [Note: Be sure to obtain permission to conduct your project, if applicable].

4. State your prediction(s).

5. Conduct your study and gather relevant data and information.

6. Explain what you found by addressing the following:

    ❏   Was your prediction(s) accurate? Why or why not?
    ❏   Were there any problems that you encountered?
    ❏   If given the opportunity to do it over, what would you change or do differently?
    ❏   What suggestions do you have for others who want to do a similar study?
    ❏   What makes your study important, significant and unique?

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