

**University of La Verne
Department of Speech Communication
SPCM 210: Interpersonal Communication
Spring 2018**

Class Delivery: **Online through University of La Verne's Blackboard**

Professor: **Dr. Jeanne Flora**

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Office Hours: **Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:00 a.m., PST**
Feel free to email me or call me with questions ANYTIME.
I usually respond to emails within 24 hours during the M-F
work week.

Text: **There are three editions of the text that are ALL acceptable.**
The University of LaVerne bookstore will stock the 7th edition,
however it is most expensive because it is the newest. You may
also purchase the 6th edition or even the 5th edition from an
online site like Amazon or another bookseller. These will be
considerably cheaper and will do the job just fine.

Trenholm, S., & Jensen, T. (2013). *Interpersonal communication*. 7th ed. New York: Oxford.

Trenholm, S., & Jensen, T. (2010). *Interpersonal communication*. 6th ed. New York: Oxford.

Trenholm, S., & Jensen, T. (2004). *Interpersonal communication*. 5th ed. New York: Oxford.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication refers to the social and emotional aspects of messages, the effects and impressions they create, and the barriers to understanding that they raise or remove. Throughout the course we will explore a number of current topics in the field of interpersonal communication, with particular emphasis on the processes that govern personal relationships. Besides studying theory and research, this course emphasizes actively practicing and writing about interpersonal communication skills.

Course Goals

- A To introduce basic theory and research in interpersonal communication.
- B To help students understand their implicit (personal) theory of interpersonal communication and how it affects their communication.
- C To provide the opportunity for students to improve their communication through skill exercises in activities or journals exercises that address interpersonal communication skills.

Course Requirements

BLACKBOARD: You are required to check Blackboard frequently. Blackboard is an important resource for you as it contains an updated course calendar with dates for the exams, papers, and our journal assignments. You will be held accountable for knowing the information on this site, which includes changes to the syllabus, calendar, and e-mail announcements.

ATTENDANCE and ABSENCES: In an online class, I don't take daily attendance, but you are responsible for keeping up with class participation. It is important that you **read and study the week-by-week power point slides as well as listen to my lecture embedded as audio links in the power point slides. Many exam questions come from the audio power point lectures, meaning that reading the book alone will not be enough to do well on the exams. In fact, the audio power point slides are one of your most important study tools for exams**

DUE DATES: Exam dates, paper due dates, and journal assignments are listed in the syllabus. If you do not complete an assignment by the due date, you receive "0" points. The **ONLY** exception to this policy is a situation that **I determine** to be an emergency, in which case you should contact me **as soon as possible**. The situations I deem to be emergencies are serious, compelling, and verifiable situations (such as an acute medical emergency) that can be demonstrated, and the student has made every reasonable effort to contact the instructor beforehand. Make-up work will not be allowed for reasons such as car trouble, work scheduling conflicts, family or relationship crises, or non-school related travel plans. All assignments will be announced sufficiently in advance to allow for thorough preparation and timely completion. All assignments should be submitted on Blackboard, on or before their scheduled due dates.

If any kind of problem arises for you, whether it is illness, school travel, or even any problem you experience in the class, please talk to me. I can help you understand your options better the earlier you talk to me.

EXAMS AND PAPERS: There will be two exams, each worth 50 points (100 points total for exams), and one paper worth 52 points. The paper asks you to reflect on the use of various communication skills in romantic relationships (either one of your own or one you have observed). Exams and papers will be based on the material covered in lecture and the book. Exams will not be cumulative. You will receive detailed requirements for the paper in the latter half of the semester.

JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS: As listed in the syllabus, you will complete 6 journal assignments. Journal assignments are worth 8 points. **Journal assignments are always due before Fridays at 12:00 p.m. (noon), although there is not one due every week. Check the syllabus for dates.**

GRADING:

Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Analysis paper based on relational communication	52
Journal assignments (6 @ 8 pts. each)	<u>48</u>
	200 pts total

Grading will be on a straight percentage, based on the total 200 points in the class:

93-100 % = A
90-92 % = A-
87-89 % = B+
83-86 % = B
80-82 % = B-
77-79 % = C+
73-76 % = C
70-72 % = C-
67-69 % = D+
63-66 % = D
60-62 % = D-
59 % and below = F

Course Outline

Week 1 (Mar. 26-30)

Topic: Chapters 1 & 2: Defining Communication and Interpersonal Communication

To Do: *Listen to audio on the Chapters 1 & 2 power point – take notes as you listen – lots of exam questions come from the power point audio – the audio is basically the equivalent to my in-class lectures

*Read Chapters 1 & 2 after listening to the power point audio – this way you know what parts of the chapter I think are most important—it will save you time and you can focus your reading on the most important parts

***Do the Journal Assignment #1: Due Friday, Mar. 30 before 12:00 noon. Also look ahead to see what is involved in Journal Assignment #2. You will need to start the work for Journal #2 a few days before the due date.**

Week 2 (Apr. 2-6)

Topic: Chapter 3 Nonverbal Competence

To Do: *Listen to Chapter 3 power point and then read Chapter 3

***Do Journal Assignment #2: Due Friday, Apr. 6 before 12:00 noon. Start on this assignment a few days ahead of time because it requires you to complete an informal experiment, interview a friend/family member, and listen to an 11 minute video before you complete follow-up questions for each activity.**

Week 3 (Apr. 9-13)

Topic: Chapter 4 Verbal Competence

Topic: Chapter 5 Relational Competence (if you have 5th or 6th ed. of text)

If you have the 7th edition, then instead of reading Chapter 5, read p. 264-267 beginning with the section “Individual Relational Messages and Intimacy” and stop before you get to the section “Opening the Door to Intimacy.” **Also** read p. 285-290 beginning with the section “Unhealthy Patterns of Communication” **through** the section “Gottman’s Four Horseman”.

To Do: Note: ***TWO JOURNALS DUE THIS WEEK**

*Listen to Chapter 4 power point and then read Chapter 4

***Do Journal Assignment #3: Due Friday, Apr. 13 before 12:00 noon.**

*Listen to Chapter 5 power point and then read Chapter 5 or the other designated readings if you have the 7th edition

***Do Journal Assignment #4: Due Friday, Apr. 13 before 12:00 noon.**

***EXAM #1 BECOMES AVAILABLE TO YOU APR. 13 AT NOON**

***EXAM STUDY GUIDE POSTED ON BLACKBOARD UNDER
“ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS” LINK. This is a very helpful!**

Week 4 (Apr. 16-20)

Topic: Exam I

To Do: *See Exam Review Posted on Blackboard

***Take Exam I through Blackboard by Friday, Apr. 20 before 12:00 noon. This will be an open book exam and with essay/short answer questions. The exam will be made available to you beginning on Friday, Apr. 13 at 12 noon. Thus, you will have a week to take the exam. However, once you go into Blackboard to take the exam, you will have a time limit of 2 hours, and you can only go into Blackboard once to attempt the exam. You will be locked out if you exit Blackboard during the exam and try to get back in at a later date/time.**

Week 5 (Apr. 23-27)

Topic: Chapter 6 Interpretive Competence: How We Perceive
Individuals, Relationships, and Social Events

To Do: *Listen to Chapter 6 power point and then read Chapter 6
***Do Journal Assignment #5: Due Friday, Apr. 27 before 12:00 noon.**

Week 6 (Apr. 30-May 4)

Topic: Chapter 7 Role Competence
Chapter 8 Self Competence

To Do: *Listen to Chapter 7 power point and then read Chapter 7
*Listen to Chapter 8 power point and then read Chapter 8
***Do Journal Assignment #6: Due Friday, May 4 before 12:00 noon.**

Week 7 (May 7-11)

Topic: Chapter 9 Goal Competence

To Do: *Listen to Chapter 9 power point and then read Chapter 9
NO JOURNAL DUE THIS WEEK...GET READY FOR EXAM II
MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU ON MAY 11. [Study Guide for Exam II](#)
[posted under "Assignments and Exams" link in Blackboard.](#)

Week 8 (May 14-18)

Topic: Exam II

To Do: *See Exam II Review Posted on Blackboard

***Take Exam II through Blackboard before Friday, May 18 at 12:00 noon. This will be an open book exam and with essay/short answer questions. The exam will be made available to you beginning on Friday, May 11 at 12 noon. Thus, you will have a week to take the exam. However, once you go into Blackboard to take the exam, you will have a time limit of 2 hours, and you can only go into Blackboard once to attempt the exam. You will be locked out if you exit Blackboard during the exam and try to get back in at a later date/time.**

Week 9 (May 21-25)

Topic: Chapter 11 Relational Communication
Listen to Chapter 11 power point and then read Chapter 11

The following week you will be writing your final course paper over the topic of relational communication. Because this is a lengthy paper, you should begin the paper this week! The paper requires that you interview another couple, or write about one of your relationships. The paper requires no library research, but you need to listen to the Chapter 11 power point. It is an application paper. But because it is a 5-8 page paper, you will want to begin it this week. Use this weekend of May 26/27 to work on the paper!!

*See the paper directions under the Assignments link. Remember that the paper requires you to interview another couple, unless you decide to write about one of your own relationships.

Week 10 (May 29-June 1)

Topic: Relational Communication Paper **Due Friday, June 1, before 12:00 noon**

Submit the paper through Blackboard by attaching it under the Assignments link. I prefer Microsoft Word documents as attachments.

Academic Misconduct

IT IS ACADEMICALLY DISHONEST, AND OFTEN ILLEGAL, to present someone else's ideas or writing as one's own. Even short phrases or parts of sentences cannot be obtained from other sources unless these sources are acknowledged and documented. You should use APA style to reference and document sources. It is expected that each assignment will be completed in its entirety by each student.

It is expected that each assignment will be completed in its entirety by each student. Submission of papers, exams, journal entries, or discussion board postings that are written, prepared, or taken by another person is not permissible. Plagiarism is not acceptable. Plagiarism warrants a failing grade for the course and the student will be referred to the department chair for further academic discipline.

Non-Academic Misconduct

The University of La Verne takes non-academic misconduct very seriously, and this goes for online classes as well. I will highlight a few issues, although my list is not exhaustive. Take care and concern in what you write in e-mails and journal assignments in this online class. You should avoid language that threatens violence or the health/safety of another person, language that is abusive, indecent, infringes on the privacy and privileges of others, or disturbs the peace or orderly process of education, or language that misrepresents your identity. There are ways to respectfully disagree with the opinions of others, and I expect you to attend to issues of respect and honor the education process.

Syllabus Subject to Change

The syllabus may be changed or updated if necessary.