

LINN-BENTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COMM 218Z: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION – Fall 2023

INSTRUCTOR: Zach Harper  
Office: NSH 107  
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00-8:30am and at 12:30pm in NSH 107.  
Also available for prearranged meetings on Zoom.

DEPARTMENT WIDE TEXT: Adler, R. B., Rosenfeld, L. B., & Proctor II, R. F. (2020).  
***Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication*** (15th ed.). New York: Oxford  
University Press ISBN: 9780197501344

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

COMM 218Z increases the knowledge and use of competent communication skills to better understand oneself, others, and the role of communication in interpersonal relationships. This course is part of the Oregon Common Course Numbering System.

## **PERFORMANCE-BASED LEARNER OUTCOMES**

**Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:**

- Describe how culture, identity, perception, biases, and power influence the communication process
- Recognize and analyze interpersonal communication concepts (e.g., ethics, verbal and nonverbal communication, listening, emotions, and conflict)
- Assess one's own interpersonal skills to become more competent in a variety of relational contexts
- Apply foundational concepts and theories to interpersonal communication

## **COURSE POLICIES**

**ATTENDANCE:** Face-to-face attendance for class is required and rest assured I will take attendance every day. Students with more than **3** unexcused absences during the term will see a deduction of points from their overall grade (-15 points per absence) with each additional absence past the 3<sup>rd</sup>). Your success will be largely correlated to your presence in class. You cannot and will not pass by simply showing up on our scheduled assignment days, but at no other point in the term. Fair warning.

Excused absences are those that include medical documentation prohibiting one from attending class. If you are going to miss a significant portion of class (ex: you test positive for COVID-19) please communicate your situation with me so we can work together to come up with possible alternative arrangements during your absence. I will do my best to be understanding, compassionate, and flexible.

## ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMODATIONS:

LBCC is committed to inclusiveness and equal access to higher education. If you have approved accommodations through Accessibility Resources and would like to use your accommodations in the 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 Accessibility Resources, please visit their website at [www.linnbenton.edu/accessibilityresources](http://www.linnbenton.edu/accessibilityresources) for steps on how to apply for services or call (541) 917-4789.

ACCOUNTABILITY: All participants will be held accountable for their actions in class.

1. Proper respect and decorum will be observed during all class sessions. Civility is critical to ensure all students feel confident and comfortable in the classroom.
  - Displaying respect for all members of the classroom community, both your instructor and fellow students.
  - Attentiveness to and participation in discussions and in-class activities.
  - Avoidance of unnecessary disruptions during class such as private conversations, using cell phones, or doing work for other classes.
  - Avoid obstructing or impeding the learning process for your fellow classmates
2. It is your responsibility to complete assignments prior to the start of class. This includes any homework, papers, and presentation preparation. This allows us to engage in productive class discussions and is the time to ask relevant questions. I reserve the right to give in-class pop quizzes if it becomes apparent reading assignments are not being completed. **In-class activities (or possible quizzes) cannot be made up.** Student athletes and others who miss class due to College activities must complete assignments prior to an absence.
3. Plagiarism, academic misconduct, and cheating will not be tolerated. Penalties for these actions may result in zero points for the assignment or exam, failure of the course, or possible expulsion from the College. See your undergraduate catalog for the College's definition of plagiarism and academic misconduct.
4. Please don't let tardiness become a problem. If you are late on more than one occasion, I will discuss this issue with you outside of class time. If the problem persists, further instances of tardiness will count as unexcused absences.
5. 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. To promote academic excellence and learning environments that encourage multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas, all courses at LBCC will provide students the opportunity to interact with values, opinions, and/or beliefs different than their own in safe, positive and nurturing learning environments. LBCC is committed to producing culturally literate individuals capable of interacting, collaborating and problem-solving in an ever-changing community and diverse workforce.

**BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS:** A course catalog contains a very clear summary of the rules of conduct for any class, including academic performance and classroom behavior. If you violate these rules, you may be in violation of the LBCC Judicial Code. Penalties range from grade reductions and failure of the course, to expulsion from the College. In addition to these requirements, I have the following expectations of students:

1. If you wish to speak to me about a grade or any other personal matter, please arrange a meeting outside of class time. It is not suitable to engage in these discussions in front of fellow students.
2. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices (without instructor preapproval) during all class meetings is prohibited.
3. Distractions must be minimized in order for us to use our time effectively in class. This theme extends its relevance to food/drink and visitors.

**CORE ASSIGNMENTS** (All assignments subject to change at instructor’s discretion)

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
In-Class Activities	45 total
Listening Quiz	15
Perception Paper	50
Mid-term Exam	50
Relationship Application Paper	70
Group Presentation	70
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>400</b>

**Grade Breakdown**

A	400-360pts
B	359-320pts
C	319-280pts
D	279-240pts
F	239-0pts

**To contest a final course grade**, you must submit the following to me in writing:

- The course section you are in and the final grade you received
- The grades you received in class on each individual assignment and your own personal calculation of the point total you feel you *should* have
- The specific reasons you are disputing the grade
- Plus have ALL graded course assignments available to serve as a checklist against my records

## **Course Schedule** (Subject to change at instructor's discretion)

### Week One

Tuesday, 9/26: Course Overview

Thursday, 9/28: Chapter 1 – Interpersonal Process

### Week Two

Tuesday, 10/3: Chapter 6 – Language + **ACTIVITY 1**

Thursday, 10/5: Chapter 7 - Nonverbal Communication

### Week Three

Tuesday, 10/10: Chapter 8 – Listening: Receiving and Responding

Thursday, 10/12: Chapter 4 – Interpersonal Communication and the Self

### Week Four

Tuesday, 10/17: Chapter 5 – Perceiving Others + **ACTIVITY 2**

Thursday, 10/19: **LISTENING ACTIVITY/QUIZ**

### Week Five

Tuesday, 10/24: **PERCEPTION PAPER DAY**

Thursday, 10/26: **MIDTERM EXAM**

### Week Six

Tuesday, 10/31: Chapter 10 – Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships

Thursday, 11/2: Chapter 11 – Communication in Close Relationships...

### Week Seven

Tuesday, 11/7: Chapter 9 – Emotions

Thursday, 11/8: Chapter 12 – Managing Conflict + **ACTIVITY 3**

### Week Eight

Tuesday, 11/14: Chapter 13 – Communication Climate

Thursday, 11/16: Chapter 3 – Culture and Interpersonal Communication

### Week Nine

Tuesday, 11/21: Discussion on Group Communication

### Week Ten

Tuesday, 11/28: Group Workshop Day

Thursday, 11/30: **GROUP PRESENTATIONS**

### Finals Week

Tuesday, 12/5: **FINAL EXAM - 7:30-9:20am**