

COMM W107: Interpersonal Communication (ONLINE)
Spring 2021

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 (in Person, by phone, or on zoom)
Zoom Meeting ID: 871 5542 7876 Passcode: W107

Teaching Assistants:

Nan Wilkenfeld Email: jnwilkenfeld@ucsb.edu
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Office Hours: Wed 3-5pm (Zoom: <https://ucsb.zoom.us/j/86515201109>)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of theory and research in interpersonal communication, including social and intimate relationships and conversational interaction.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course:

1. Students should be able to identify the qualities associated with and distinguish among the major types of verbal and nonverbal communication used in interpersonal contexts.
2. Students should be able to make qualitative distinctions among the various types of interpersonal relationships and the patterns of interaction typically associated with those relationships.
3. Students should be able to identify the connection between perceptions, listening habits, and interpersonal needs to communication; and should be able to assess the logic of this connection in their own communication practices. In other words, students should be able to describe their own perception and listening strengths and weaknesses, and their individual interpersonal needs because these dimensions are reflected and enacted through communication.
4. Because interpersonal communication is always goal-directed, students should be able to analyze their own and others' messages for what purpose or goal is attempting to request information and provide feedback to others, to be congruent with their goals.
5. Students should be able to describe their own communication patterns of listening, self-disclosure, assertiveness, and conflict, and how to alter those patterns if they are not working productively in their important relationships.

COURSE FORMAT: ONLINE COURSE

This course is offered entirely online with no synchronous meetings. Beware! An online asynchronous course does not mean less work; it means the same amount of work but is produced and submitted through a variety of media. Much of the additional time spent out-of-class is not time-bound so that the work required can be done when it is most convenient for you. The emphasis on computer instruction in an online course serves to extend the learning environment, accommodates the variety of learning strategies among students, promotes self-directed learning, provides a repository for all kinds of communication and homework, and makes possible group interaction and collaboration without requiring all persons to be in one location at one time.

TIPS FOR TAKING AN ONLINE COURSE:

1. Use a computer, not your phone. A tablet may work as well but it is difficult to do all the readings and quizzes on a small screen. If you do not have access to a computer, check the financial resources page below. Taking online classes without access to a computer is not advised.
2. Be sure to check your spam folder and add me to your "safe senders" list. If you don't have an email from me by the second day of class, you have missed something! It is your responsibility to make sure that the emails from Gauchospace go to an inbox you check regularly because I will send out important instructions and reminders regularly.
3. Put all the due dates from the syllabus below onto your calendar that you check daily. "I forgot to take this week's quiz" is not a valid excuse for making a quiz up.
4. Don't leave things until the last minute. If you wait until 4:30 to take a quiz due at 5:00 you might not finish in time. There could be an internet or power outage or your computer might need to update. These are typical occurrences and should be expected.
5. Check the announcements page on Gauchospace regularly. You must get access to the course page by the first Wednesday of class.

There are 10 modules in the course and for each, you will be asked to:

1. Read textbook chapters or journal articles, view a website, watch a YouTube video, or engage with some other material I have assigned.
2. View a video from me about the module's material.
3. Post to the discussion board twice during the module to give your thoughts on the lecture or materials.
4. Do an open-book quiz on Gauchospace to gauge your learning of the material.

TEXTS

Required:

- Floyd, K. (2021). *Interpersonal Communication* (4th edition). McGraw-Hill. (ISBN: 978-1-260-82288-5)
- Additional readings and activities available on Gauchospace.
- Optional but recommended : APA Publication Manual (7th edition)

You can rent the Floyd textbook directly from the publisher for \$50 (choose the 180-day Rental option under McGraw-Hill ebook). There are options to purchase the e-book or a hard copy forever too if you want to spend more for that but the rental is fine for our purposes. Use this link:

<https://www.mheducation.com/highered/product/interpersonal-communication-floyd/M9781260822885.html>

GRADING

This class has 200 possible points. Assignments will have the following weighting:

Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each = 100 points)

Discussion Boards (3 points each, 2 per week = 60 points)

Final Paper (40 points)

Extra Credit: 5 Bonus Points if you come to Zoom Office Hours at least once during the Quarter (Prof or a TA).

Every assignment and exam must at least be attempted in order for the student to receive a passing grade. The final course grade will be determined by combining test scores and written assignment scores. The final totals will be curved if necessary. The grading distribution is as follows:

A+	98%-100%	A	93%-97%	A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%	B	83%-86%	B-	80%-82%
C+	77%-79%	C	73%-76%	C-	70%-72%
D+	67%-69%	D	63%-66%	D-	50%-62%
F	below 50%				

ASSIGNMENTS

Quizzes: This course will have no midterm or final exam. Instead, we will have an open-book quiz for each module on the material covered that I will post on Gauchospace. This is an open book test but your time is limited to 1 hour. You should only take it once you have read all the materials and viewed the lecture because there won't be time for you to go and read or watch things, it is meant to be a test of your understanding of the content of the module's lessons. Take it anytime in the module but it must be done by the date on the calendar. It can't be repeated and it can't be made up once it is missed. You are expected to take the quiz on your own, not in collaboration with other students. Treat it like an open-book test you would take in class.

Discussion Boards: Be sure you can access the course Gauchospace page in the first module of the quarter and each module you will be asked to post discussion forum responses on Gauchospace. Your discussion board posts will be graded according to the quality of the response. These responses will be ranked on a three-point scale: 3 is excellent, 2 is satisfactory, and 1 is unsatisfactory. An "excellent" discussion-forum post will raise useful provocations, ask compelling questions, and/or bring in relevant ideas from outside our course. You may write an original post, or respond to one of your peers and you should be doing **two posts per module**. You must post by date on the calendar.

Think of discussion board posts as an opportunity to organize your thoughts as you proceed through the course, to share ideas and questions with your peers, to raise concerns for discussion in class, and to reflect on connections you are making between topics of the course. Posts should not be quick replies that you dash off at the last minute. They should be thoughtful answers that give a thorough examination of the question and demonstrate your knowledge of the material.

Online conduct in discussion boards should also be guided by common sense and basic etiquette. "Personal attacks" are defined as comments that reflect upon the person instead of their opinion and should be avoided. Profanity, strong vulgar language, crude, lewd or explicit sexual references and hate speech -- epithets directed against one's race, religion, ethnic origin, gender or sexual preference -- are not allowed even if disguised with asterisks or other text and characters. If I deem your post to be offensive or contrary to the educational goals of our course, I will remove it and you will receive a grade of zero.

Research Papers: All papers will be turned in electronically to Gauchospace. You must **select one** of these two paper options. Choose the one with a due date that suits your own schedule and interests. If you choose paper option 1, it is due sooner than paper option 2 and you won't have the option to write the second paper for more points because that would be unfair to the students who choose paper option 2.

Paper Option 1 (Due at the start of Week 7): Record every emotion experienced during a 48-hour period and indicate the intensity of experience and expression for each. In addition, write down a couple sentences related to the way you appraised the emotion-causing event and who, if anyone, was the direct cause. Then analyze your entire 48-hour experience and reflect on patterns that stand out and what they say about you, specifically, and people, more broadly. Your analysis must explicitly include reference to constructs discussed in class and/or the readings.

Paper Option 2 (Due at the end of Week 10): Choose an interpersonal communication challenge that you would like to overcome in your personal or professional life. You can choose a challenge that occurred in the past and that no longer exists, or you can choose a challenge that you currently face. Describe the problem and why it is important. Show that you understand the complexity of your interpersonal communication challenge. Based on everything you learned from this class, offer solutions to your challenge, and provide a rationale for your solutions (include evidence to support your solutions). Your analysis must explicitly include reference to constructs discussed in class and/or the readings.

Your essay should be typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins on all sides, 12 pt. standard font (such as Times or Garamond) and should follow APA guidelines. It is important that you proofread all your work thoroughly.

Excessive errors in grammar, syntax, and spelling will negatively affect your grade. Papers will be graded based on the completeness of the information, quality of the writing, and the correct usage of APA style (see my detailed rubric that will be posted on Gauchospace). Errors in grammar and spelling interfere with communication and will result in a reduction in the overall grade. Consult the tips for writing and proper use of APA style available in the documents on Gauchospace. **Check the paper rubric on Gauchospace before you start writing.**

INSTRUCTIONAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty: All work must be the original work of the student **and not turned in to any other course prior to this one.** Your papers may be checked for originality using plagiarism detection software. Here is the statement on Academic Honesty from the UCSB Campus regulations document online (http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/Regulations/student_conduct.aspx):

It is expected that students attending the University of California understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity, and are willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Any work (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill an academic requirement must represent a student's original work. Any act of academic dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, will subject a person to University disciplinary action. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, looking at another student's examination, referring to unauthorized notes during an exam, providing answers, having another person take an exam for you, etc. Representing the words, ideas, or concepts of another person without appropriate attribution is plagiarism. Whenever another person's written work is utilized, whether it be a single phrase or longer, quotation marks must be used and sources cited. Paraphrasing another's work, i.e., borrowing the ideas or concepts and putting them into one's "own" words, must also be acknowledged. Although a person's state of mind and intention will be considered in determining the University response to an act of academic dishonesty, this in no way lessens the responsibility of the student.

Policy on selling my course materials: All course materials (class lectures and discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law, the California Civil Code. The UC Policy 102.23 expressly prohibits anyone from recording lectures or discussions and from distributing or selling lectures notes and all other course materials without the prior written permission of the instructor (see <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710530/PACAOS-100>). Students are permitted to take notes solely for their own private educational use. Exceptions to accommodate students with disabilities may be granted with appropriate documentation. To be clear, in this class students are forbidden from making/completing study guides and selling them to any person or organization. Please don't post my videos online or give access to people outside the class.

Policy on late assignments or missed exams: Late papers will be accepted only with the instructor's approval and will be penalized 5 points for each 24 hour period they are overdue, including weekends. Make-up quizzes or discussion boards are an option only when documented circumstances beyond the student's control make taking the assignment at the scheduled time impossible. Except for illness, participation in officially recognized University activities, or other documented emergencies, incompletes for the course will not be given. If you have routine absences for University business, please let me know in the first two weeks of class.

Students with Disabilities: Appropriate arrangements will be made for students who have documented and verified disabilities, in accordance with UCSB's Disabled Student Program (DSP - located at 2120 Student Resource Bldg.). In order to ensure these accommodations, it is your responsibility to ensure that your official status and eligibility information appear on the DSP website.

COURSE MODULES

Module	Topic	Required Reading	Due dates
1	About Communication	Floyd Chapter 1 + GS	Quiz 1 & Discussion Board 1: Due April 1 @ 5:00pm PST
2	Culture and Gender	Floyd Chapter 2 + GS	Quiz 2 & Discussion Board 2: Due April 8 @ 5:00pm PST
3	Language	Floyd Chapter 5 + GS	Quiz 3 & Discussion Board 3: Due April 15 @ 5:00pm PST
4	Nonverbal Comm	Floyd Chapter 6 + GS	Quiz 4 & Discussion Board 4: Due April 22 @ 5:00pm PST
5	Listening	Floyd Chapter 7 + GS	Quiz 5 & Discussion Board 5: Due April 29 @ 5:00pm PST
6	Emotion	Floyd Chapter 8 + GS	Quiz 6 & Discussion Board 6: Due May 6 @ 5:00pm PST
7	Close Relationships	Floyd Chapter 10 + GS	Paper Option 1: Due May 9 @ 5:00 PST Quiz 7 & Discussion Board 7: Due May 13 @ 5:00pm PST
8	Conflict	Floyd Chapter 11 + GS	Quiz 8 & Discussion Board 8: Due May 20 @ 5:00pm PST
9	Deception	Floyd Chapter 12 + GS	Quiz 9 & Discussion Board 9: Due May 27 @ 5:00pm PST
10	Review and Paper		Quiz 10, Discussion Board 10 & Paper Option 2: All Due June 3 @ 5:00pm PST

Note: Quizzes and Discussion Boards (DBs) can always be turned in early once the module is available on Gauchospace (GS).