

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

Call #: 02344 SPCH 550-51 E: Advanced Studies in Interpersonal Communication

Instructor: Carl L. Thameling, Ph.D.

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Textbook: Knapp, M.L. & Daly, G.R. (2002). *Handbook of interpersonal communication* (3rd. ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. <http://www.sagepub.com/>

Additional Readings: Several journal articles will be distributed in class or placed on reserve in the library.

Recommended: *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.).

(2001). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

<http://apastyle.apa.org/>

Course Description: This course will examine advanced interpersonal communication theories and research. Several topics related to interpersonal research and theory will be examined in detail, such as, methodology, nonverbal signals, culture, meaning, supportive communication, power, social influence, health communication, etc. Reaction papers, exams, and presentations will offer students the opportunity to convey their knowledge related to the research and theory discussed in class. The lecture, group discussion, and/or seminar format will be used throughout the semester.

Course Objective(s): Students will acquire an increased sense of the breadth and depth interpersonal communication research and theory. In addition, students will learn and apply the criteria with which to evaluate interpersonal communication research critically. Paper assignments, such as, reaction papers will demonstrate the students critical skills. Students will also investigate a specific interpersonal phenomenon and write their research in four separate phases.

Assignments:

Midterm	(Mar. 15).....	20%
Final.....	(Thurs., May. 3).....	20%
Reaction Papers....	(Feb. 22, Mar. 22, & Apr. 19)..	20%
Final Project (in four parts)...	(Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 5, & Last day of class.....	25%
In-class assignments.....		15%

Policies: The following requirements are offered to reduce misunderstandings. I will expect:

1. Weekly attendance, except in emergencies or in those cases where your best judgment suggests otherwise.
2. That all class assignments be completed before a grade is recorded for you.
3. That all class assignments will be turned in on time, unless otherwise negotiated.

4. That you will actively participate in group and in-class discussions and exercises.
5. That you have read all assigned readings before coming to class.
6. That you meet with your Advisor before Mar. 23rd if you receive a "D" or "F" midterm grade.

**Weekly Schedule
Spring 2007
(Tentative)**

- Week One:** Introduction to the course and a get acquainted exercise. Read Chapter One in *Handbook of Interpersonal Communication (HIC)*
Jan. 16-19
- Week Two:** Chapter Two in HIC.
22- 26
- Week Three:** Chapter Three in HIC.
29-Feb. 2
- Week Four:** Chapter Four in HIC. **Phase One of Final Paper is Due, Feb. 8.**
5-9
- Week Five:** Chapter Five in HIC.
12-16 **Mardi Gras Break, Feb. 16-21**
- Week Six:** Chapter Seven in HIC.
19-23 **First Reaction Paper Due, Feb. 22.**
- Week Seven:** Chapter Eight in HIC
26-Mar. 2
- Week Eight:** Chapter Nine in HIC. **Phase Two of Final Paper is Due, Mar. 8.**
5-9 **Midterm Grades Reported**
- Week Nine:** **Midterm**
12-16
- Week Ten:** Chapter Ten in HIC.
19-23 **Second Reaction Paper Due, Mar. 22.**
Mar. 23rd is the final date to drop course or resign
- Week Eleven:** Chapter Eleven in HIC.
26-30 **Comprehensive Exams for Graduate Students**
- Week Twelve:** Chapter Twelve in HIC. **Phase Three of Final Paper is Due, Apr. 5**
Apr. 2-6
- Week Thirteen:** Chapter Thirteen in HIC.
9-13 **Spring Holiday, April 6-15**
- Week Fourteen:** Chapter Seventeen in HIC. **Third Reaction Paper Due, Apr.19**
16-20

Week Fifteen: Chapter Nineteen in HIC (continued).
23-27 **Presentation on Final Papers**

Week Sixteen: Final Exam, May 3
30-May 4

Description of Reaction Paper Assignments

It is expected that your reading assignments will be read critically. This type of reading often elicits a reaction (point of view supported by evidence) to ideas expressed or findings uncovered by the researcher. The present assignment offers you the opportunity to express your reaction in writing. A reaction is often an argument that examines, interprets, evaluates, and states an opinion. Therefore, this paper should state a thesis and offer specific facts and reasons to defend and support your stand on the issue.

This assignment will be 2-3 (not less than two) typed pages which honors the rules of grammar and research writing style manuals (e.g., APA). Therefore, if you cite a reference within the text of your paper, a separate works cited or reference page will add to the length of your paper. Use the spell check and grammar check functions on your computer.

It is expected you will write three separate reaction papers for this course on any of the assigned reading materials. Each paper will examine a separate topic and thesis.

You will be requested to deliver a short 5 minute presentation on your argument.

Description of Final Paper Assignment

It is expected that your reading assignments will motivate you to want to explore an area of interpersonal communication research and theory in greater depth and detail. Therefore, this assignment offers you that opportunity to satisfy your interest in a particular interpersonal communication phenomenon.

The paper will be written in four separate phases. A presentation will be delivered by you on each phase/stage of your investigation:

Phase One: Write a one page paper that simply identifies the interpersonal phenomenon of interest (such as the topic of interest). Also, this page should identify the key researchers associated with the interpersonal phenomenon of interest to you. This page might begin with a historical perspective, stating the researchers who first researched the topic. It is not important that the purpose of your paper be stated at this stage.

Phase Two: Conduct a literature review on your topic. The review should reveal the current status of the theory and research on the interpersonal phenomenon of interest to you. **Summarize** several key studies. State what they suggest. The studies you summarize may come to a similar conclusion, such as, "deviant group members typically succumb to pressures for group uniformity by the majority. That is, they eventually conform." Phase two will be the longest section of your paper. The purpose of your paper may become clearer to you at this stage.

Phase Three: Critically analyze the theory or research you reviewed in Phase Two. What are some strengths and weaknesses of this research? ,such as, subjects/participants

used in the investigations examined, subject pool size, theory driven, literature reviews, etc. Can your chosen subject be linked to other interpersonal topics? The purpose of your paper should become clear to you at this stage.

Phase Four: Bring the paper to a strategic close. Suggest some implications for future research (these ideas will surface in Phase Three) and write a conclusion that synthesizes the content of your paper.

After writing these four phases you will rewrite the first page to reflect the overall purpose of your research paper. For instance, you might state that the “purpose of this paper is to suggest that tone, placement, and language of application materials influences impressions of the applicant differentially.”

The page length of this assignment should range from 8 to 12 pages.

Adhere to the rules of grammar and a writing style manual (e.g., APA).

You will be requested to deliver a presentation on your final paper project.

Description of In-Class Assignments

Several current journal articles will be read throughout the semester. You will be asked to complete and submit a report form summarizing the article. Your report will assist you in leading the class in discussion.