

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY  
Fall 2002

FD '02  
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**Interpersonal Communication**  
Communication 340; MWF 1:00-1:50

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 11-12:30  
Tuesday/Thursday: 12:30-1:30  
Or by appointment

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Weaver, *Understanding Interpersonal Communication*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a practical approach to understanding current theories of interpersonal communication in face-to-face encounters. Emphasis is on practical application of these theories to improve communication skills, interpersonal relationships, and to reduce communication breakdown.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon successful completion of Com 340, the student should be able to:

- Understand how communication occurs through the exchange and interpretation of symbols.
- Develop alternative methods of handling interpersonal conflict.
- Understand how our "self" is influenced by communication.
- Increase effective listening and feedback skills.
- Be able to critically assess his/her own communication style.
- Understand how interpersonal and intimate relationships grow and are maintained.
- Develop assertiveness through understanding and improving skills.
- Describe communication variables in three types of relationships: friends, family, and intimate partners.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is a vital part of your learning experience in this course. As a result, your presence in class is mandatory. This is the attendance policy for BOTH excused AND unexcused absences:

0-2 absences = 10 points added to your overall test grade

3-4 absences = no direct effect

5 or more = 5 points deducted from overall test grade for EACH absence after 4

4 tardies = 1 absence



- Attending class means being on time and present for at least 75% of the class period.
- Roll is taken every class session. If you arrive late, let the instructor know at the end of class so that you will only be marked tardy, not absent.
- There are NO MAKE UP EXAMS (unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor).

#### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

	Percentage	Your Grade
1. Paper I	10%	_____
2. Exam I	15%	_____
3. Paper II	10%	_____
4. Exam II	15%	_____
5. Paper III	10%	_____
6. Exam III	15%	_____
7. Final Research Paper	20%	_____
8. Oral Reports	5%	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	_____

#### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

There are two ways to earn extra credit in this course:

- 1) Attendance (see policy above).
- 2) Random quizzes. The quizzes are intended to ensure that you are reading the textbook and paying attention in class, as well as to help you prepare for your exams. Bonus points earned on the quizzes will count towards the next exam.

#### **ORAL REPORTS:**

We will all share interesting findings/results/reflections about our papers on the day they are due in class. This is very informal, but you should be prepared to talk about your paper for 2-4 minutes. The oral reports are worth 5% of your overall grade and will be marked as follows:

- Attend all 4 oral reports and competently discuss paper = A (95)
- Attend only 3 oral reports and/or demonstrate only a mediocre discussion of the paper(s) = B (85)
- Attend only 2 of the oral reports and/or demonstrate a below-average discussion of the paper(s) = C (75)
- Anything less = F

#### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

You will complete four written assignments throughout the semester (three reflection papers and one research paper). Late papers will NOT be accepted. Assignments must be handed in on time (IN CLASS). All written work submitted for grading must be produced on a computer or a typewriter. Spelling and grammar must be correct and work must be neat.

### FINAL RESEARCH PAPER:

On the topic of your choice (related to interpersonal communication), research and write an 8-10 page paper. Example topics:

Religion and relationships	Same-sex versus opposite-sex friendships
Homosexuality in America	How the media shapes our self-concept
Cohabiting	Cultural differences in nonverbal behaviors
Mixed race marriages	Family and peer influences on personality
Arranged marriages	Perceptions of other cultures
Stay-at-home dads/working moms	Sibling relationships
The decline of listening in society	Gender differences in business communication
Feminine men, masculine women	Health and emotions
Assertiveness in different cultures	The impact of adolescent friendships
The modern family	Grandparents effects on family

You may pick any topic (whether on this list or not) that is of interest to you, provided that 1) it is intellectually important, 2) it relates to the course, and 3) it allows for research possibilities. The instructor must approve all topics, **NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**. The paper will be due during the week of finals (Dec. 10, 10:30am). Be prepared to informally present your findings/results to the rest of the class (your final oral report). More information on this paper to come later...



## Interpersonal Communication:

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DATE	ACTIVITY/TOPIC	TO BE READ
Aug. 26	Intro to class/Pre-assessment	
Aug. 28	Get to know class/Elements of Interpersonal Comm./Give Paper I	Ch. 1
Aug. 30	Elements of Interpersonal Comm.	Ch. 1
Sept. 2	HOLIDAY-Labor Day	
Sept. 4	Creating Meaning and Perception	Ch. 2
Sept. 6	Creating Meaning and Perception	Ch. 2
Sept. 9	Self-Disclosure	Ch. 3
Sept. 11	Self-Disclosure	Ch. 3
Sept. 13	Self-Disclosure	Ch. 3
Sept. 16	Listening and Feedback	Ch. 4
Sept. 18	Listening and Feedback	Ch. 4
Sept. 20	Listening and Feedback	Ch. 4
Sept. 23	<b>PAPER I: THE SELF/Oral Report</b>	
Sept. 25	Review/Catch-up	
Sept. 27	<b>EXAM I (ch. 1, 2, 3, and 4); Give Paper II</b>	
Sept. 30	Assertiveness	Ch. 10
Oct. 2	Assertiveness	Ch. 10
Oct. 4	Assertiveness	Ch. 10
Oct. 7	Influencing Others	Ch. 8
Oct. 9	Influencing Others	Ch. 8
Oct. 11	Emotions	Ch. 9
Oct. 14	HOLIDAY-Discoverers' Day	
Oct. 16	Emotions	Ch. 9
Oct. 18	Managing Conflict	Ch. 11
Oct. 21	Managing Conflict	Ch. 11
Oct. 23	<b>PAPER II: THE SELF AND OTHERS/Oral Reports</b>	
Oct. 25	Review/Catch up	
Oct. 28	<b>Exam II (Ch. 8, 9, 10, and 11); Give Paper III</b>	
Oct. 30	Gender Communication	Ch. 7
Nov. 1	TBA	

Nov. 4	Gender Communication	Ch. 7
Nov. 6	Friendship	Ch. 12
Nov. 8	Friendship	Ch. 12
Nov. 11	HOLIDAY—Veteran's Day	
Nov. 13	Intimacy	Ch. 13
Nov. 15	Intimacy	Ch. 13
Nov. 18	Intimacy	Ch. 13
Nov. 20	Intimacy	Ch. 13
Nov. 22	Family	Ch. 14
Nov. 25	Family (Movie)	Ch. 14
**Nov. 27	Family	Ch. 14
**Last day to approve research paper topic**		
Nov. 29	HOLIDAY-Thanksgiving	
Dec. 2	<b>PAPER III: RELATIONSHIP/Oral Reports</b>	
Dec. 4	Review/Catch-up	
Dec. 6	<b>Exam III (Ch. 7, 12, 13, and 14)</b>	

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE (and final oral report):**

Dec. 10: Tuesday, 10:30-12:30