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### COMX 115S.50: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

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# COMX 115S Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

## Spring 2022 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Allison Sullivan

E-mail Address: allison.sullivan@umontana.edu

Office Location: Missoula College, 427

Office Hours: On Zoom By Appointment

Course Objectives – What will I learn in this course?

The course is designed to help students meet a set of learning objectives. If you work hard and take the course seriously...

- *You will be able to recognize communication patterns from family of origin.*
- *You will be able to understand relational meaning of what we say, both verbally and nonverbally, and the effect this has on relationships personally, professionally and in an educational capacity.*
- *You will improve your listening skills: reflectively, attentively and emphatically.*
- *You will learn how to recognize passive, aggressive, passive-aggressive and assertive behaviors and learn how to deal more effectively with them through conflict management skills.*
- *You will be able to better understand how the quality of communication directly affects the quality of relationships and ultimately the quality of life.*
- *You will be able to identify practical skills geared towards improving communication in the workplace, in personal relationships, and in the family.*
- *You will be able to understand the role emotions play in communication.*
- *You will be able to recognize important communication terms, applications and theory.*

## Course Materials—What do I need for this course?

- Wood, J. T. (2016 or 2020, depending on edition). *Interpersonal communication: Everyday encounters* (8<sup>th</sup> or 9th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

\*This print text can be purchased at the UM bookstore. However, it can also be purchased as a print, rental, or electronic textbook through our publisher at [Cengage Publishing](http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/1-1T7RE8P)  
<http://www.cengagebrain.com/micro/1-1T7RE8P>

## Student Responsibilities and Expectations—How can I succeed in this course?

- *Respect your instructor and your colleagues.* This encompasses all of the following items. It is absolutely necessary for a positive educational experience. Whether it is posting in the discussion section in a timely manner, behaving ethically toward your instructor and classmates, or contributing to a positive online classroom climate, please act respectfully.
- *Complete your reading assignments in the textbook.* Students who fail to keep up with reading will perform poorly on exams and have problems with journal entries.
- *Take your exams and turn in assignments on time.* Late assignments will be penalized. Students who do not complete all exams and major assignments will not receive a passing grade for the course regardless of other points earned.
- *Do your own work.* Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will result in penalties ranging from failure of the assignment to expulsion from the College. This topic is addressed below and will be discussed in class.

## Assignments and Test Makeup Policy—What if I miss my exam?

No assignment or test make-ups will be allowed. Please plan ahead. All of the due dates for readings, assignments, and tests are listed in the course calendar. In addition, the week before assignments or tests are due, reminders will be posted in a weekly announcement. It is your responsibility to keep track of the course calendar and

check announcements regularly. If you encounter “technical difficulties” with a test, please notify me by email or phone the day of the test. I will verify the status of this issue in Moodle. It is important we reschedule the test within 48 hours of the test date.

Students with Disabilities—What if my disability affects my performance?

If you have a disability that may require modification of the course, please obtain the appropriate documentation from the DSS Office and then see me to discuss what, if any, special arrangements need to be made.

Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism—What are my ethical obligations?

Academic misconduct includes plagiarism, cheating, and deliberate interference with the work of others. It is the intellectual equivalent of fraud—a crime against the codes of the academy. At the University of Montana, the Student Conduct Code governs this and other aspects of your conduct.

*The standard penalty for this crime is an academic penalty determined by the instructor (typically, zero points on the assignment or F for the course). In egregious or repeat cases, a disciplinary sanction by the University will be recommended.*

Student Concerns - What if I have a problem with the teacher?

If the nature of your concern is something that affects your academic performance, first, attempt to resolve the issue directly with me. If resolution is not possible or I am unresponsive to your requests within a week, please contact the Chair of the Department. If the Chair is unable to resolve the matter or is unresponsive to your requests within a few days, please contact the Dean of the College or School. If the Dean is unable to resolve the matter or is unresponsive to your request, please contact the Office of the Provost at (406) 243-4689. If me, the Chair, the Dean, and the Provost's Office have not addressed the matter to your satisfaction, then please contact the ASUM Student Resolution Officer (406) 243-5431, [asumresolution-off@mso.umt.edu](mailto:asumresolution-off@mso.umt.edu). For more information on this, please visit: <https://www.umt.edu/provost/students/concerns/default.php>

Drop Policy – How late can I drop the course?

“Beginning the 46<sup>th</sup> day of the semester through the last regular class day (i.e. Friday) before Finals Week, students may drop courses only by petition. Note that not all petitions are approved and documentation is required. Some examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval are accident or illness, family emergency, or other circumstances beyond the student’s control. Instructors and advisors have the right to indicate that they do not recommend the drop”- the UM’s Academic Policies and Procedures.

GRADING:

Exams (3) – 35% of grade

Journal Entries – 25% of grade

Interpersonal Relationship Paper – 20% of grade

Substantive Discussion (4) – 20% of grade

GRADING SCALE: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59 and Below (F)

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following readings, journal deadlines, and tests are due on the day they are listed.

**\*\*\*When there are discussion forums, the deadline for posting initial responses to questions will be by Tuesday at midnight of that week. Replies, a minimum of two are required, must be posted by Sunday of that same week. On weeks when tests or assignments are due, they will be turned in on Monday.\*\*\***

- **January**

- 18 Course Introduction – Be sure to respond to the icebreaker discussion.
- 24 Chapter 1
- 31 Chapter 2
  - Graded Discussion Forum #1 (As will be the case every time a discussion forum is posted, initial responses must be posted by Tuesday (midnight) of this week; the discussion will end Sunday at midnight.)

- **February**

- 7 Chapter 3 (Journal Entries 1 & 2 Due)
- 14 Test 1 (Ch 1-3)
- 21 Chapter 4
  - Graded Discussion Forum #2
- 28 Chapter 5
  - Gender Article
  - Graded Discussion Forum #3

- **March**

- 7 Chapter 6 (Journal Entries 3 & 4 Due)
- 14 Test 2 (Ch 4-6) –Start Relationship Paper If You Have Not Already!
- 21 Spring Break, take a break and if you feel like it, work on your relationship paper
- 28 Chapter 7
  - Graded Discussion Forum #4

- **April**

- 4 Chapter 8
- 11 Chapter 9
- 18 Relationship Papers Due!
- 25 Test 3 (Ch 7-9)
- 29 Final Reflections

- **May**

- 6 Wrap up any remaining work