COM 112: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

Instructor: Anita Croasmun  Email: Please use VISTA email
Office: G-026 Winston Hall, office hours/meetings online or by appointment

Course Website: Log into the COM112 course at http://vista.ncsu.edu on the first day of the semester.

Required Reading & Materials
Online Workbook (link to be announced on first class day) and computer are required.

Course Description
This course is designed to develop an understanding of being “in relation” with others through a theoretical lens. You will be exposed to a variety of interpersonal communication theories, concepts, and research findings in this course, and asked to apply them to different contexts. This course is organized in three sections: interpersonal communication foundations, interpersonal communication skills, and basic principles of interpersonal relationships. By the end of this course, you will have a breadth of knowledge about interpersonal communication theory and practice that can be used for future communication situations.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Explain primary interpersonal communication theories and concepts in three general areas: interpersonal communication foundations, interpersonal communication skills, and basic principles of interpersonal relationships.
2. Apply interpersonal communication theories and concepts to a variety of contexts outside of the classroom.
3. Develop a theoretically grounded set of strategies for communicating in interpersonal relationships.

Course Assignments
In order to earn a passing grade in this class you will need to complete and pass, with an average of 70% or higher, the following assignments:

3 Unit tests (15% each test)  45%
Final Exam (comprehensive)  25%
2 Strategy Assessments (15% each)  30%

Assignment Descriptions

Unit Exams: Three unit exams will be given during the semester. Students have a one-week window in which to take the exam. Exam format will be multiple-choice, true/false, and matching. Exams will cover text, lecture, and workbook material. Make-up exams will not be given for unit exams. Instead, the final exam will increase in weight value if an exam is missed due to university-sanctioned reasons. Proctors are not required for exams.

Final Exam: The Final Exam is cumulative, and its format will be multiple-choice, true/false, and matching. Make-up final exams will be given only for university-sanctioned reasons. Make-up final exam format will be essay and short answer, and will require proctoring by an approved proctor.

Strategy Assessments: Assessment of student ability to select effective communication strategies will be due at the midpoint and near the end-point the semester. The assessments will focus on selection of effective communication behaviors that meet communication competence criteria.
Course Grading Scale
B+ = 88-89.99, B = 83-87.99, B- = 80-82.99  
C+ = 78-79.99, C = 73-77.99, C- = 70-72.99  
F = 59.99 and below

Course Policies

Tests/Final Exam: Tests and final exams are to be taken independently, without help or collaboration with other students. Since students will be taking the exam at different times during the one-week period the exam is assigned, no discussion of the test or sharing test questions is to occur. Breach of this requirement constitutes cheating and students will receive an ‘F’ for the course and referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. Exams will be timed. No exceptions will be made to this format. Also, students are responsible for taking the test during the designated test window of one week (noted in the schedule). If a student fails to take the test during the assigned week, the student will receive a zero for the exam unless an excused absence prevents the student from accessing the test. Test scores will be based on the VISTA program records. No exceptions.

Online Activity and Grade Disputes: The VISTA program tracks student activity in the online course. University faculty and administrators are able to view what sites a student accesses and how long a student viewed the site. This information will be used to settle grade disputes since the VISTA program is deemed an accurate record of student online activity. In the case where information or sites are not available to students due to unforeseen VISTA programming maintenance, etc, the assignment and test schedule will be adjusted to accommodate the down-time so that grades will not be affected. Malfunction of computer hardware is not a valid excused reason for failure to submit an exam. Students are to contact me immediately if their computer goes down during an exam (send VISTA email to me and email me at anita_croasmun@ncsu.edu). Use my ncsu.edu address only for exam crisis). Waiting until the day after the exam computer crisis to contact me constitutes missing the exam and a zero score will be recorded.

Attendance  Students are not required to attend any Lecture sessions on the NCSU campus. Lectures and assignments are available online through the VISTA program (http://vista.ncsu.edu).

Late Work/Make-up Exams. Late work will only be accepted for excused absences (excused absences include student illness, injury or death of immediate family member) that cause a student to miss an online deadline. Excused absences must be documented by authorized persons. For more information: http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/pols_regs/REG205.00.4.php If the absence is excused, students are required to submit missed work within one week of the student’s clearance for return to class or the absence will result in a failing grade on all assignments missed.

Academic Integrity. Strict standards of academic honesty will be enforced according to the University policy on academic integrity. A student’s name on any test or assignment means that the student has neither given nor received unauthorized aid. For other information go to http://www2.ncsu.edu/prr/student_services/student_conduct/POL445.00.1.htm

ADA Statement. The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for student with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Please contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss necessary accommodations. Consult the following website for further specifications: http://www.ncsu.edu/provost/hat/current/ch08/16.html

Departmental Equity Statement. All persons, regardless of age, race, religion, gender, physical disability or sexual orientation shall have equal opportunity without harassment in Department of Communication courses and programs. Any harassment should be reported immediately to either the classroom instructor or the department head.
Schedule and Assignments

Week One (8/19)  Review Syllabus, Intro to Course & VISTA site for the course About Interpersonal Communication (Ch 1)

Week Two (8/24)  Culture and Gender (Ch 2)

Week Three (8/31)  Communication and the Self (Ch 3)

Week Four (9/7)  Labor Day Holiday on Monday
              Interpersonal Perception (Ch 4)

Week Five (9/14)  EXAM #1 (Chapters 1 to 4)

Week Six (9/21)  Language (Ch 5)

Week Seven (9/28)  Non-Verbal Communication (Ch 6)

Week Eight (10/5)  Strategy Assessment #1 due Tuesday, 10/6, midnight
                   Fall Break Wed - Fri

Week Nine (10/12)  Listening (Ch 7) and Emotion (Ch 12)

Week Ten (10/19)  EXAM #2 (Chapters 5 to 7 and Chapter 12)

Week Eleven (10/26)  Interpersonal Communication in Social Relationships (Ch 8)
                     Intimate Relationships (Ch 9)

Week Twelve (11/2)  Interpersonal Conflict (Ch 10)

Week Thirteen (11/9)  Deceptive Communication (Ch 11)

Week Fourteen (11/16)  Exam #3 (Chapters 8 to 11)

Week Fifteen (11/23)  Strategy Assessment #2 due Tuesday, 11/24, midnight
                      Thanksgiving Holidays Wed – Fri

Week Sixteen (11/30)  Dead week – Study for the cumulative final exam

Dec 9th – Dec 17th  Final exam should be taken within this window.