

# SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

MARIETTA, GA 30060

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, TECHNICAL COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA ARTS

## HNRS 3301 – INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION (HONORS) Fall 2009

### COURSE SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR:	Kami J. Anderson, Ph.D.	PHONE:	(678) 915-7330
OFFICE HOURS:	<b>Mondays and Wednesdays</b> 12:00PM – 1:30PM	OFFICE:	J316
	<b>Tuesdays and Thursdays</b> 8:00AM – 9:30AM	EMAIL:	<a href="mailto:kanders3@spsu.edu">kanders3@spsu.edu</a>

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the dynamics of interpersonal communication, the communication between two people. It will build a foundation for study by looking at the principal tools and skills of interpersonal communication. It will also pragmatically examine the core of interpersonal communication, namely, self and others. It will explore more complex dynamics of interpersonal communication such as intimacy, communication climates, and interpersonal conflict.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

We will examine basic concepts, theories, and research findings relevant to initiating, developing, modifying, maintaining, and terminating relationships with an eye to the role of communication in the process. We will pay particular attention to verbal and nonverbal components across interpersonal contexts. Additionally, this course requires you to participate in written and verbal activities designed to develop and improve interpersonal skills and will actually improve the quality of your life if you keep an open mind and participate actively! Lecture, discussion, in and out-of-class observations, and “applied” field research assignments will be used to increase your knowledge and behavioral competence in interpersonal communication.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. To analyze various contexts (friendship, family, romantic interactions, employee settings, etc.) in which interpersonal communication occurs.
2. To analyze and critique interpersonal communication practices present within various fields of study.
3. To assess and prioritize knowledge of concepts, theories, and research findings in interpersonal communication.
4. To develop and perform communication skills in a supportive environment.

REQUIRED TEXT: Gergen, K.J., Schrader, S. M., and Gergen, M. (2009). *Constructing Worlds Together: Interpersonal Communication as Relational Process*. Boston: Pearson

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to attend all classes. Absences require a physician's note that you are to be excused. Do not be late for class. **Coming to class late or leaving early without permission from Dr. Anderson will be counted as an absence for the entire class period.**

All students are allotted a maximum of three (3) unexcused absences for the semester. Absences beyond the allotted amount will result in a 10-point reduction in your final grade for EACH occurrence

Inform Dr. Anderson if an emergency prevents you from giving a speech on an assigned date. **If you are absent during your scheduled speaking time, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned** unless you present a doctor's note within 24 hours. If you are absent or tardy for any reason, you are responsible for finding out what material was covered and whether any announcements were made **from your colleagues, not Dr. Anderson.**

**TEXT:** Gergen Schrader and Gergen's *Constructing Worlds Together: Interpersonal Communication as Relational Process* is the text for this course. It is available at the university bookstore. Daily reading assignments from the text are listed on the course schedule. You will be expected to have read the material *before* you come to class.

**Application Journal:** Students will be given application journal assignments throughout the semester that provide opportunities for them to relate course material to their own experiences. Students will be expected to describe specific interpersonal patterns of communication in different types of relationships while integrating their knowledge of the course concepts. These journal responses will be reviewed only by the instructor and will be held in strict confidence. The journal entries will be graded on completeness, clarity, introspection and conceptual foundations. Journal questions will be provided in class on the dates noted on your course schedule. Your journal entries should be a minimum of 2 pages

**"Mall Projects:"** Students will also at three different times throughout the semester participate in "Mall Projects" where students will visit public places to identify positive and negative examples of interpersonal patterns discussed in class. These examples will be presented in visual and written form. These examples will be incorporated into their application journals.

**Film Reaction Paper:** -100 points total- We will be watching a film in class that deals with issues of group communication. You will write a reaction to the film, based on your readings from our textbook. Use specific examples from the film and support from your text. 1 - 2 pages

**Final Project:** Students will incorporate into their application journals, photos and images of real-life examples of interpersonal patterns and theories of communication. Students will be encouraged to look for these examples within the context of their field of study and personal lives in order to be able to compile concrete examples of these patterns that directly impact them.

**Grades:** You will be graded in this class based on 1) the number of points you earn for each exam, speech, and written assignment and 2) your class participation. Keep track of your scores on the Student's Record of Grades form. At the end of the semester, add up your points, and use the following chart to determine your grade. Dr. Anderson will not average your grade for you.

<b>A</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>1000-900</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>899-800</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>799-700</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>699-600</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>under 600 points</b>

## RULES OF DISCOURSE

This is a performance-based course. Therefore, the expectation is all students will actively participate in not only their assignments but class discussions as well. Every student is expected to demonstrate: **MUTUAL RESPECT OF THE OPINIONS OF HIS/HER COLLEAGUE**. Additionally, your attendance (or lack thereof) will be reflected in your participation grade.

**Participation:** All students are expected to participate in class dialogues. Participation is not just coming to class. Class participation for this course is more than taking notes and nodding and agreeing. Participation is making sure you are an active part of the class discussion. This role includes but is not limited to:

- Asking questions without fear of judgment or ridicule from your classmates
- Answering questions posed by Dr. Anderson or your classmates
- Providing comments to statements made in class
- Checking for your own understanding
- Participating in group activities in class

Since this is an oral communication skills course, I want to provide you with many opportunities to develop these skills. Aside from general class participation, such opportunities may include performance and/or evaluation of role-playing activities, in-class presentations, briefing sessions, and dyadic communication case studies. It is difficult for you to receive full credit for class participation if you are not in class. Please be mindful of this throughout the semester.

## READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to have all weekly readings completed before the first class day of each week. Unless otherwise stipulated by the instructor, all assignments given outside of the readings are due the following class day (i.e.: an assignment given on Monday is due on Wednesday). **Please keep in mind that Dr. Anderson does not lecture strictly from the textbook, so it is critical you do all outside readings. I reserve the right to implement quizzes on readings.**

## SPECIAL POLICIES and PROCEDURES

**PLAGIARISM** will not be tolerated in any form. Students will be subjective to a grade of "F" or possible academic expulsion, if such unethical practices are employed. This course is taught in compliance with policies of the ADA and EEOC. Detailed information on these policies is available upon request or can be found on the University Website.

**ADA PROCEDURES:** Southern Polytechnic State University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students in need of accommodations due to a disability should contact the Dean for Special Student Services for verification and determination of reasonable accommodations as soon as possible after admission to the University, or at the beginning of each semester.

**SPECIALNOTE:** Dr. Anderson does not discuss grades and student progress with parents, unless there is a medical need for a conference. All students at Southern Polytechnic University are expected to demonstrate personal responsibility and maturity by "handling their business" in an adult, professional manner ***on their own!***

**Student's Record of Grades Form**

*Note: There is a significant difference between merely "passing" this course (i.e. Earning a grade of B, C, or D) and "Excelling" (Earning an "A") in this course*

Final grades will be based on the quality of written and oral assignments completed, as well as, the active, consistent and meaningful contributions made in class. All written work is to be submitted on time, typed (doubled-spaced) and proof read. Points will be deducted for unedited work. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Students will be expected to keep a copy of all work submitted and a record of the points earned based on the criteria below.

**It is your responsibility to record your grades for this class. Do expect Dr. Anderson to subtotal your grades for you during the course or at the conclusion of the semester.**

<b><u>AREA A...SPEECHES w/Outlines</u></b>	<b>POINTS</b>
1. Mall Project #1	100 _____
2. Mall Project #2	100 _____
3. Mall Project #3	100 _____
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>300</b>
	<b>Total rec'd</b> _____

<b><u>AREA B...Written Assignments</u></b>	
1. Journal Entries (5 @ 20 points)	100 _____
2. Film Reaction Paper	100 _____
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>Total rec'd</b> _____

<b><u>AREA C...Instructor Points</u></b>	
1. Class Participation	100 _____
2. Attendance	100 _____
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>200</b>
	<b>Total rec'd</b> _____

<b><u>AREA D...Other Assignments</u></b>	
1. FINAL PROJECT	300 _____
Journal entries	
Film Reaction	
Photo examples	
<b>Total points possible</b>	<b>300</b>

<b>FINAL GRADE POINTS</b>	<b>CUMULATIVE TOTAL POSSIBLE</b>	<b>1000 TOTAL</b>
<b>REC'D</b> _____		
<b>Less</b> _____ <b>absences x 10 points each</b>		_____
<b>Total</b>	_____	

**GRADING SCALE**

A = 1000-900 points    B = 899-800 points    C = 799-700 points    D = 699-600 points    F = 600 – below

**HONORS INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION**  
**Weekly Course Schedule**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Chapter(s)</b>	<b>Readings, Assignments, etc</b>	<b>Journal Entry</b>
1	August 24- August 28	Introduction to Course		
2	August 31- September 4	<b>Part One: Communication and World Construction: Making Worlds Together</b>	Part 1, Readings 1-3	
	<b>September 7</b>	<b>Labor Day – No Monday Classes</b>		
3	September 7- September 11		Part 1, Readings 4-6	
4	September 14- September 18	<b>Part Two: The Relational Self</b>	Part 2 – Readings 7-10	How is the way you relate to professors different from how you relate to a boss or supervisor? What are those aspects of yourself that you adjust to make you feel the most comfortable?
5	September 21-September 25		Part 2, Readings 11-13 <b>Mall Project #1 Due</b>	
6	September 28- October 2	<b>Part Three: Communication as Collaborative Action</b>	Part 3A, Readings 14-16, 18 Part 3B, Readings 22-23	
7	October 5 - October 9		Part 3B, Readings 24-25 Part 3C, Readings 27-28	
8	October 12 - October 16	<b>Part Four: Relational Dynamics: From Intimacy to Conflict</b>	Part 4A, Readings 29, 31 Part 4B, Reading 36	What do you think are the communication expectations with men? What about with women? Why do you think interpersonal communication expectations vary between genders? What is the best healthy compromise to avoid conflict?
9	October 19 - October 23	<b>Film: “12 Angry Men”</b>	Part 4C, Readings 41, 44 Part 4D, Reading 47 <b>Mall Project #2 Due</b>	How do you resolve conflict with colleagues in your major? How does this way of resolving conflict differ from how you resolve conflict with your friends?
10	October 26 - October 30	<b>Part Five: Crossing Boundaries</b>	Part 5A, Readings 51-52, 54 <b>Film Reaction Paper Due</b>	
11	November 2- November 6		Part 5B, Readings 55, 57-58	What are the benefits and drawbacks of interpersonal relationships formed through the

				Internet (Facebook, twitter, online dating, etc)? Provide a detailed example of a benefit and a drawback?
12	November 9 - November 13	<b>Part Six: Beyond the Theories</b>	Supplemental Reading	
13	November 16 - November 20		Supplemental Reading <b><i>Mail Project #3 Due</i></b>	
14	November 23 - November 27		Supplemental Reading	Pick one theory from this semester. Describe how this theory is used in real-life amongst you and peers within your major. How might it change when dealing with people outside of your major?
15	November 30- December 4			
16	<b><i>December 7 - 11</i></b>	<b><i>FINAL PROJECT DUE</i></b>		