

**Marshall University**

**CMM 213: Fundamentals of Interpersonal Communication**

**Section 202 (CRN 2492)**

**Spring 2014, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:15 – 1:45 pm, Room 261 Smith Hall**

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**Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am – 11:00 am**  
**1:45 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Wednesdays 10:00 am – noon**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Thursdays 10:00 am – 11:00 am**

**University Policies**

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy at [www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies](http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies): Students with Disabilities | Affirmative Action | Computing Services Acceptable Use | Excused Absence (undergraduate) | Academic Dishonesty | Inclement Weather | MU Alert

**Course Description: From Catalog**

Introduction to principles and practices related to productive interpersonal communication Emphasizes competence in using verbal and nonverbal message systems to promote effective communication in social and task relationships.

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>How Practiced in this Course</b>	<b>How Assessed in this Course</b>
Students will know and understand how fundamental aspects of interpersonal communication processes work.	readings, lecture, class discussions and activities, library research.	in-class activities and discussions, on midterm exams, and in papers, and in a group project and presentation.
Students will apply fundamental concepts in communication interactions.	readings, lecture, class discussions and activities, library research.	in-class activities and discussions, on midterm exams, and in papers, and in a group project and presentation.
Students will analyze communication interactions using theoretical and applied constructs in order to enhance abilities and outcomes.	readings, lecture, class discussions and activities, library research.	in-class activities and discussions, on midterm exams, and in papers, and in a group project and presentation.
Students will synthesize and evaluate verbal and nonverbal communication behaviors across various interpersonal communication contexts.	readings, lecture, class discussions and activities, library research.	in-class activities and discussions, on midterm exams, and in papers, and in a group project and presentation.

**Required Texts, Additional Reading, and Other Materials**

Stewart, J. (2012). *Bridges, not walls* (11th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill Publishers.

## Course Requirements / Due Dates

**Assignments are briefly described below this table; additional information will be shared in class.**

1. Exams		
Midterm #1	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4	February 13
Midterm #2	Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8	March 27
Midterm #3	Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12	May 7
2. Papers		
First Paper	Topics from first set of readings	February 6
Second Paper	Topics from second set of readings	March 13
Third Paper	Topics from third set of readings	April 24
3. Presentation and paper copy of project	Topics from all readings and additional research	April 29 and May 1

## Grading Policy

Grades will be calculated on a straight scale:

A = 90 - 100%    C = 70 - 79%    F = 59% or less  
B = 80 - 89%    D = 60 - 69%

### Three Papers (50 points each):

During our class time, we will discuss the assigned readings and often apply and/or practice concepts and skills during in-class activities (which will occasionally require some out-of-class preparation time). Three times during the semester, you will write a brief paper relating the ideas from a group of readings and associated class activities to your observations or experiences of interactions, relationships, and/or interpersonal situations with others. You may select topics that you find to be exciting, interesting, beneficial, or surprising. Your score for each paper will be based on the quality of your assessment (enough concepts are used to show your knowledge of the communication process, the concepts used are appropriate for the event/experience being described and you did not overlook more appropriate concepts, your ideas are clear and consistent, and your writing style is fluent, well organized, clear, and error free. More information and a scoring rubric will be shared in class and will be posted on Blackboard.

### Three Exams (50 points each):

Three midterm exams will be given to allow you to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the concepts we've studied, some of which will include "all of the above," "none of the above," and "a and c" options. Most of the questions will be drawn from your readings, however, questions taken from in-class activities and information shared during class will also be included.

### Group Project and Presentation (75 points for each group member):

Your group project is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to analyze, integrate, synthesize, and evaluate communication phenomena using the concepts learned in this course. In groups of 3 to 5 students, you will select a project, develop a presentation for your peers, and give the presentation to the class during our final two class meetings. We will talk more about the specifics of this project in class and a rubric will be provided, however, for now start thinking about a topic you'd like to investigate. You may investigate any topic within the domain of interpersonal communication that is of interest to you and your group then your group will educate your peers about it. A few examples include emotional

intelligence, raising socially skilled children, parenting a communication project, preparing for a successful career in another culture, gender/ethnic appropriate communication in the work place, or similar types of topics. More information and a scoring rubric will be shared in class and will be posted on Blackboard.

## **Class Policies**

### **Attendance Policy**

The emphasis of this course is on communication. You must be engaged in our in-class discussions and participate in our in-class activities to develop the depth of knowledge and important skills this course is designed to teach. It is highly likely that missing classes will prevent you from understanding expectations for assignments and will result in a reduction in your ability to earn high scores on your assignments. Missing class will also make learning the content of this course more difficult and so will result in poor performance on your midterm and final exams and on your projects and papers.

### **How many absences will be tolerated?**

You must be present to acquire the skills this course is designed to teach, whether you are the presenter or a critical observer of other presenters. Consequently, an excessive number of absences will prevent you from receiving a passing grade. You may miss up to two (2) classes without an excused absence report from the Dean's office without a penalty, HOWEVER, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 5% reduction of your final course grade.

### **Due Dates and Making-Up Missed Assignments**

All assignments are due at the start of the class period on the date noted in the course schedule below. Make-up work will be permitted when a university documented excuse is provided by the Student Affairs Office. Unexcused absences that result in missed exams or late papers may be permitted to be made-up at the discretion of the professor, but will be penalized 10% per calendar day.

### **Mobile Devices / Computer Policy**

University policy allows students to carry mobile phones to the classroom, but they must be set on vibrate or silent so they do not disrupt the class. Please do not text, surf, or otherwise use your mobile devices during class. Similarly, if you bring your laptop to class, please use it only to take notes.

### **Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1	1/14	Mon	Introduction and Orientation
	1/16	Wed	<b>Chapter 1: Introduction to the Editor and to This Book</b>
2	1/21	Mon	<b>Chapter 2: Communication and Interpersonal Communication</b> - Stewart: <i>Communicating and Interpersonal Communicating</i>
	1/23	Wed	- Scott: <i>Fierce Conversations</i> - Sinno et al.: <i>Social Media: Where Interpersonal Communication Meets Mass Communication</i>

3	1/28	Mon	<b>Chapter 3: Communication Building Identities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewart, Zediker, &amp; Witteborn: <i>Constructing Identities</i></li> <li>- Duck &amp; McMahan: <i>Self and Identity</i></li> </ul>
	1/30	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone et al.: <i>Identity and Difficult Conversations</i></li> </ul>
4	2/4	Mon	<b>Chapter 4: Verbal and Nonverbal Contact</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewart &amp; Logan: <i>Verbal and Nonverbal Dimensions</i></li> <li>- Duck &amp; McMahan: <i>Talk and Interpersonal Relationships</i></li> </ul>
	2/6	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewart: <i>Two of the Most Important Words</i></li> <li>- Finzel: <i>Say What? Eight Words and Phrases to Avoid in LGBT Conversations</i></li> </ul> <b>Paper #1 Due</b>
5	2/11	Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duck and McMahan: <i>What Are the Functions of Nonverbal Communication?</i></li> </ul> Catch-up and Review for Exam
	2/13	Wed	<b>Exam #1</b>
6	2/18	Mon	<b>Chapter 5: Inhaling: Perceiving and Listening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewart, Zediker, &amp; Witteborn: <i>Inhaling: Perception</i></li> <li>- Wood: <i>It's Only Skin Deep</i></li> </ul>
	2/20	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shafir: <i>Mindful Listening</i></li> <li>- Stewart, Zediker, &amp; Witteborn: <i>Empathic &amp; Dialogic Listening</i></li> </ul>
7	2/25	Mon	<b>Chapter 6: Exhaling: Expressing and Disclosing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Johnson: <i>Being Open with and to Other People</i></li> </ul>
	2/27	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stone, Patton, &amp; Heen: <i>Expression: Speak for Yourself with Clarity and Power</i></li> </ul>
8	3/ 4	Mon	<b>Chapter 7: Communicating with Family and Friends</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wood: <i>What's a Family, Anyway?</i></li> <li>- Tannen: <i>Separating Messages from Metamessages in Family Talk</i></li> </ul>
	3/6	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duck: <i>Our Friends, Ourselves</i></li> </ul> <b>Chapter 8: Communicating with Intimate Partners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guerrero, Andersen, &amp; Afifi: <i>Communicating Closeness: Intimacy, Affection, and Social Support</i></li> </ul>
9	3/11	Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parks: <i>Gender and Ethnic Similarities and Differences in Relational Development</i></li> <li>- Kurdek: <i>What Do We Know about Gay and Lesbian Couples?</i></li> <li>-</li> </ul>
	3/13	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qualman: <i>Word of Mouth Goes World of Mouth</i></li> </ul> <b>Paper #2 Due</b>
	3/17 – 24		<b>Spring Break</b>

10	3/25	Mon	<i>Review for Exam</i>
	3/27	Wed	<b>Exam #2</b>
11	4/1	Mon	<b>Chapter 9: Coping with Communication Walls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stewart, Zediker, Witteborn: <i>Deception, Betrayal, and Aggression</i></li> <li>- Gibb: <i>Defensive Communication</i></li> </ul>
	4/3	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wilmot &amp; Hocker: <i>Power: The Structure of Conflict</i></li> </ul> <b>Chapter 10: Conflict: Turning Walls into Bridges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Folder, Poole, &amp; Stutman: <i>Conflict and Interaction</i></li> <li>- Wilmot: <i>Communication Spirals, Paradoxes, and Conundrums</i></li> </ul>
12	4/8	Mon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Duck: <i>Handling the Break-Up of Relationships</i></li> <li>- Campbell: <i>I Hear You, and I Have a Different Perspective</i></li> <li>- Prathers: <i>How to Resolve Issues Unmemorably</i></li> </ul>
	4/10	Wed	
13	4/15	Mon	<b>Chapter 11: Bridging Cultural Differences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hofstede: <i>The Individual and the Collective in Society</i></li> <li>- Johnson: <i>Building Relationships with Diverse Others</i></li> </ul>
	4/16	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anderson: <i>From Racism to Gracism</i></li> <li>- Braithwaite: <i>Which is My Good Leg?</i></li> </ul>
14	4/22	Mon	<b>Chapter 12: Promoting Dialogue</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Zediker &amp; Stewart: <i>Dialogue's Basic Tension</i></li> <li>- Herzig &amp; Chasin: <i>Fostering Dialogue Across Divides</i></li> </ul>
	4/24	Wed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buber: <i>Elements of the Interhuman</i></li> </ul> <b>Paper #3 is Due</b>
15	4/29	Mon	<b>Student Presentations</b>
	5/1	Wed	<b>Student Presentations</b>
16	5/7	Mon	<b>Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 12:45 pm</b> <b>Exam #3</b>