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Fall 9-2004

### COM 150S.50: Interpersonal Communication

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA-MISSOULA  
COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  
FALL 2004, ON-LINE COURSE SYLLABUS**

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE:** Com 150S, Interpersonal Communication

**SEMESTER CREDITS:** 3

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**INSTRUCTOR NAME:** Kim Reiser, M.A.

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** Kim.Reiser@mso.umt.edu

I am most easily reached by e-mail. However, it is also possible for you to leave messages for me at 243-7839.

**OFFICE LOCATION:** East white mobile annex in student parking lot (behind AD) at the East Campus College of Technology

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**COURSE RATIONALE**

Beebe, Beebe and Redmond (1999) write that "communication is at the core of our existence.... Most people spend between 80 and 90 percent of their waking hours communicating with others" (p.5). Beebe et al. explain that "it is through these interactions with others that we develop interpersonal relationships" (p.5). Our communication encounters create our identities. In addition, communication defines our relationships with friends, family, loved ones, and colleagues. Therefore, our understanding of interpersonal communication and the role we play in it will not only contribute to our sense of well-being and success in personal relationships, but to our success in work relationships as well. Furthermore, Beebe et al. (1999) write that communication affects the quality of our physical and emotional health" (p.9). In fact, supervisors recognize the importance of considering the communication skills of prospective employees. Grice and Skinner (2001) write, "In a 1999 report, the National Association of Colleges and Employers listed characteristics employers consider most important when hiring an employee. At the top of the list was communication skills" (p.6). Interpersonal Communication is particularly useful at the A.A.S. level as it is a type of communication that can be applied to many occupational fields.

**COURSE PURPOSE**

The purpose of this course is for students to become aware of their present communication styles and decide what is effective and what can be improved in order to build healthier relationships on an interpersonal level. Students will learn skills to help them manage conflict both in personal relationships and professional relationships. Communication will be viewed from both a verbal and nonverbal perspective. Communicating more clearly and listening more effectively will be addressed as well as the following topics: creating identities through communication, communication and emotion, interpersonal conflict management, creating healthy communication climates, gender communication, and cultural diversity and communication.

**STUDENT PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize communication patterns from family of origin.
2. 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.
4. Practice skills in listening reflectively, attentively, and more empathetically.
5. Recognize passive, aggressive, passive-aggressive and assertive behaviors and learn how to deal more effectively with them through conflict management skills.
6. Understand how the quality of communication directly affects the quality of relationships and ultimately the quality of life.
7. Identify practical skills geared towards improving communication in the workplace, in personal relationships, and in the family.
8. Understand the role emotions play in communication.

**GRADING:**

Exams (3) - 30% of grade

Interpersonal Relationship Paper - 20% of grade

Assignments - 20% of grade

Movie Paper - 10% of grade

Student Involvement (assesses involvement in course, discussion boards, and live chats) - 10% of grade

Abstracts for Research Relating Interpersonal Communication to Life or Future Occupation of Student (2) - 10 % of grade

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

**ASSIGNMENT AND TEST MAKEUP POLICY:**

No assignment or test makeups will be allowed. Please plan ahead. All of the due dates for readings, abstracts, papers, and tests are listed on the course calendar. All assignments will be posted at the beginning of the week they are due. It is your responsibility to check assignment and course postings regularly.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to university policy (see Student Conduct Code). Plagiarism consists of representing another person's words, ideas, data, or materials as one's own. All material submitted in this course must be your own. Cite research where it is used. Academic misconduct also includes knowingly submitting false information, i.e. in research papers, and it includes submitting work previously submitted in another course. Confirmation of academic misconduct may result in failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary warning, suspension or expulsion from the University.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Wood, J. T. (2004). Interpersonal communication: Everyday encounters (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing. **You will need a WebTutor access code to access important material for this course. Make sure you purchase this at the College of Technology bookstore.**

#### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

The following readings, tests, and papers are due on the day they are listed. Daily assignments are not listed; they will be posted at the beginning of each week as we progress through the course.

#### **August**

30 Introductions

#### **September**

7 Introduction and A First Look at Interpersonal Communication, Chapter 1  
Communication and the Creation of Self, Chapter 2

13 Perception and Communication, Chapter 3

20 The World of Words, Chapter 4  
REVIEW

27 EXAM #1

#### **October**

4 The World Beyond Words, Chapter 5  
ABSTRACT #1 DUE

11 Mindful Listening, Chapter 6

18 Emotions and Communication, Chapter 7  
REVIEW

25 EXAM #2

**November**

- 1      MOVIE PAPER FOR "OCTOBER SKY" or "DRIVING MISS DAISY" DUE
- 8      Communication Climate, Chapter 8  
Assertiveness Material
- 15     Managing Conflict in Relationships, Chapter 9  
ABSTRACT #2 DUE
- 22     Relationships in Context – Pages TBA  
REVIEW
- 29     EXAM #3

**December**

- 6      Final Course Discussions
- 13     FINAL WEEK – YOUR RELATIONSHIP PAPER (YOUR FINAL FOR THIS  
COURSE) MUST BE SENT TO ME BEFORE THURSDAY OF FINALS      WEEK