



TRUE BLUE CORE

COMM 2300: Interpersonal Communication
3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Instructor:

Office Location:

Office Phone:

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Information

Description

Welcome to Interpersonal Communication! COMM 2300 is an introduction to the basic processes of interpersonal communication and to some of the most important contexts in which interpersonal communication occurs. You will learn those fundamental features of interpersonal communication, such as perception, emotion, goal-based conflict management. You also will study those significant interpersonal contexts, where family, romantic, friendship, work, and cross-cultural relationships are built, maintained, and transformed through interpersonal communication. COMM 2300 is designed to blend abstract analysis and concrete experience. You and your classmates will be encouraged to apply course concepts to experiences outside of the classroom. These applications are intended to deepen your appreciation of everyday life and to enhance your interpersonal communication skills.

Objectives and Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Explain how factors, such as self-concept, perception, communication goals, emotions, gender, ethnicity/race, and age, play a role in affecting communication process.
- Describe how nonverbal and listening behaviors can help or hinder verbal communication.
- Understand the role communication plays in various contexts, such as friendships and professional settings and romantic and family relationships
- Apply what you learn to real-life scenarios, including your observations of your own communication behavior
- Self-assess your learning by producing written accounts of high-impact activities in this class

True Blue Core Category and Student Learning Outcome

True Blue Core Category: Explorations in Human Society and Social Relationships

True Blue Core Outcome: Students will think critically by explaining issues/problems, selecting and using evidence, considering context and assumptions, and representing their position and conclusions logically and effectively.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites

None

Requirements

- Active e-email address registered with the university
- Access to D2L

Course Materials

Required Textbooks

Floyd, Kory (2017) *Interpersonal Communication (3rdth ed)*. McGraw Hill.

Where to get it

- **Bookstores, Amazon, Chegg, etc.**
- **E-Book through the publisher's website**

Assessment and Grading

Grading Procedures

Please note: ***This is a GRADE-FREE ZONE!*** That means we are de-centering grades by shifting our focus away from *performing* toward *learning and growth*.

“But Professor, don't we *have* to have grades?”

No, not really. Technically, at the end of the semester, I do have to submit a letter grade for you. My goal is for this grade to reflect *not what you have produced in this class*, but ***how the things you produce have contributed to your learning***. Through a process of dialogic self-assessment (written reflections and meetings with me), you will tell me what that midterm and final “grade” should be. Self-assessment of student learning will be a rigorous and necessary process that takes into account such things as:

- What do you know now that you didn't know before this class?
- How much have you read?
- How much have you contributed to class conversations?
- How many writing assignments have you completed?
- Have you changed your mind about anything?
- How many quizzes have you completed? Any quiz questions that bothered you? Why?

...etc. In terms of our learning to-do list, you will have:

- Chapter reading quizzes in D2L (10 – yes, 10 – attempts each)
- 4 Short papers called “Think Pieces”
- A 3-part autoethnography project involving field notes and two papers that build on one another
- Then, to tie it all together, you will have a midterm and final self-assessment worksheet and meeting with me.

“So, are there deadlines? Late work?”

There ARE deadlines, just like in the real world. There are no extensions for missed reading quizzes. As a preparation exercise, if you don’t do it before class, you don’t do it “_(ツ)_/” For the written assignments, you can submit them after the deadline if you *contact me ahead of time*. I might get around to providing you feedback, I might not.

But think about it this way: Everything we do in this class is to *enhance YOUR learning*. When you skip or forget about something, you are missing out on a *learning opportunity for you*, not depriving your professor of some important piece of information. I actually don’t *need* your papers for anything (except for assessment when you get to 4700), although I *enjoy* reading and providing written feedback on them. Know why I enjoy that? Because they *show me* what you’ve learned and what I can be doing better to support that learning.

Academic Integrity/Misconduct

Despite the Ungrading approach taken in this class, there will still be expectations for deadlines, plagiarism, and falsification of information.

Please review the information on Academic Integrity and Misconduct at this web site: <http://www.mtsu.edu/provost/acadmisconduct.php>. The instructor will be submitting materials to an online service (Turnitin.com) which will review the work for plagiarism. Students should also review the report generated for each assignment and self-check for plagiarism. Information on how to cite work correctly is provided within the course modules, and you may read more about how to avoid plagiarism from the RODP Virtual Library website at the following address: <https://www.tnecampus.info/online-integrity>.

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting as one’s own work, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, computer programs, or other projects prepared by another person
- Knowingly assisting another student in obtaining or using unauthorized materials
- Submitting assignments previously used in other courses where you received credit for the work (this is called “self-plagiarism”)
- Improperly crediting or lack of crediting an original author’s work

Students guilty of academic misconduct are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions (including expulsion from the university), which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of

academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or zero for an activity or to assign an “F” for the course. Students guilty of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades are given rarely and only in extenuating circumstances. Page 56 of the MTSU Undergraduate Catalog states: “The grade I indicates that the student has not completed all course requirements because of illness or other uncontrollable circumstances, especially those which occur toward the end of the term. Mere failure to make up work or turn in required work on time does not provide the basis for the grade of “I” unless extenuating circumstances noted above are present for reasons acceptable to the instructor.” Please refer to the Undergraduate catalog for the complete Incomplete Grade Policy.

Assignments and Participation

Assignments and Projects

Autoethnography*: Autoethnography is the study of the researcher’s own interaction with people and groups as s/he goes about his/her life. This is a research assignment that will be turned in as three separate parts. It will involve self-observation, reflection/analysis, and theoretical application. Please see assignment description for details and due dates in D2L.

Think Pieces: You will have 4 think pieces due over the course of the semester. These are ~2 page papers where you are responding to a specific prompt by applying your own experiences to materials we have covered in class. Please see assignment description for details and due dates in D2L.

Reading Quizzes: For each chapter, there is a 5-question open-book reading quiz. These are meant to highlight the most important reading concepts from each. There is no time limit for these (Okay, D2L made me set a limit so it’s 5,000 minutes) and 10 attempts available.

MT Engage Course*

This course is an **MT Engage course**. MT Engage promotes active engagement in learning and integrative thinking and reflection across educational experiences. In this MT Engage course you will participate in a beyond-the-classroom activity and submit at least one assignment to the D2L ePortfolio. You will also answer questions about your MT Engage experience in an end-of-course survey. You will receive important informational emails from the MT Engage program about ePortfolio training and how you can qualify for the MT Engage scholarship competition. For more information, go to <http://www.mtsu.edu/MTEngage>.

Class Participation

Participation is about showing up (on time) and being engaged. Doing things like being on your phone or other device, not taking notes, sleeping, or otherwise not paying attention...you might

as well not be there. Asking questions, responding to the instructor and classmates, and actively taking notes = good participation and engagement.

Punctuality

Please avoid being late for class. It is disruptive.

Attendance Reporting

MTSU Administration requires that instructors complete an attendance report for each course each semester. Regular class attendance is required and will be monitored by a roll call or sign in sheet.

Communication Guidelines

Email

Per the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), all course communication will be conducted using D2L email OR MTSU email. Faculty will not respond to student emails via a non-institutional assigned email account.

Email Netiquette

The [University of South Florida](#), recommends the guidelines below when communicating in an online course.

- *Always identify yourself and keep your messages brief and to the point. Remember that not everyone accesses email from a computer these days. Many people use portable devices such as cell phones to quickly check their email while they are away from a computer. They will appreciate not having to wait for the long messages to download.*
- *Include a concise subject line with all of your emails. Use standard fonts.*
- *Let your recipient know right away if any action is required of them.*
- *Avoid “flaming” (inflammatory or antagonistic criticism) or sending insulting, abusive, or threatening remarks.*
- *Avoid using all capital letters in a message.*
- *Remember that email is not necessarily private. Your messages can be forwarded to many people without your knowledge. Before sending a message, read it over, double check the recipient(s) and make sure it would not become an embarrassment if it were forwarded to others not on your recipient list.*
- *Do not spam others. Spam is the practice of sending unsolicited email messages in bulk or overloading someone’s mailbox or server with messages.*
- *Include a signature that has your phone number or if you are sending internal email, your extension. This will make it easier for your recipient to contact you if they need to speak to you in person. Avoid recalling messages. Take the time to really determine if a message is necessary or not before sending it in the first place.*

Student Resources

[Frequently Used Student Resources](#)

Technical Support

Students who experience problems logging into their course D2L page, timing out of their course, using the course web site tools or experience other technical problems, should be encouraged to contact the [MTSU Help Desk](#) online (24/7) or at 1-615/898-5345.

Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or dacemail@mtsu.edu.

Tutoring

You may list tutoring resources such as [University Computer Labs](#), [Smarthinking](#), [iStudySmart](#) and the [University Writing Center](#). Other tutoring resources are available on the [Student Support website](#).

Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).

The True Blue Pledge

[I am True Blue](#)

As a member of this diverse community, I am a valuable contributor to its progress and success. I am engaged in the life of this community. I am a recipient and a giver. I am a listener and a speaker. I am honest in word and deed. I am committed to reason, not violence. I am a learner now and forever. I am a BLUE RAIDER. [True Blue!](#)

MT Comm Studies Social Media:

Join fellow MT Comm majors by following us on social media for announcements, tips, info, and entertainment:

Instagram & Twitter: [@mtcommstudies](#) [#mtcommstudies](#)

Facebook Group (request to join): MTSU Comm Studies

Snapchat: [mtcommstudies](#)

LinkedIn: MTSU Department of Communication Studies

Class Schedule: COMM 2300
Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2022

Please note that this syllabus is subject to change as necessary. All reading assignments should be completed before class on the day they are due.

Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Tues.	8/23	Course Introduction		Purchase book, read syllabus, print schedule
Thurs	8/25	Why are we here?		
Tues.	8/30	About Communication part 1	Floyd text Chapter 1	
Thurs	9/1	About Communication part 2		
Tues.	9/6	Culture and Gender	Floyd Text Chapter 2	Chapter 2 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Thurs	9/8	Communication and the Self part 1	Floyd Text Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Tues.	9/13	Communication and the Self part 2		
Thurs	9/15	Interpersonal Perception	Floyd Text Chapter 4 Work on Think Piece 1	Chapter 4 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Tues.	9/20	MT Engage De-Stress Event (No class)		Think Piece 1 Due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm
Thurs	9/22	Language part 1	Floyd text chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Tues.	9/27	Nonverbal Communication part 1	Floyd text chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes

Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Thurs	9/29	<i>No class</i>	Work on finalizing field notes	Autoethnography Part 1: Field Notes due to Suzi in Jones Hall 233 by end of day
Tues.	10/4	Nonverbal Communication part 2		Think Piece 2 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm
Thurs	10/6	Mid-semester self-assessment meetings <i>No Class</i>		Self-Assessment form due in Dropbox Wednesday 10/5 by 12:00pm
Tues.	10/11	<i>Fall Break - No class</i>		Fall Break - No Class
Thurs	10/13	Listening	Floyd text chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Tues.	10/18	Emotion part 1	Floyd text chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Thurs	10/20	Emotion part 2		
Tues.	10/25	Forming and Maintaining Personal Relationships part 1	Floyd text chapter 9	Chapter 9 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes;
Thurs	10/27	Forming and Maintaining Personal Relationships part 2		Autoethnography Part 2: Summary & Reflection due in D2L Dropbox, 11:59pm
Tues.	11/1	Interpersonal Communication in Close Relationships part 1	Floyd text chapter 10	Chapter 10 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Thurs	11/3	Interpersonal Communication in Close Relationships part 2		Think Piece 3 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm

Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Tues.	11/8	Interpersonal Conflict part 1	Floyd text chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes
Thurs	11/10	Interpersonal Conflict Part 2		
Tues.	11/15	Deceptive Communication part 1	Floyd text chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz due by 11 am CST via D2L quizzes;
Thurs	11/17	<i>No Class- NCA</i>		
Tues.	11/22	Deceptive Communication part 2		Autoethnography Part 3 Due 11:59pm in D2L Dropbox
Thurs	11/24	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Break</i>		
Tues.	11/29	Buffer/Catch-up day		Think Piece 4 due via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm; Self-Assessment form due in Dropbox Wednesday 11/30 by 12:00pm
Thurs.	12/1	No Class - University Study Day.		No Class - University Study Day.