

Linn-Benton Community College
Department of Communication
COMM 218: Interpersonal Communication (CRN: 40361)
Course Syllabus: Spring 2023

Schedule:

Course Dates: April 4 - June 13, 2023

Day/Time: Tues./Thurs. 1:00-2:20pm

Location: NSH- 109

Instructor Information:

Hailey Adkisson, M. A.

adkissh@linnbenton.edu

Office: SSH-202

Office Hours: Tuesday: 10:30-11:20am; Thursday: 11:30-12:30pm
(virtual or on-campus)

Link to Office Hours: <https://linnbenton.zoom.us/j/7579805682>



General Course Information:

This course introduces students to various aspects of the communication process in one-to-one relationships. Emphasis is placed on enhancing personal and professional relationships by expanding knowledge, increasing understanding and developing practical skills necessary for competent communication.

State of Oregon's Outcomes Statement

As a result of taking General Education Speech Communication courses, a student should be able to:

- Engage in ethical communication processes and accomplish goals
- Respond to the needs of diverse audiences and contexts
- Build and manage relationships

LBCC Course Outcomes

As a result of taking COMM 218, a student should be able to:

- Apply interpersonal communication research and theory
- Identify interpersonal communication's key functional areas
- Analyze, select, and enact appropriate interpersonal communication behaviors based on interpretation of the context

Student Learning Objectives:

Students who pass this class will be able to:

- Use theory to explain behaviors in interpersonal relationships
- Monitor, analyze and adjust their communication behaviors
- Effectively interact with others in personal and professional settings
- Manage conflict more effectively
- Empathize with people who have different thoughts, beliefs and lifestyles

Required Text: This textbook will be automatically available to you on Moodle through VitalSource. If you do not want an etextbook, you will need to “op-out” and purchase a hard copy during the first week of class. As a reminder, the textbook is mandatory for this course and there are assignments due the first week of class that require the textbook. Old editions of the textbook will not be accepted.

Adler, R., Rosenfeld, L.B., & Proctor II, R.F. (2021). *Interplay: The process of interpersonal communication* (15th ed.). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Additional Course Requirements: In addition to the textbook, you will need access to the following on a regular basis:

- Moodle
- Linn-Benton Email account
- Reliable computer/laptop (completing assignments on your phone is NOT recommended)
- Reliable internet connection

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

| POINTS POSSIBLE | LEARNING ACTIVITY | DUE DATE |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| 40 | Journals | Due <u>every</u> Thursday by 1:00pm |
| 20 | “What do you carry with you?” presentation | Tuesday, April 18 and April 20 (write-up due on Moodle April 18) |
| 40 | Exam #1 | Thursday, May 4 |
| 50 | “Dear Abby” Final Application Letters | Thursday, June 8 by 11:59pm |
| 40 | Exam #2- FINALS WEEK | Tuesday, June 13 at 2:30pm |
| 10 | Attendance | |
| TOTAL= 200 points | | |

Assignment Details: This list provides an overview of assignments. Due dates and points may be adjusted if need be. More information for each assignment will be discussed throughout the term and be made available on Moodle.

- **Journals (40 points; 5 points each)-** Each week you will need to respond to journal prompts on Moodle. While there is no minimum word requirement, an excellent journal should be at least 250 words in length AND show quality in your post (i.e. show me that you have read and spent time reflecting). Many of the journal prompts will be used to guide in-class discussion and must be completed prior to our Thursday class meetings. Therefore, **journals are due every Thursday by 1:00pm (class time).**
- **Exams (80 points; 40 points each)-** This course has two exams throughout the term. Material covered will come both from your textbook and class discussions/activities. HINT: If

you do not read the text, do not come to class, and do not take notes, you will not do well during the exams.

- **“What do you carry with you?” Assignment & Presentation (20 points)**- This assignment is designed to help you examine and explore the many dimensions of yourself. Select five objects that are representative of how you view yourself. Objects should illustrate major life events, personal goals, challenges you’ve faced, successes you’ve achieved, and/or individual values that have impacted your life and your communication. You will present three of these objects in class. All five objects will have a typed reflection that is submitted on Moodle.
- **“Dear Abby” Final Application Assignment (50 points)**: The purpose of this assignment is to explore “real-life” challenges in interpersonal communication and provide solutions to these challenges by applying concepts and theories from the course.
- **Attendance (10 points)**: Students are allowed to miss up to **two days** of class with no point deduction. If you meet this standard, you will receive 10/10 for your attendance. **Thereafter, you will receive a zero in the attendance category.** There are no ways to make up these points.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned based upon points earned in all assignments:

| | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| A | = | 200-180 points |
| B | = | 179-160 points |
| C | = | 159-140 points |
| D | = | 149- 120 points |
| F | = | Below 120 points |

After I return your assignment, you have one week to discuss a grade with me. **I will not discuss grades after the one week deadline.**

Extra Credit: The only way to receive extra credit is by turning in your “Dear Abby” Assignment early (1 pt. for each day it is early for up to 5 pts) and/or by being on the winning team for the exam prep sessions.

COURSE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Attendance: In order to improve your communication abilities, simply reading from the textbook and/or looking at PowerPoint slides is insufficient. Instead, textbook/lecture slides are taught in conjunction with group discussion and interactive activities that can only be done in class. This not only applies content and theory in real scenarios, but also helps you understand differing perspectives. While you are adults and are capable of deciding whether or not to attend class, frequent lack of attendance negatively impacts both your own and your classmates’ learning. Therefore, students are allowed to miss up to **two days** of class with no point deduction. If you meet this standard, you will receive 10/10 for your attendance. **Thereafter, you will receive a zero in the attendance category.**

Tardiness: Being on time to class is incredibly important as we go over important announcements in the first few minutes of class as well as start discussions and activities. Arriving late is very disruptive to other students’ learning. **As a result, if you are late by more than 20 minutes (without letting**

me know ahead of time), you will be marked absent. If you need to leave class early, please let me know in advance.

Assignment and Class Participation Expectations: Reflection and discussion are imperative in this course in order to have a better understanding of ourselves and others, and as a result, become better communicators. In order to do this, sharing information about yourself and personal interactions/experiences as it relates to course content, adds to the learning of others. While I encourage you to stretch yourself, **I never want you to be in a situation or share information where you feel extremely uncomfortable or threatened.** If an assignment is making you feel particularly anxious, please come talk to me and we will find a way to ease your concerns.

Assignment Submissions: All assignments must be submitted via Moodle. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Late Work: Late assignments will not be accepted and will receive an automatic zero. Please pay attention to assignment due dates listed on the course schedule (below) as well as on Moodle. That being said, I understand life happens. If you know you will have difficulties meeting a deadline due to an illness, childcare issues, or other extenuating circumstances (vacations don't count), please contact me as soon as possible so we can develop a plan to aid in your success of this course. In general, the more frequent and open communication with me, the better.

About My Teaching Style: This is not a traditional lecture course and may feel very different than other courses you have taken. Self-reflection, discussion, and class activities are a central component of this class. You will be asked to interact with one another rather than simply take notes from a PowerPoint. In addition, I give many examples in order to help you understand how the theories and concepts can apply to "real-life" situations. Many of these examples come from my own personal relationships and experiences. This may be uncomfortable for some of you that have not heard an instructor share personal information before. I do this in order to create an atmosphere where dialogue, community, and vulnerability are encouraged and supported, as well as make course content more applicable and tangible. If at any point you have any questions or concerns about what is being shared, please come talk to me. If I feel what is being discussed that day could be "triggers" for people, I will prompt students ahead of time.

Classroom Culture: In order to explore interpersonal communication concepts, it is crucial to be open to sharing your experiences and listening to the experiences of others. The only way we can grow in our communication skills is by expanding our understanding of others. That being said, I expect us to form a community of respect and support within our classroom. **This is a space to be SAFE and BRAVE**. What is shared here, stays here. Healthy disagreement and discussion are a central component of this class and are encouraged, but must be done on a professional and constructive basis. While I have never experienced this in all my years of teaching, if you are disrespectful to your class members, you will be given a warning and then asked to leave. If you've gotten this far in the syllabus and are still reading, I want to reward you. Please send me an email BEFORE our first day of class (Tuesday, April 4) with your name and picture of a llama to receive +2 extra credit.

Note Taking: As this is a college course, note taking is expected. While lecture slides are available on Moodle, content on my slides is minimal and examples are often given orally and not listed on the slides. In order to do well in this course, and on exams, it is imperative you take notes and write down

examples I give throughout the term. **If you do not come prepared to class with something to write with and something to write on, you will be asked to leave.**

Communication and office hours: While I check email often, after 5:00pm M-F and during weekends are times I set aside for my family (and sleeping). If you email me after 5:00pm M-F or on the weekends, do not expect a response until the next business day. I will hold office hours on campus Tuesdays from 10:30-11:20am and Thursdays from 11:30-12:30pm. If those days/times don't work for you and you would still like to chat, please email me and we can schedule a time to virtually meet and chat about assignments, course content, or life in general.

Writing Guidelines: While this is not a writing course, proofreading/editing for grammatical and spelling errors is imperative in effective communication. Excessive spelling or grammatical errors will result in point deductions on assignments. Any information from another source that is included in written papers should be appropriately cited using APA format. If you have any questions about how to do this properly, please see me. It is highly recommended to take WRI 121 before taking this course.

Honor Code: LBCC is dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and insists upon academic honesty. To uphold the academic integrity of the institution, all members of the academic community, faculty, staff and students alike, must assume responsibility for providing an educational environment of the highest standards characterized by a spirit of academic honesty. Accordingly, if you exchange information with another student during an exam, use unauthorized sources during an exam, or submit someone else's work or ideas as your own in any of your assignments, you will receive an F for the exam/assignment and may be subject to further discipline..

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Pronouns & Names: In order to provide an optimal learning environment for all students, creating a safe space is imperative. If you identify with a particular pronoun/name not represented on the class roster, please feel free to send me an email or come and discuss it with me in-person so I can be sure to recognize this. Your learning and identity are important to me.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Moodle Layout: Our course page is divided into 10 weeks for the term. Each week is organized by what you need to read, assignments that are due, YouTube videos, and virtual lectures (if needed). Weeks begin on Mondays and new weeks will populate at least the Friday before. This allows you to work slightly ahead if you feel inclined to do so.

Roadrunner Resource Center: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu , or visit www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). This office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to connect you to any resources I know may be available.

Childcare Conflicts: I understand the unforeseen disruption in childcare can pose challenges in completing coursework. If this is something you are experiencing, please talk to me and we can figure out a solution.

Accommodations: LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through the Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR) and would like to use your accommodations in this class, please talk to your instructor as soon as possible to discuss your needs. If you believe you may need accommodations but are not yet registered with CFAR, please visit the [CFAR website](#) for steps on how to apply for services or call 541-917-4789.

Tentative Course Schedule*: Spring 2023

Below is the schedule for the entire term including what you need to read, what videos you need to watch, and what assignments are due. I highly encourage you to add all the deadlines to your calendar/phone NOW as to not miss an assignment due date. This also aligns with the schedule that is up on Moodle.

| WEEK | Date | Topics/Activities | Readings (complete prior to class) | Assignments |
|---------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Week 1 | April 4 | Introduction to course Interpersonal Process | Chapter 1 | |
| | April 6 | Interpersonal Process and Mediated Communication | Chapter 1 & Chapter 2 | Journal #1 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 2 | April 11 | Communication and the self "Carry With You" overview | Chapter 4 | |
| | April 13 | Communication and the Self Culture and Communication | Chapter 4 & Chapter 3 | Journal #2 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 3 | April 18 | Culture and Communication Presentations (½) | Chapter 3 | "Carry with you" due (all reflections submitted on Moodle; ½ class present) |
| | April 20 | Perceiving Others Presentations (½) | Chapter 5 | Journal #3 due by 1:00pm Carry With You- ½ class present |
| Week 4 | April 25 | Perceiving Others | Chapter 5 | |
| | April 27 | Language | Chapter 6 | Journal #4 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 5 | May 2 | Exam Prep | | OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE |
| | May 4 | EXAM #1 | Chapters 1-6 | |

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|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Week 6 | May 9 | Nonverbal Communication "Dear Abby" Overview | Chapter 7 | |
| | May 11 | Listening | Chapter 8 | Journal #5 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 7 | May 16 | Emotions | Chapter 9 | |
| | May 18 | Managing Conflict | Chapter 12 | Journal #6 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 8 | May 23 | Managing Conflict Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 12 Chapter 10 | |
| | May 25 | Interpersonal Relationships | Chapter 10 | Journal #7 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 9 | May 30 | Communication in Close Relationships | Chapter 11 | |
| | June 1 | Communication in Close Relationships | Chapter 11 | Journal #8 due by 1:00pm |
| Week 10 | June 6 | Course Wrap-Up | | |
| | June 8 | Exam Prep | | "Dear Abby" assignment due on Moodle by 11:59pm OPTIONAL ATTENDANCE |
| FINALS WEEK | Tues., June 13 | EXAM #2 | Chapters 7-12 | TUESDAY, June 13 at 2:30pm |

*Please note that assignments, policies and schedule are subject to change upon instructor's discretion.