



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: COMM

Course and Section #: 2110-008

Course Title: Interpersonal Communication

Credits: 3

Course Description

Examines the role of communication in interpersonal relationships. Includes the history of interpersonal communication research and theory and applications such as negotiation, conflict management, listening, and assertiveness.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Kyle Hicken

Student Learning Outcomes

1	Explain foundational interpersonal-communication concepts and theories.
2	Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of interpersonal communication research.
3	Synthesize scholarly research in the area of interpersonal and family communication.
4	Apply interpersonal communication theories and concepts to existing interpersonal and family communication problems.

Course Materials and Texts

Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships. By: J.S. Wrench, N.M. Punyanut-Carter, & K.S. Thweatt. 2020.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Application Assignments: Weekly assignments applying communication concepts to daily life. To include research blogs, reflection journals, communication analysis, communication self-assessment. (25% of overall grade)

Watch and Discuss Assignments: Weekly in-depth discussions and activities exploring communication concepts and theories. (30% of overall grade)

Quizzes: Weekly assessments on communication concepts, theories, and practices, including open-ended questions. (25% of overall grade)

Creative Research Project: Final research project requiring students to synthesize the semester's content and prepare a presentation designed for a non-academic audience. Includes research requirements throughout the semester as well as a final project and presentation. (20% of overall grade)

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Chapter 1: Introducing Human Communication

Chapter 2: Overview of Interpersonal Communication

Chapter 4: Verbal Elements of Communication

Chapter 5: Nonverbal Communication

Chapter 6: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication

Chapter 7: Talking and Listening

Chapter 8: Building and Maintaining Relationships

Chapter 9: Conflict in Relationships

Chapter 10: Friendship Relationships

Chapter 11: Family and Marriage Relationships

Chapter 12: Interpersonal Communication in Mediated Contexts

Chapter 13: Interpersonal Relationships at Work

Chapter 14: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week 1: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication, exploration of function and form of language

Week 2: Introducing Human Communication

- Why study communication?
- Basic principles of communication
- Dimensions of communication
- Communication competence

Week 3: Overview of Interpersonal Communication

- Purposes of Interpersonal Communication
- Elements of Interpersonal Communication
- Perception Process
- Models of Interpersonal Communication
- Interpersonal Communication Skills

Week 4: Verbal Elements of Communication

- Words
- Functions of Language
- The Impact of Language

- Types of Language
- Improving Verbal Communication
- Week 5: Nonverbal Communication
 - Importance of Nonverbal Communication in Interaction
 - Categories of Nonverbal Communication
 - Improving Nonverbal Skills
- Week 6: Cultural and Environmental Factors in Interpersonal Communication
 - Defining culture
 - The function of culture
 - Cultural characteristics and communication
 - Improving intercultural communication skills
- Week 7: Talking and Listening
 - The importance of everyday conversations
 - Sharing personal information
 - Listening
 - Types of listening responses
- Week 8: Building and Maintaining Relationships
 - The nature of relationships
 - Relationship formation
 - Stages of relationships
 - Communication in relationships
 - Dating relationships
- Week 9: Conflict in Relationships
 - Understanding conflict
 - Emotions and feelings
 - Power and influence
 - Conflict management strategies
- Week 10: Spring Break
- Week 11: Friendship Relationships
 - Stages and types of friendships
 - Friendships in different contexts
- Week 12: Family and Marriage Relationships
 - Family relationships
 - Family changes
 - Sibling types
 - Marriage relationships
- Week 13: Interpersonal Communication in Mediated Contexts
 - Technology and communication
 - The CMC Process
 - Taking the self online
 - Theories of computer-mediated communication
- Week 14: Interpersonal Relationships at Work
 - The requirements of professionalism
 - Leader-follower relationships
 - Coworker (peer relationships)
 - Problematic workplace relationships
- Week 15: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication
 - Destructive relationship behaviors

- The dark side of relationships: Aggression
- Week 16: Final presentations
-

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

This course requires you to complete assignments that assess your understanding and application of the material. You are expected to do your own work, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, summarizers, or solvers, is strictly prohibited for any part of your assignments. Using these tools will be considered academic dishonesty and will be handled according to university policy. If you have questions about acceptable use of AI tools, please consult the instructor before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.