

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2021

COMX 202S.01: Nonverbal Communication

Stephen M. Yoshimura

University of Montana, Missoula, stephen.yoshimura@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Yoshimura, Stephen M., "COMX 202S.01: Nonverbal Communication" (2021). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 12161.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/12161>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

COMX 202: Nonverbal Communication

Fall 2021
CRN: 74776
MWF 12-12:50
McGill Hall 210

PROFESSOR: Dr. Steve Yoshimura
OFFICE: LA 347
OFFICE HOURS: Videoconference by appointment
Email: stephen.yoshimura@umontana.edu

Course Goals

In this class, you'll learn about how and why people exchange messages without words, that is, engage in nonverbal communication. We'll discuss research and theory on the different ways in which people express themselves nonverbally, the types of goals that nonverbal communication helps us fulfill, how context can change our inclinations toward nonverbal messages, and the ways that nonverbal communication can be applied in "real-world" settings.

By the time you complete this course, you should be able to:

- Define and classify the types of nonverbal behaviors involved in the study and practice of nonverbal communication.
- Identify and comprehend the major theoretical perspectives that help us explain and understand why people nonverbally communicate in certain ways.
- Describe theoretical explanations for nonverbal communication and outcomes.
- Explain how one person's nonverbal behaviors could affect another's.
- Apply knowledge about nonverbal communication to everyday situations.

Required materials

- Knapp, M. L., Hall, J. A., & Horgan, T. G. (2014). *Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction* (8th Ed.). Wadsworth
- Yoshimura, S. (2016). *Nonverbal Communication Research: Readings and Applications*. San Diego, CA: Cognella

Note: The above book can also be obtained for a reduced price at <https://store.cognella.com/81495-1b-ni-007>. After purchasing, you can log into your account and click "My Digital Materials" to get access to the first 30% of the book right away.

Course assignments

Choose any **two** of the following assignments (detailed instructions are on the course Moodle page):

- Culture and nonverbal communication: Due 9/22
- Gestures: Due 10/3
- Oculistics: Due 10/20
- Microenvironments: Due 11/10
- Building Rapport: Due 12/8

The instructions for each assignment are in the “Assignments” section of the course Moodle page. Please also see the document there entitled “Writing the Nonverbal Communication Assignments Well.” This will give you an idea of the general aspects that I am looking for to assess all of the assignments.

All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle course page and never emailed. No late papers are accepted without prior arrangements. All papers **must be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins on all sides**, with your name and ID number in the upper left corner. Papers that deviate from these format instructions will be subject to a 20% grade reduction.

Each paper is worth 50 points, so 100 total points are possible for these assignments.

Exams

Three multiple-choice exams will be administered. Each will be worth 50 points (so 150 total possible points)

Study guides will be provided within a week of each exam.

If the class or individual students are unable to meet for in-person exams, a videoconference oral exam or written essay format will be substituted. In any case, students will be expected to display comprehension of course terms and concepts, use examples of concepts, and apply knowledge about theories learned in this class.

Course Policies and Expectations

1. COVID-19

Vaccination is expected. They are free at the Curry Health Center, all grocery stores and pharmacies in town, and at the community vaccination site at Southgate Mall. Masks are required in all campus classrooms, to be worn over your mouth and nose. Refusing to wear a mask or wearing it improperly will be considered violations of the student conduct code.

If moving to Zoom becomes necessary, then a Zoom link will be made available on the course Moodle page. The class will then meet at the same time each week, and assignment dates will remain the same. If the class or individual students are unable to meet for in-person exams, a videoconference oral exam or written essay format will be substituted for the in-person multiple-choice version.

If you decide to or are required to isolate and/or go into quarantine, please use your university email account to immediately contact me at Stephen.yoshimura@umontana. We can discuss reasonable ways to support your continued academic progress.

Do not attend class if you feel like you might be sick, and/or know that you have been exposed to someone with Covid. Instead, please call the Curry Health Center at 406-243-4330 for a free and fast Covid test if you have not already done so. Certainly do not attend if you are uncontrollably coughing or sneezing for whatever reason. Coughing or sneezing are conditions under which I might stop a class session and instruct you to leave the classroom for everyone’s safety.

2. Attending class meetings

Attendance is expected, illness notwithstanding. See #1, above. Attendance will be taken daily.

Use of electronic devices during class for reasons unrelated to the course is prohibited.

3. Late Work

Assignments become late when they are turned in after their due time and date. Late assignments will receive a **20% penalty for each day** that it is late. After five days, assignments may not be graded.

4. Written Work

All papers must be double-spaced in entirety (no double-double spaces please), using 12-point Times-New-Roman font, with 1-inch margins all around, and in the appropriate format (APA). Do not increase font size, margin size, or line spacing as a way of trying to make a paper look more complete. Doing so will have the opposite effect.

5. **Academic Misconduct**

According to the University of Montana Catalog, “Plagiarism is the representing of another’s work as one’s own. It is a particularly intolerable offense in the academic community and is strictly forbidden. Students who plagiarize may fail the course and may be remanded to Academic Court for possible suspension or expulsion... Students must always be very careful to acknowledge any kind of borrowing that is included in their work. This means not only borrowed wording, but also ideas. Acknowledgement of whatever is not one’s own original work is the proper and honest use of sources. Failure to acknowledge whatever is not one’s own original work is plagiarism.” I want to add to that it also is not appropriate to submit papers written by yourself for previous or other courses.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the student conduct code. Please see the [Student Conduct Code](#) for definitions and consequences of cheating and plagiarism.

6. **Incompletes**

See the *University of Montana Catalog* for more information. These are very rarely granted, and only under the most unique circumstances.

7. **Credit/No Credit grade option**

According to the University Catalog, the Credit/No Credit grade option exists “to encourage students to venture into courses where they might otherwise hesitate because of uncertainty regarding their aptitude or preparation...” It does not exist as protection from poor performance after the 45th day of the semester. If you desire the credit/no credit grade option, you must indicate this decision to me within the first 45 days of the semester. I will not grant any grade-option changes past that time. *If you wish to apply this course to your major, minor, or general education requirements, you must take it for a traditional letter grade.*

8. **Unique Needs**

Everyone will have a fair chance at doing well in this class. If you have unique needs that help you overcome some challenge to your learning, please see Disability Services for Students (DSS) in the Lommasson Center (Room 144; phone: 243-2243). They will help you determine what types of resources are available to help you and will provide you with a letter to me detailing those resources. We will work together to make sure that you begin with a “level playing field” for your performance in this course.

9. **If you participate in University-sponsored activities (e.g., sports, debate, etc.) AND you will be missing assignment due dates or exams for related activities**

I need a letter from your coach documenting your participation, as well as copy of your schedule indicating which days of class you’ll need to miss due to your activity. You are responsible for getting notes and making arrangements to turn in your assignments/take exams.

10. **Help on campus**

Life, relationships, and college are complicated experiences even without a global pandemic happening. Yet, these are meaningful pursuits even while they are challenging. Please know that we have excellent professional resources on campus to help you manage a variety of issues that you might encounter. If you need assistance identifying a resource that could help you, please contact me at any time at stephen.yoshimura@umontana.edu.

Course Calendar*

Readings: **KHH** = Knapp, Hall, & Hogan; **Y** = Yoshimura

Week 1 : Introduction - Basic Nonverbal Communication Forms and Functions

- Defining Nonverbal Communication
- The Forms and Functions of Nonverbal Communication

Readings on Basic Nonverbal Communication Forms and Functions:

- KHH: Chapter 1
- Y: Chapter 1

Week 2 : Communicating Nonverbally Across Cultures

- Nonverbal Communication across cultures
Readings on Nonverbal Communication and Culture
 - KHH: Chapter 2
 - Y: Chapter 2

Week 3: The Use of Time as a Message

- Chronemics
Reading on chronemics:
 - Y: Chapter 12

Week 4: Nonverbal Communication Skills Nonverbal Communication Skills and Impressions

- Culture and nonverbal communication assignment due Wednesday 9/22
Readings on Nonverbal Communication Skills and Impressions
 - KHH: Chapter 3
 - Y: Chapter 3

Week 5: Bodily Movement

- Kinesics
Readings on Kinesic Codes:
 - KHH: Chapter 7
 - Y: Chapter 5

Week 6: Facial Codes

- Exam 1 Monday, 10/4
- Introduction to facial expressions and emotions
Readings on Facial Codes:
 - KHH: Chapter 9
 - Y: Chapter 6

Week 7: Eye Behavior

- Gestures assignment due by Wednesday 10/13
- Oculesics
Readings on Oculesic Codes:
 - KHH: Chapter 10
 - Y: Chapter 7

Week 8: Personal Appearance Codes

- Personal appearance codes
Readings on personal appearance:
 - KHH: Chapter 6
 - Y: Chapter 4
- Oculesics assignment due Wednesday, 10/20

Week 9: The Use of Touch as Communication

- Haptics
Readings on haptics:
 - KHH: Chapter 8
 - Y: Chapter 9

Week 10: Communicative Aspects of the Immediate Environment

- Exam 2 Monday 11/1
- Microenvironments
- **Reading on microenvironmental codes:**
 - **KHH: Chapter 4**

Week 11: Using Space and Distance to Communicate

- Proxemics
- **Readings on Proxemic Codes:**
 - **KHH: Chapter 5**
 - **Y: Chapter 8**
- Microenvironments paper due Wednesday 11/10

Week 12: Using the Voice to Send Messages

- Vocalics
- **Readings on vocalic codes:**
 - **KHH: Chapter 11**
 - **Y: Chapter 10**

Week 13: Fragrance and time as nonverbal codes

- Olfactics
- **Reading on olfactics:**
 - **KHH: Pages 179-182**
 - **Y: Chapter 11**

Attraction

- Attraction
- **Reading:**
 - **Y: Chapter 13**

Week 14: Putting it all together - Building Rapport

- Nonverbal immediacy
- **Readings on building rapport:**
 - See week 14 on Moodle

Week 15: Strategic Nonverbal Communication for Job Interviews

- Nonverbal communication and successful job interviews
- **Reading on nonverbal communication in job interviews:**
 - **Y: Chapter 14**
- Building Rapport assignment due Wednesday 12/8
- Exam 3: Friday, 12/10

Final meeting time: 12:10-2, Friday, Dec. 17th*

*The course calendar is subject to change as necessary and depending on any academic schedule changes related to Covid-19.