

COM 5360 Advanced Interpersonal Communication Theory
Communication Studies
Sam Houston State University
Spring 2018

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REQUIRED READINGS

Braithwaite, D. O., & Schrod, P. (2015). *Engaging theories in interpersonal communication: Multiple Perspectives* (2nd ed.). Los Angeles, Sage.

Reading Lists: Posted on Blackboard. Please see weekly schedules for specific readings.

CLASS POLICIES

1. It is **your** responsibility to read this syllabus carefully and keep all the due dates in mind. **No make-ups** are given for any missed assignments. Each assignment is **due by Midnight of each Sunday**.
2. All interactions of this course will be computer-mediated. If you feel you need to meet face-to-face during the semester, please email me for appointment. We can either meet at the main campus or at the Woodlands Center.
3. All written submissions should be carefully proofread to reflect your high level of care and diligence.
4. All the assignments/tests/discussions will be posted on **BLACKBOARD** one week before their due dates. Don't expect to work ahead. I will not make assignments of Week One available until sometime on Sunday before class starts and the other assignments periodically after that.

ASSIGNMENTS/EVALUATIONS

Reaction Papers (5 x 5% = 25%)

Throughout this semester, you are expected to submit FIVE reaction papers to the weekly readings, which are 2-4 academic journal articles. For each paper, you should attempt to include the following:

- 1) Briefly summarize the major findings of each article of that specific week. Do not copy and paste from the abstract of the article. After reading the article, use your own words to summarize the findings.

- 2) Synthesize the readings. This should be the major part of your paper. For example, what are the common themes, if any? Are there any similar findings or different findings? What methods did each article use, surveys, interviews, experiments or any other methods? Does any of the findings or methods used surprise you? What are the weaknesses or strengths of each article? If you were a researcher on the same topic, what would you do differently? In other words, are there any questions you want to know, but were not asked in the articles? You can also include any thoughts, feedback, or comments on the topics discussed in the article. In addition, you need to write a small paragraph on how the articles are related to the book chapter of that specific week.
- 3) Additional research is NOT required. But it may help to read a few additional articles to understand the topics more completely. You may choose to include any outside sources in your paper. If you do so, please add the references at the end of the paper.
- 4) The paper should be double-spaced, and **3-page** long.
- 5) APA format is required.
- 6) Please proofread for any grammatical errors or typos before you submit your papers.

Group Discussions/Essay Questions (9 x 4% = 36%)

For each of the 10 weeks of the semester, you are expected to either participate in group discussions or complete essay questions. **Discussion/Essay questions will be posted by the professor.**

For group discussions, 1) Have at least two responses to each discussion question. The first response should be directed to the discussion question, and the second or third response should be your feedback to a response posted by another student. **2)** Each response should be at least 50 words long. **3)** Responses should be written carefully. You will be evaluated on the clarity of writing and the relevance of your examples. **4)** Please proofread for any grammatical errors or typos before you post your responses. **5)** Strive to make your responses thoughtful and thought-provoking.

For essay questions, you do not have to respond to each other. You will be asked to do some additional readings or research on a certain topic and write at least a couple of paragraphs. Specific instructions will be posted on Blackboard.

Literature Review (24%)

You are going to submit a 12-15-page double-spaced literature review at the end of the semester on a current topic in intercultural communication. Please download and read carefully the detailed “*Guidelines of a Literature Review*” for instructions of this paper in “*Course Information*” on the Blackboard. You are encouraged to start early to work on the project. To make sure you complete your paper by the end of the semester, your topics for the paper are due by Week 7, and a detailed reference list is due by Week 11. The final paper is due by Week 16.

Final Exam (15%)

There will be a final exam in essay format during the last week of class. Instructions will be posted on Blackboard at least one week before the final exam.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. **Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.** The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Weekly Schedules

| Week | Topics | Due Dates (by each Sunday Midnight) |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Jan 17-20 | Syllabus | Carefully read your syllabus Introduce yourself to your group members |
| 2. Jan 22-27 | Intro to IPC Theories | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 3. Jan 29-Feb 3 | Uncertainty Management | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 4. Feb 5-10 | Attribution Theory | Reaction Paper 1 |
| 5. Feb 12-17 | Evolutionary Theory | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 6. Feb 19-24 | Accommodation Theory | Reaction Paper 2 |
| 7. Feb 26-Mar 3 | Politeness Theory | Group Discussions/Essay Questions <i>Topics for Final Project Due</i> |
| 8. Mar 5-10 | Dialectics | Reaction Paper 3 |
| 9. Mar 12-17 | | Spring Break |
| 10. Mar 19-24 | Privacy Management | Group Discussions/Essay Questions <i>Reference List Due</i> |
| 11. Mar 26-31 | Attachment | Reaction Paper 4 |
| 12. Apr 2-7 | Relational Stages | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 13. Apr 9-14 | Relational Turbulence | Reaction Paper 5 |
| 14. Apr 16-21 | Social Exchange | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 15. Apr 23-28 | Interpersonal Deception | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 16. Apr 30-May 4 | New Media and IPC | Group Discussions/Essay Questions |
| 17. May 7-10 | | Final Exam/Final Paper |