

UTRGV COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Interpersonal Communication 1318.12
Term: Spring 2018
MW 9:25-10:40 SABH 2.112
Office location: Brownsville Main 1.210 E

Instructor Name: Nikkie Hodgson, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Tuesday's 11-3 and by appt. or via email

Textbook and/or Resource Material

Reflect and Relate: *An Introduction to Interpersonal Communication*, By Steven McCornack. (2016, 4th edition), Bedford St. Martins.

Course Description and Prerequisites: Instruction and activities in the principles of human communication and interaction. Includes self-concept, self-disclosure and risk, defensiveness, perception, empathy, semantics and abstraction, emotions and behavior, nonverbal communication, listening and feedback, relational communication, assertiveness, and conflict management.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course: This course will introduce you to the various aspects of interpersonal communication. Through discussions and lectures you will develop communication skills for working in groups, interacting with people at workplace, family members, friends, and significant others.

Grading Policies: UTRGV grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Course Requirements:

Course Requirements	Points
1. Motivation Score (attendance)	50
2. Classroom Activities: (quizzes, motion picture critiques, etc.) Total 4 (25pts each)	100
3. Two Examinations	
Mid-Term Exam #1	100
Final Exam #2	100
4. Oral Chapter Presentation (10 groups)	150
Total Points	500

Grades will be distributed in the following manner:

450 – 500 = A; 400 – 449 = B; 350 – 399 = C; 300 – 349 = D; and 000 – 299 = F

Motivation Score. Good attendance contributes to a positive learning environment, and you can't do your best in this course if you do not attend regularly. There are many things to be learned on a weekly basis that are not measured directly on the tests. Since we know your objective is to increase your learning, our assumption is that you will attend class. It is your responsibility to get the information covered in the classes missed. You will receive a grade for your motivation based on the number of absences accrued. No distinction is made between an "excused" and "unexcused" absence. Non-attendance of class counts as an absence, regardless of the reason (i.e., illness, work, emergencies, car trouble, pet crises, etc.). The motivation score you earn is based on the following: 0 absences = 55, 1 absence = 50, 2 absences = 40, 3 absences = 30, 4 absences = 20, 5 absences = 10.

If you miss 5 or more class periods you will be encouraged to drop the course, or you may initiate a "drop" from the course.

UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations

Note: Attending class means being **punctual**. *Punctuality is defined as being no more than five minutes late at the beginning of class and remaining until the class is officially dismissed. It is your responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day. If you do not sign in (for whatever reason) you will be considered absent.*

Journal Questions, Writing assignments, critiques. After reading the assigned texts, please complete to the bi-weekly journal questions. The questions are intended to get you to synthesize, evaluate, and extend your knowledge and understanding of the materials you have read. To receive credit for class participation, you must provide a personal response to the question, Please note that both quantity and quality are important when completing this assignment.

Reading Quizzes. You are expected to read assigned material before coming to class and to be prepared to discuss it. Reading quizzes are short quizzes over the assigned reading that will be a regular part of this course.

Examinations. You will take two exams. Each exam is multiple choice format and objective based. Study guide questions for each chapter will be provided. Answering these study guide questions as you work through the chapters will prepare you for the exams. Each exam includes 50 multiple-choice items with each item being worth two points. Please bring a number two pencil and scantron to all exams. No exams can be made up unless there is a documented excuse approved by the instructor.

Oral Presentations. You will develop, organize, and deliver chapter presentation. If you are absent or leave before all the presentations are given you will lose 100% of your presentation grade. Missed presentations cannot be made up. The total presentation points are worth 150 points. Students cannot make up missed presentations.

Course Requirements, Policies. and Assumptions

Class Behavior. Any disruptive behavior will be considered grounds for being dropped from the class. Cell phone use of any kind will not be tolerated, especially text messaging, answering the phone in class, etc. If your cell phone rings, beeps, or is otherwise disruptive this will be considered grounds for potential dismissal from the class. If there is an emergency situation requiring you to answer your phone in class, please let the instructor know ahead of time.

Completion of Assignments. It is assumed that you will turn your assignments in on time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date.

Note: No late work will be accepted.

Writing Policy. All written work must be typed, double-spaced and meet the criteria for college-level writing. The journal answers and presentation outline should not only meet the criteria specified in the assignment descriptions but also be coherent, organized, and grammatically correct. Please utilize the writing center. Do not turn in a paper or outline that has not been reviewed by someone else other than yourself. Ask the writing center, friends, or family members to check for punctuation, spelling, grammar, organization, and overall clarity of the paper or outline.

Calendar of Activities:

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <https://my.utrgv.edu/home> at the bottom of the screen, *prior to login*. Some important dates for spring 2018 include:

January 16 First day of classes

January 19	Last day to add a course or register for spring 2018
March 12 – 17	SPRING BREAK – NO classes
March 30 – 31	EASTER HOLIDAY – NO classes
April 12	Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
May 2	Last day of classes
May 3	Study Day – NO class
May 4 – 10	Spring 2018 Final Exams
May 11 - 12	Commencement Ceremonies

UTRGV Policy Statements

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services.

Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD: Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available: Spring 2018 (full semester) is April 11 – May 2

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV's attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE: In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student's time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS: According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the "3-peat rule" and the "6-drop" rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that

dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

STUDENT SERVICES: Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN **1.400 (Brownsville)** or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

TENTATIVE SPRING 2018 COURSE SCHEDULE

The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at <http://www.utrgv.edu/en-us/student-experience/calendars/index.htm>. Please visit the website for important dates on the semester.

Week	Topic
Week 1 Jan. 17	Course Introduction, Syllabus, Student Introductions and Chapter Seminar Team Assignments (6 teams, 2 chapters per team)
Week 2 Jan. 22 & 24	Chapter 1
Week 3 Jan. 29 & 31	Chapter 2
Week 4 Feb. 5 & 7	Movie (Chapter 1 & 2) <i>Motion Picture Critique #1 due on Monday, Feb. 12th (25 Points)</i>
Week 5 Feb. 12 & 14	Chapter 3 Feb. 14 th —NO CLASS
Week 6 Feb. 19 & 21	Chapter 3 Continued (if necessary), Chapter 4 start. Chapter 4

Week 7 Feb. 26 & 28	Chapter 5 Quiz #1 for Chapter 3, 4 and 5 (25 Points)
Week 8 March 5 & 7	Chapter 6 Mid Term Exam on Wednesday or next Monday after Spring Break Spring Break March 12 th -16 th
Week 9 March 19 & 21	Chapter 7
Week 10 March 26-28	Chapter 9 Quiz #2 Chapters 7, 8 & 9 (25 points)
Week 11 April 2 & 4	Chapter 10 Movie 2
Week 12 April 9 & 11	Movie 2 Motion Picture Critique #2 (25 points) Due Monday, April 16 th Possible no class on April 9 th —will let you all know. Chapter 11 starts
Week 13 April 16 & 18	Chapter 11
Week 14 April 23 & 25	Chapter 11 & 12 Final Exam Review week
Week 15 April 30 & May 2	Catch up week. Dead Day (May 3 rd) and Exams (May 4 th -10 th) UTRGV Commencement—May 11 & 12.

