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COMM 202.01: Nonverbal Communication

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COMM 202s Nonverbal Communication

Blended Course: Tuesday on-campus class meetings + online components

Class Meeting Location: Charles H. Clapp Building 131

Instructor: Dr. Phyllis Ngai

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Office: LA 237

Office hours: 1 – 2 p.m., Tuesdays, and by appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with classic and contemporary ideas about how people communicate nonverbally. We will discuss the different channels through which people express themselves nonverbally, the functions of nonverbal communication, contextual factors impacting nonverbal communication, and the ways that nonverbal communication can be applied in “real-world” settings. A comparative approach is used to guide students to evaluate sociocultural influences on nonverbal communication. This is a blended course, incorporating online learning, in-class cooperative learning, and mini field research projects.

Course Objectives

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 communicate nonverbally in certain ways.
- Use theory and empirical knowledge to predict how one person’s nonverbal behaviors could affect another’s.
- Apply empirical knowledge about nonverbal communication to everyday situations.
- Become aware of sociocultural influences on nonverbal communication.

Required Text

Title: *Nonverbal Communication*

Authors: Judee Burgoon, Laura Guerrero, and Kory Floyd

Publisher: Allyn & Bacon, 2010

Optional Text:

Title: *The Nonverbal Communication Reader*

Editors: Laura Guerrero and Michael Hecht

Publisher: Waveland Press, 2008

Assessment

Assignment		Points Earned			
Quizzes on readings (seven)		Quiz 1=10 points Quiz 2 – 6 = 30 points x 5 =180 points			
Mini-projects (five)		80 points x 5 = 400 points			
In-class participation (six face-to-face meetings)		20 points x 6 =120 points			
Mid-term report and presentation		140 points			
Group project and presentation		150 points			
		Total: 1,000 points possible			
Distribution Scale		933 –1000	A	900 – 932	A-
866 – 899	B+	833 – 865	B	800 – 832	B-
766 – 799	C+	733 – 765	C	700 – 732	C-
666 – 699	D+	633 – 665	D	600 – 632	D-
		< 600	F		

Grading Rubric for In-class Participation

Grade	5 points or below	10 points	15 points	20 points
Grading criterion				
Content of Interaction	Your contributions are remotely related to the assigned readings or the ongoing class discussion.	Your contributions are supported or illustrated with some non-specific references to the assigned readings or personal experiences.	Your contributions are supported or illustrated with some non-specific references to the assigned readings or personal experiences.	Your contributions are thoughtful and supported with representative evidence from the assigned readings and/or are illustrated with direct quotes and specific examples from the assigned readings, personal experiences, and other sources.
Quality of Contribution	You sit quietly, but you do not participate in class discussion.	You contribute to class discussions no more than once or twice each bi-weekly meeting. Your contributions tend to be limited to short responses (a few words) to questions raised in class.	You contribute to class discussions by engaging in dialogues that involve supporting or challenging classmates' ideas and raising pertinent questions for further reflection and discussion.	Your contribution goes beyond Level B. In addition to helping further ongoing dialogues and stimulate deeper reflection, you assist your classmates decipher connections across concepts, ideas, and perspectives.
Professionalism	Arrive late or leave early for reasons other than illness or emergency. Show minimal interest in class discussions and activities.	Arrive on time. Listen attentively when others speak.	Arrive on time. Take part in all discussions and in-class activities seriously. Listen attentively when others speak.	Arrive on time and remain an interested and active participant throughout the whole class. Contribute to class discussions and activities using respectful, professional verbal and nonverbal communication approaches. Interact with others in a manner that conveys respect for diverse perspectives.

Quizzes

- You will complete seven online quizzes.
- The quizzes cover the required readings.
- The quiz dates are listed in the reading schedule attached to this syllabus.
- The quizzes are posted on Moodle.
- Each quiz includes multiple-choice and true/false questions.
- You can use your books and notes when completing the quizzes.
- Collaboration is not allowed during the quiz.

Mid-term Assessment

- You will complete a written report to demonstrate understanding of the key concepts and theories covered in the reading materials by October 16.
- You will work with a partner to prepare and present a presentation of the key concepts and theories.
- Detailed guidelines are posted on Moodle.

Mini Projects

You will complete the following projects during the semester. Detailed guidelines are posted on Moodle.

- Field Testing
- Storytelling
- Comparative Analysis
- Replica Experiment
- Cross-cultural Investigation

Final Assessment

- You will complete a capstone project that allows you to demonstrate understanding of the key concepts and theories covered in the reading materials.
- You will work with a group to define, design, and deliver the project.
- This last assignment requires application of the methods used throughout the semester to illustrate and investigate concepts and theories selected by your group.
- Guidelines and suggestions are posted on Moodle.

Communication

- The class meets face-to-face about every other week. The class time is reserved for discussions and presentations. All of the course information and assignments are posted on Moodle. Therefore, it is imperative that you pay close attention to the online component.
- Weekly announcements are posted on Moodle. It is important that you login regularly.
- To keep up with this course, you need to follow the weekly schedule on Moodle. There is a link dedicated to each week of the semester. Click on the link for the week and you find out what you are expected to complete during that week.
- Check your UM email regularly. Information about schedule changes, extra-credit earning opportunities, assignment modifications, deadline adjustments, etc. sometimes is sent via umconnect.edu. If I can't open any of your electronic submissions, I will e-mail to let you know. Don't miss important messages!

Online Grade Book

- You can click on "Grades" on Moodle to see the points you have earned throughout the semester.
- Please note that your final letter grade will be based on a 1000-point scale. The points you see in the online grade book are cumulative. Don't be alarmed when you see a low percentage early in the semester.

Course Policies

- You are responsible for submitting your assignments on due dates. Late work receives a 10% deduction each day from the assignment grade unless you provide a note from a doctor indicating that you were unable to complete the assignment because of sickness.
- Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). "Reasonable" means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.
- You should be aware that, as a student at the University of Montana, you must practice academic honesty and are bound by the following Code of Academic Conduct: <http://www.umt.edu/studentaffairs/sccAcademicConduct.htm>
As the code explains, 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. *As an academic crime, plagiarism merits academic punishment, ranging from an F on the assignment or for the course, to suspension or expulsion from the University.*
- September 17 is the last day to add/drop or change your grading option.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Date	Assignment
Week 1	Introduction to Nonverbal Communication	Aug 28	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 1 due
Week 2	Sociocultural and Bio-Evolutionary Influences on Nonverbal Communication	Week of Sep 4	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 2 due
Week 3		Sep 11 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Field testing report due
Week 4	The Body Code and the Visual and Auditory Codes	Week of Sep 18	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 3 due
Week 5		Sep 25 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Storytelling report due
Week 6	The Contact Codes and Place and Time Codes	Week of Oct 2	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 4 due
Week 7		Oct 9 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Comparative analysis report due
Week 8	Mid-Term	Oct 16 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Executive summary and presentation due
Week 9	Social Cognition, Impression Formation, and Expressing Identities	Week of Oct 23	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 5 due
Week 10		Oct 30 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face meeting Replica experiment report due
Week 11	Relational Messages: Intimacy, Affection, Power, Dominance, and Influence	Week of Nov 6	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 6 due
Week 12		Nov 13 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Cross-cultural investigation report due
Week 13	Managing Conversations and Deceiving Others	Week of Nov 20	Learning unit on Moodle Quiz 7 due
Week 14		Nov 27 Tuesday Meeting	Face-to-face class meeting Group project plan due
Week 15		Week of Dec 4	Work on group project
Finals Week	Finals week schedule posted on Moodle	Dec 13 Thursday Meeting	Group project presentation due