

## Communication 121: Interpersonal Communication

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Office: BC 116

Mondays-Thursdays 8am – 10:05am

Office Hours: Mondays 10:15am – 11:15am  
and by appointment

**Course Catalog Description:** This course is an introduction to research, concepts and theories of interpersonal communication. The goal of the course is for students to learn concepts and skills for more effective interpersonal communication and to articulate their new knowledge using effective presentation skills.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course a successful student will be able to:

1. Identify the fundamental concepts and theories of interpersonal communication.
2. Present findings from peer reviewed social science research and apply new knowledge to a real interpersonal relationship.
3. Demonstrate improved verbal and nonverbal communication skills.

### Required Materials:

**Textbook:** Hutchinson, C. C. (2017). *Interpersonal Communication: Navigating Relationships in a Changing World*. Macmillan Learning Curriculum Solutions.

**Scantron:** 3 in total

Access to Canvas and Email

### Campus Resources

Your success in this class (and in others) is my priority. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to ask. Additionally, our campus offers many services to support you in your academic efforts, including the following:

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Disability Services and Programs for Students (DSPS) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities at Santa Barbara City College. If you have or think you might have a disability that impacts your educational experience in this class, contact DSPS to determine your eligibility for accommodations. DSPS is located in the Student Services (SS) Building, Room 162. Their phone number is (805) 730-4164.

If you have already registered with DSPS, please submit your accommodation requests via the 'DSPS Online Services Student Portal' as soon as possible. This needs to be done each semester.

**Communication Lab:** The Communication Lab offers a variety of resources for students enrolled in Communication courses. Your enrollment in this course gives you access to: free tutoring (please call x2592 to schedule an appointment), computers and internet, printing/copying, and private video recording rooms for rehearsing presentations. To use the Communication Lab, check in with your student ID at the front desk.

Location: Bottom floor of the BC building (through the glass doors that face the ocean).

Hours: Monday – Thursday 9-6 pm and Friday 9-1 pm.

**Academic Counseling Services:** The Academic Counseling Center offers assistance to students for a number of academic needs, including academic planning, choosing a major, developing an individualized Student Educational Plan, and developing strategies to succeed in college. The office is located in the Student Services Building - 120. Please call x2285 for an appointment or visit: <http://www.sbcc.edu/counselingcenter/index.php>

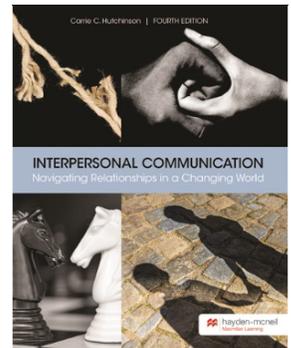
**Counseling Services:** Counseling Services offers counseling for personal concerns and crisis intervention, stress management, self-help information, and connections to off-campus mental health resources. The office is located in the Student Services Building - 170. Please call x2298 for an appointment or visit:

<http://www.sbcc.edu/healthservices/personalcounseling/index.php>

**Academic Support:** Need help with Pipeline or Canvas? Visit this link to receive assistance:

<http://www.sbcc.edu/studentssupport/>

**English Advisory:** Students who are not eligible for English 110 may have difficulty succeeding in this course. Please check your eligibility and see me if you need some advice.



**Important Dates:**

Last Day to Drop Classes Without ‘W’ – July 9, 2018

Last Day to Drop Classes With ‘W’ – July 25, 2018

Last Day to Petition for Pass/No Pass Grading – see registrar

**Academic Honesty:**

All students are expected to abide by school-wide expectations for academic honesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating: using the work of another individual or using unpermitted resources to gain an unfair advantage; plagiarism: passing off the work or ideas of another person as your own. Please also be advised that even unintentional plagiarism constitutes academic dishonesty. Thus, it is your responsibility, as a student, to properly cite and/or give credit to the original author(s) of any ideas, evidence, resources, etc. that you did not come up with on your own. Consequences for academic dishonesty include: receiving a “0” on an assignment, receiving an “F” in the class, or referral to SBCC Administration.

**COMM 121 Course Policies**

**Attendance and participation:** COMM 121 is a skills-based, experiential learning course. Accordingly, attendance and participation are key components of your overall success. Students must be present to be active participants in this class. If you’re not present, you can’t participate! Students are, therefore, expected to attend and participate in every class meeting and engage in all discussions/activities.

You are also expected to abide by the SBCC Student Code of Conduct, which can be found here:

<https://www.sbcc.edu/studentlife/files/AP%205231%20Standards%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

**Coming to class prepared:** In addition to showing up, please come to class prepared. This means that you bring the necessary materials (assignments, resources, printed documents, etc.) and that you complete any assigned readings or homework before class. Assignments and presentations are due on the assigned date listed, no exceptions.

The goal of our class discussions is to bridge the gap between abstract concepts and practical experience – and to ultimately, develop and strengthen essential communication skills that will be useful in additional academic/professional contexts. With that said, please check the course schedule regularly; and be prepared to make the most out of each class period. (BRING COFFEE and SNACKS. I want you alert and focused, if you are tired OR hungry neither will happen)

**Absences:** If you have a legitimate reason to miss class, please bring documentation to our next class to avoid a permanent recorded absence. Leaving class early or coming to class late will be considered an absence. According to school policy, absences are excused for verifiable illnesses, injury or quarantine, approved educational field trips or school activities. For every unexcused absence, you will lose 5 attendance points.

**Tardies:** Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. If you are late (after attendance has been taken), it is your responsibility to see me after class (on that same date) to inform me of your late arrival. Leaving class early will also result in point deductions. If you arrive late to class on a presentation day, please stay outside of the classroom until the presentation has concluded (with applause).

**“Freebie” policy:** Stuff happens, I understand. Therefore, students are given 5 “freebie” attendance points applicable to absences. Please note: the “freebie” policy is equivalent to missing one class’ worth of in-class activities and instruction. Even if your single absence/tardy does not directly affect your grade, absences may interfere with your success in this class and if assignments are due that day, they must be turned in prior to the class session.

**Makeup work:** Late work will only be accepted if you have a verifiable excused absence. If you do not have an excused absence, I may offer a maximum of half credit. But please check in with me prior to turning in late work to confirm that I am able to accept it and/or make accommodations.

**Email:** When sending me an email, please reference what the email is regarding. No need to email me if you are absent. I will know when I take attendance and it is your job to get notes from students, please do not ask me. ALSO please do not send me assignments via email, all assignments are due in-person.

**Questions?** If you have a question, please be resourceful\* – **1. Check the syllabus; 2. Check Canvas; 3. Contact a classmate (if applicable/appropriate); 4. Contact me.** The quickest way to reach me is via email – I will respond during reasonable hours of the day and within 24 hours at the most. For privacy reasons, grades will only be discussed in person (before/after class or during office hours).

### **Grading**

All assignments, including presentations will be graded in accordance with departmental expectations for COMM 121 student performance. You have five days to dispute a grade or discuss grading discrepancies – following a 24-hour period of receiving a graded assignment.

### **Withdrawal**

Students are responsible for officially withdrawing from courses that they do not intend to complete. If you simply stop showing up to class, you will be assigned a grade that reflects your assignments/participation (or lack thereof) in the class.

### **Classroom Expectations**

Outlined below is a list of responsibilities for students – to promote a friendly, safe, and productive learning environment.

1. The golden rule: treat others as you would like to be treated. Also, please do not speak when someone else is speaking; give them your undivided attention and respect.
2. Texting in class, scrolling through IG/FB/Snap/other things I haven't heard of yet, using a fidget spinner (>.<), or any other disruptive behavior during class will: 1. Prevent you from being an active participant, 2. Probably distract other students, and 3. Most certainly will distract me. Please be courteous and considerate while in class. Being an active participant means resisting distractions! Active listening and participation are skills – and like other skills, they take practice. We will work on these skills (among others) throughout the semester.
3. If you take notes with a tablet or laptop, you may do so, under the discretion that you are using technology solely for this purpose. You will lose your technology privileges if you use it for any other purpose besides note-taking (or researching/other tasks at specified times in class).
4. Keep yourself accountable! I will provide you with all of the information and resources necessary to succeed in this class. However, your grade and your level of success are determined by your individual effort and accountability.
5. It is our responsibility, as a class, to maintain a safe, productive and friendly classroom space. All communication must maintain an appropriate balance between: the responsibility to think critically about the ideas of others and the need to be respectful of the ideas of others. **In our class, there is a zero-tolerance policy of, but not limited to: racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or otherwise offensive language.** The diversity of our class members (age, gender identity, sexual orientation, culture, religion, background, etc.) is reflective of society – and is a real-world experience! Please be respectful and sensitive to diversity in our classroom.

### **COMM 121 Course Assignments**

The minimum course requirements are described below. \*\*Please read all assignment directions carefully and thoroughly; I recommend using assignment directions as “check-lists” to ensure that you receive maximum credit.

**For consistency purposes, all graded documents submitted should adhere to the following format:** Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins (the default is 1.25”), in black ink.

### **Participation (100 points)**

To successfully meet course objectives, you are expected to participate in all class activities and discussions. Each unexcused absence, after the first one, is a deduction of 5 points from the 100 attendance points possible. It is your responsibility to check-in with the professor if you arrive late and miss attendance, you must check-in on the same day to receive credit.

### **Exams (300 points)**

There will be three non-cumulative in-class exams (50 questions each, 100 points in total). Exams will cover lecture material, assigned readings, and class activities. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice, true/false questions, and possibly an essay prompt. Please bring the appropriate Scantron sheet and a #2 pencil on exam dates.

### **Research Presentation (50 points)**

In a 3 to 5-minute presentation, you will 1) give a summary of a research article you selected from a peer reviewed journal, 2) explain the findings from the research study described in the article, and 3) apply the new information you learned to improve a communication challenge in an interpersonal relationship. Only one source is required, which must be a research article from a peer-reviewed journal, cited in APA format. A one-page write-up is due the same day as your presentation.

### **Research Paper (100 points)**

Each student will write a 4 to 5-page research paper that addresses issues (positive or negative) within interpersonal communication scholarship. Your argument will be based off of peer-reviewed research. Your paper should address the

following 1) a summary of research articles that you have selected from peer reviewed journals, each should be tied to a specific theme (e.g., intimate relationships; media representations; parent-child relationships; friendships; workplace interactions; etc.) 2) explain the findings from the research you have collected and argue if you agree or disagree, and support your claims 3) apply the new information you learned to improve communication among real interpersonal relationships.

Your paper should be typed, double-spaced, include a cover page, and include a separate list of references in APA format. A minimal of 5 references is expected. In total, your paper will have a minimal of 6, maximum of 7 pages: a cover page, 4 (minimal) pages of content, and a reference page.

### **Grade Calculation**

Research Presentation	50 points
Research Paper	100 points
Exams (3)	300 points
Participation	100 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>550 points</b>

### **Point and Grade Distribution:**

Total Points Possible: 550 points

Here are the points and corresponding letter grade:

A	513-550 (93%-100%)	C+	429-439 (78%-79%)
A-	495-512 (90%-92%)	C	385-439 (70%-77%)
B+	484-494 (88%-89%)	D	330-384 (60-69%)
B	457-483 (83%-87%)	F	0-329 (0-59%)
B-	440-456 (80%-82%)		

### **CLASS POINT TOTAL**

### **Course Calendar (subject to change)**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Planned Activity/Assignment/Lecture (Due Dates in BOLD, class activities in italics, *denotes research presentations)</u></b>
7/2	Introduction to Course
7/3	Conducting Research/Chapter One: Defining Interpersonal Communication
7/4	Holiday - <b>NO CLASS</b>
7/5	Chapter Two: Non-Verbal Messages
7/9	Chapter Two: Non-Verbal Messages
7/10	Chapter Three: Language and Relationships*
7/11	Chapter Three: Language and Relationships / <i>Exam Review*</i>
7/12	Preparing for Presentations / <b>Exam One</b>
7/16	Chapter Four: Self-Concept*
7/17	Chapter Four: Self-Concept*
7/18	Chapter Five: Social Identity*
7/19	Chapter Five: Social Identity*
7/23	Chapter Six: Interpersonal Perception*
7/24	Chapter Six: Interpersonal Perception / <i>Peer-Review Workshop*</i>
7/25	Chapter Seven: Relational Development / <i>Exam Review*</i>
7/26	<b>Exam Two</b>
7/30	Chapter Seven: Relational Development*
7/31	Chapter Eight: Relational De-Escalation*
8/1	Chapter Eight: Relational De-Escalation*
8/2	Chapter Nine: Managing Interpersonal Conflict*
8/6	Chapter Nine: Managing Interpersonal Conflict / <b>Research Papers Due*</b>
8/7	Chapter Ten: Creating Communication Climate*
8/8	Chapter Ten: Creating Communication Climate / <i>Exam Review*</i>
8/9	<b>Exam Three</b>