

COM310 Interpersonal Communication

(3 credit hours)

Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course explores 3 related disciplines of communication as they pertain to the basic process of human interaction, both interpersonally and in small groups. Students will survey some of the main theories of human communication, including those that explain the processes involved in dyadic relationships, self-disclosure and listening. These principles will be integrated into larger communication contexts in order to understand how decision-making and problem solving occurs in small groups.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of the basic theories of human communication theory as it applies to interpersonal and small group situations.
2. Analyze how communication shapes our identities and relationships with others.
3. Apply past and present human relationships to human self-concepts and styles of communicating.
4. Explain and apply how certain small group characteristics and activities influence ongoing communication patterns among members.
5. Analyze various theoretical perspectives to small groups.
6. Restructure communication to effectively engage in communication in differing small groups.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

COM130

Required Textbook(s) and Resources

DeVito, J. A. (2022). *The Interpersonal Communication Book, 16th Edition*. Pearson.

Engleberg, I. N., (2017). *Working in Groups: Communication Principles and Strategies, 7th Edition*.

Be sure to also review the weekly **Explore** sections for additional library or web resources. For access to databases, research help, and writing tips, visit the [Tiffin University Library](#).

Time Commitment

Effective time management is possibly the single most critical element to your academic success. To do well in this online class you should plan your time wisely to maximize your learning through the completion of readings, discussions, and assignments. Because of our accelerated, seven-week term, TU online courses are designed with the expectation that you dedicate a little over **six (6)** hours per credit hour to course activities and preparation **each week**. For example, for successful completion of a three-credit, seven-week online course you should reserve roughly **twenty (20) hours per week**.

To help plan your time and keep on track toward successful course completion, note the distinctive rhythm of assignment due dates:

1. All times assume Eastern Time (GMT-4).
2. Weeks begin at 12:00 a.m. ET on Monday and end at 11:55 p.m. ET on Sunday.
3. Unless otherwise noted, initial assignments or discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Wednesdays**.
4. Additional assignments or follow-up discussion posts are due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Saturdays, and**
5. Major assignments and reflections are typically due by **11:55 p.m. ET on Sundays**.

Learning Activities

Each week has discussions with options for responses. This course also includes three comprehensive writing assignments, including one on a film of your choice, a paper addressing ethics in communications, and a peer teaching assignment.

Key Assessment (Taskstream Submission)

This TU course features a “Key Assessment” that provides you the opportunity to demonstrate your program’s core competencies. It also shows how the course fits within the broader curriculum. For this course, the assessment assignment is Activity 4.2: Ethics Paper.

Grading

The chart below identifies the individual contributions from each type of activity, per week.

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Total
Discussions Activity 1.1 (n/a) Activity 1.2 (50)	Discussions Activity 2.1 (50)	Discussions Activity 3.1 (50)	Discussions Activity 4.1 (50)	Discussions Activity 5.1 (50)	Discussions Activity 6.1 (50)	Discussions Activity 7.1 (50)	350
–	Assignment Activity 2.2 (150)	–	Assignment Activity 4.2 (200)	–	Assignment Activity 6.2 (300)	–	650
50	200	50	250	50	350	50	1000

Grading Scale

A: 90-100% | B: 80-89% | C: 70-79% | D: 60-69% | F: <60%

Course Schedule and Weekly Checklist

Start Here

Activity 1.1: Course Anticipation - Initial Post

Week 1

Activity 1.1: Course Anticipation - Optional Secondary Posts

Activity 1.2: Dialogue, Culture and Sexist Language - Initial Post

Activity 1.2: Dialogue, Culture and Sexist Language - Secondary Posts

Week 2

Activity 2.1: Encoding/Decoding, Listening & Anger - Initial Post

Activity 2.1: Encoding/Decoding, Listening & Anger - Secondary Posts

Activity 2.2: Movie Paper

Week 3

- Activity 3.1: Relationships, Love, and Conflict - Initial Post
- Activity 3.1: Relationships, Love, and Conflict - Secondary Posts

Week 4

- Activity 4.1: Working in Groups - Initial Post
- Activity 4.1: Working in Groups - Secondary Posts
- Activity 4.2: Ethics Paper

Week 5

- Activity 5.1: Diversity and Leadership - Initial Post
- Activity 5.1: Diversity and Leadership - Secondary Posts

Week 6

- Activity 6.1: Conflict and Presentations - Initial Post
- Activity 6.1: Conflict and Presentations - Secondary Posts
- Activity 6.2: Peer Teaching Assignment
- Activity 6.3: Share Your Presentation - Optional

Week 7

- Activity 7.1: Decisions, Problems and Agendas - Initial Post
- Activity 7.1: Decisions, Problems and Agendas - Secondary Posts

Tips for Success

Online learning requires self-discipline and self-direction. As seekers of the truth, we should be willing to challenge one another's academic work in a spirit of respectful comradery. Your course is a place for you to grow as you benefit from the expertise, experience, and diverse perspectives of your instructor and peers. Constructive feedback will challenge you to stretch your own thinking, thereby expanding your knowledge and understanding.

To get the most out of your learning experience, you should actively engage (participate) in **ALL** course activities. Course elements are arranged chronologically. To complete a week, simply work your way "down the page" through all of the course materials and activities.

For More Information:

Be sure to review the [Support, Policies, and Procedures](#) addendum.