

COM 354 - INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

**Professor: Dan Hanson, Dept of Communication Studies,
Augsburg College**

OFFICE: MUSIC 25A, CAMPUS BOX 282

**OFFICE HOURS: W 10:00-11:30 am, F 4:00-5:00 pm, Sat. 7:00-8:00
am (or by appointment)**

PHONE: 612-330-1540 OR 763-420-6994 (no calls after 9:00 pm)

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TEXT: *The Interpersonal Communication Book 11th ed*, Joseph A. DeVito

Interpersonal communication is vital to our understanding of self and other in the context of our homes, our communities and the workplace. This course examines current communication theories and applies them to everyday life experiences. The course combines readings, lectures, exercises, application, and group discussion. You apply theory to your life experiences through journal assignments, group projects and class discussion. The topics covered in this class include:

Interpersonal communication models

Self and communication

Perception & Listening

Ethics

Self-disclosure

Communication Styles

Verbal & nonverbal messages

Relationships development

Power

Conflict

Love & friendship

Primary relationships & secondary relationships

Relationship deterioration and repair

ASSIGNMENTS:

Journals (100 points)

You will be required to write four journals of approximately five pages each. Each journal is worth 25 points. Journals are due at the beginning of each class session as noted in the schedule attached. Journals focus on the assigned lecture and reading topics. The first part of the journal defines the

concept or theory in one or two short paragraphs. The second part of your journal applies the theory to your everyday experiences. **Note: Late journals will not receive full credit.**

Group Research project (100 points)

Your group will research an aspect of communication theory that interests you. The group will write a 7-10 page paper (double-spaced) on your research project. Your group will present your research to the class on session 7. Further details are provided in class.

Exams (100 points)

Objective midterm worth 50 points covers lectures and readings. Subjective final worth 50 points is based on application of theory. Further details are provided in class.

Grading:

Grading is based on a simple point scale (285-300=4.0, 270-284=3.5, 250-269=3.0, 240-249=2.5, 215-234=2.0). I will consider a curve based on overall class performance.

Attendance policy: It is important to attend every class session since in-class exercises and discussion are key components. Due to the experiential nature of this course if you miss more than two unexcused absences you may be advised to drop the course and re-take it at another time.

Other comments: I am open to concerns, complaints and suggestions to improve this class. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always just a phone call or email away.

CLASS SCHEDULE

(Subject to revision based on class input)

- Session 1: Course intro, form groups, lecture-dialogue on communication models, self and communication, perception & listening, **Read Chapters 1, 4, & 5 in DeVito text.**
- Session 2: Lecture-dialogue on self-disclosure, gender, and styles, verbal and nonverbal communication; self-disclosure exercise, Gender Video; **Journals due on perception & listening, Read DeVito Chapters 2, 3, and 6-8.**
- Session 3: Lecture-dialogue on types of relationships, intercultural communication, and power, Groups meet on projects; **Journals due on styles and self-disclosure, Read DeVito Chapters 9, 10, and 14.**
- Session 4: **Midterm exam;** Lecture-dialogue and exercise on conflict; **Read DeVito chapter 13.**
- Session 5: Lecture-dialogue on relationship development, deterioration, maintenance and repair; Group exercise, Groups meet on projects; **Journal due on power and conflict, Read DeVito chapters 11 & 12.**
- Session 6: General review, Groups meet to prepare presentation; distribute take-home exam, **Journals due on relationships**
- Session 7: Group presentations, Dialogue on group discoveries; **Group research papers due, Take-home Exam due**