

# Communication 2110-Interpersonal

## Fall- 2009

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**Professor:** Gary Chidester

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**Office Hours:** M.W. 9:30-10:30 am, and TH 11:00-12:00pm. Also by appointment.

**Required Textbook:** Adler, R. and Proctor, R. *Looking Out, Looking In*, (2007) United States, Thomson Wadsworth, 12<sup>th</sup> edition.

*“Communication is power. Those who have mastered its effective use can change their own experience of the world and the world’s experience of them.” Anthony Robbins*

### Course Description:

Interpersonal Communication is a practical and general course designed for students who desire to improve their communication effectiveness on a variety of levels. Emphasis is placed on one-on-one communication skills as well a conflict resolution for social, professional and personal settings.

### Course Objectives:

1. Communicate more effectively in interpersonal interactions.
2. Expose students to communication theory and ethics.
3. Deal effectively with conflict and utilize conflict strategies that are productive
4. Develop or increase skills in oral presentations.
5. Listen actively and employ critical thinking skills to create meaningful dialogue.
6. Decipher verbal and nonverbal cues through which relational messages are often sent. Also, understand the difference between relational and content messages.
7. Develop or increase skills in relationship and gender communication.
8. Develop or increase skills in communicating about emotion.
9. Develop understanding of other cultures.
10. Realize the importance of power in interpersonal relationships and know how to use compliance gaining and compliance resisting strategies.

### Course Content:

Communication theories and models

Misconceptions of communication

What makes an effective communicator?

Creating and presenting the self-identity

Perceptions: how they are developed and influence

Emotions: what they are and how to express them

Language is an integral part of your identity and culture

Nonverbal communication

How to be a good listener and identify poor habits

Relationships

What creates intimacy and distance in relationships?

Creating positive communication climates

Managing interpersonal conflicts

### **Communication Department Policies:**

In the unusual case that a student has questions, concerns or complaints regarding their instructor, the procedure is as follows:

If the student feels comfortable speaking to the instructor regarding the issue, please go directly to the instructor to clear it up. However, if the student does not feel comfortable communicating directly with the instructor or if a problem should arise, the student then meets with the department chair. Together the student and department chair will determine the next course of action.

### **Instructor Policies:**

- A. Absences.** Due to the interactive nature of communication, attendance is necessary in order to understand the material presented and apply the concepts. You will not be able to make up exams and presentations and **will receive a zero** unless you have a documented emergency.
- B. Late Arrivals.** Class begins promptly, please be on time. I take roll every day. **Late Work.** I will not accept late work. If you know you will be gone make sure to turn in your assignment before it is due!
- C. Respect the classroom environment.**
  - 1. Be tolerant of other student's ideas and experiences.
  - 2. Turn off cell phones.
  - 3. Avoid academic dishonesty in all its forms. See Snow College Academic Catalog.
  - 4. Any student, who may need to miss class for school sponsored activities, including athletes, must provide me a schedule of those activities signed by your coach or advisor.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

Students who may require special accommodations should let me know as soon as possible.

Students with disabilities desiring accommodations, academic adjustments, or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Accessibility Resource Center, Room 221 Greenwood Student Center, phone number 435. 283. 7321. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at the Accessibility Resource Center (ACR) determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of appropriate services and aids.

**Participation:** Interpersonal Communication is a discussion, skill building, and performance based class. Traditionally, the students who do the best in this class are individuals who complete all the assigned readings and class assignments, attend regularly, and those who participate actively in class discussion. In order to maximize student learning it is important to give feedback and support to your fellow students and to provide a positive classroom environment. As a student you are accountable to yourself and to your classmates in making the class an excellent learning experience. We will be discussing many rich and exciting topics. Your input is valued and appreciated. In addition to speaking, listening is also an important aspect of this course. Please be courteous to other students and the learning environment by keeping your comments on track and by participating in class discussions.

**Exams:** There will be a quiz on each chapter, a test after each set of three chapters **and a comprehensive final exam.** The quizzes and exams will consist of True/False and multiple choice questions. Make up exams will only be given if **prior** arrangements have been made with me.

**Course Journal:** For each chapter you will be required to write something that you liked or learned about that chapter and how you would like to implement it into your life. For example: Chapter Nine Intimacy and Distance in Relational Communication talks about self-disclosure which is something that I have struggled with for a very long time, but as the book mentions it is also very difficult to develop long-term fulfilling relationships without a certain degree of self-disclosure. I have decided that it is important for me to have a few close relationships especially with my wife and so I am making an effort to try and practice more appropriate self-disclosure. This is a short example. I will expect more details in both what you learned and how you will implement these. They will be handed in at the completion of each chapter. They will be handed back and you will be able to compile them in a sort of journal. You will also evaluate your efforts at the end of the semester. What were you good at , what needed more work or different implementation to be effective?

**Grading Breakdown:**

**A (93-100%) B (83-86%) C (73-76%) D (63-66%)**

**A- (90-92%) B- (80-82%) C- (70-72%) D- (60-62%)**

**B+ (87-89%) C+ (77-79%) D+ (67-69%) F (0-59%)**