



El Camino College  
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

<b>Course Acronym:</b>	COMS
<b>Course Number:</b>	130
<b>Descriptive Title:</b>	Interpersonal Communication
<b>Division:</b>	Behavioral and Social Sciences
<b>Department:</b>	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
<b>Course Disciplines:</b>	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
<b>Catalog Description:</b>	The Interpersonal Communication course explores the study of methods and theories, emphasizing critical analysis of concepts like self-concept, perception, emotions, and conflict resolution within diverse social and cultural contexts. Students will engage with social and behavioral science research methods, examining issues historically and geographically, to understand the cultural and social frameworks that shape human behavior and appreciate the varied contributions of different genders, ethnicities, and societies, fostering a global and comparative perspective.
<b>Prerequisite:</b>	
<b>Co-requisite:</b>	
<b>Recommended Preparation:</b>	Eligibility for English 1A
<b>Enrollment Limitation:</b>	
<b>Hours Lecture (per week):</b>	3
<b>Hours Laboratory (per week):</b>	0
<b>Outside Study Hours:</b>	6
<b>Total Course Hours:</b>	54
<b>Course Units:</b>	3
<b>Grading Method:</b>	Letter Grade only
<b>Credit Status:</b>	Credit, degree applicable
<b>Transfer CSU:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Spring 2025
<b>Transfer UC:</b>	Yes
<b>Effective Date:</b>	Spring 2025
<b>General Education: ECC</b>	CalGETC: Area 4 – Social Sciences
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	Approved
<b>CSU GE:</b>	CalGETC: Area 4 – Social Sciences
<b>Term:</b>	
<b>Other:</b>	Approved
<b>IGETC:</b>	CalGETC: Area 4 – Social Sciences
<b>Term:</b>	

<b>Other:</b>	Approved
<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b>	<p><b>SLO #1 Influence on Social Engagement</b> Demonstrate knowledge of adapting interpersonal communication styles to effectively engage with diverse cultural, gender and social groups, reflecting an understanding of the complexities of global interpersonal interactions.</p> <p><b>SLO #2 Role in Cultural &amp; Social Communication</b> Students will demonstrate understanding of the role of interpersonal communication within cultural and social organizations in their own society and other human societies, including Western and non-Western cultures.</p> <p><b>SLO #3 Theory Application</b> Students will demonstrate understanding of social science research through analysis of interpersonal communication theories, concepts, or principles</p>
<b>Course Objectives:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyze various interpersonal communication theories and apply them to real-life scenarios.</li> <li>2. Evaluate the impact of self-concept, perception, and emotions on interpersonal interactions.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate effective use of language and nonverbal cues in diverse communication settings.</li> <li>4. Assess gender differences in communication and propose strategies for inclusive dialogue.</li> <li>5. Research and synthesize social and behavioral science methodologies in the study of interpersonal communication.</li> <li>6. Examine contemporary, historical, and geographical influences on communication problems and issues.</li> <li>7. Identify and compare cultural and social organizations' effects on human behavior and communication.</li> <li>8. Appreciate the contributions of men, women, ethnic minorities, and analyze their perspectives in Western and non-Western societies.</li> <li>9. Critique family dynamics and conflict resolution strategies through a theoretical lens.</li> <li>10. Design and/or conduct a research project that applies interpersonal communication concepts.</li> <li>11. Interpret the role of emotions in communication and develop emotional intelligence skills.</li> <li>12. Construct arguments for the importance of active listening and empathy in relationship building.</li> <li>13. Develop solutions to interpersonal conflicts using established conflict resolution frameworks.</li> <li>14. Create a supportive communication climate and evaluate its effectiveness in organizational settings.</li> <li>15. Integrate knowledge of interpersonal communication to enhance personal and professional relationships.</li> </ol>
<b>Major Topics:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <b>Course Introduction (3 hours, lecture)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Course Introduction and Overview of Interpersonal Communication</li> <li>B. Discussion on the perspectives of interpersonal communication based on social sciences research.</li> </ol> </li> <li>II. <b>Interpersonal Process (3 hours, lecture)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication</li> <li>B. Day 2: The Self in Interpersonal Communication</li> </ol> </li> <li>III. <b>Mediated Interpersonal Communication (3 hours, lecture)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Digital Communication Platforms</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. Day 2: Impact of Technology on Relationships</li> </ul> <p>IV. <b>Culture and Interpersonal Communication (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Cultural Dimensions of Communication</li> <li>B. Day 2: Cross-Cultural Communication Challenges</li> </ul> <p>V. <b>Interpersonal Communication and the Self (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Self-Disclosure and Privacy</li> <li>B. Day 2: Building a Positive Self-Concept</li> </ul> <p>VI. <b>Perceiving Others (6 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Perception and Communication</li> <li>B. Day 2: Empathy and Understanding</li> <li>C. Unit 1 EXAM</li> </ul> <p>VII. <b>Language (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: The Power of Words</li> <li>B. Day 2: Language, Thought, and Culture</li> </ul> <p>VIII. <b>Nonverbal Communication (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Decoding Nonverbal Signals</li> <li>B. Day 2: Nonverbal Communication in Different Contexts</li> </ul> <p>IX. <b>Listening (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Barriers to Effective Listening</li> <li>B. Day 2: Active Listening Techniques</li> </ul> <p>X. <b>Emotions (6 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Emotional Expression in Communication</li> <li>B. Day 2: Managing Emotions in Interpersonal Interactions</li> <li>C. UNIT 2 EXAM</li> </ul> <p>XI. <b>Dynamics of Interpersonal Relationships (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Stages of Relationship Development</li> <li>B. Day 2: Maintaining Healthy Relationships</li> </ul> <p>XII. <b>Communication in Close Relationships (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Family Communication Patterns</li> <li>B. Day 2: Communication in Romantic Partnerships</li> </ul> <p>XIII. <b>Managing Conflict (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Conflict Styles and Strategies</li> <li>B. Day 2: Negotiation and Resolution</li> </ul> <p>XIV. <b>Communication Climate (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Creating Supportive Environments</li> <li>B. Day 2: Dealing with Defensive Communication</li> </ul> <p>XV. <b>Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Discuss Contemporary Issues in Interpersonal Communication</li> <li>B. Day 2: Review and Synthesis of Interpersonal Communication Concepts</li> </ul> <p>XVI. <b>Final Projects and Presentations (3 hours, lecture)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Day 1: Final Project Review</li> <li>B. Day 2: Final Project Presentations</li> </ul>
<b>Total Lecture Hours:</b>	54
<b>Total Laboratory Hours:</b>	0
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54
<b>Primary Method of Evaluation:</b>	1) Substantial writing assignments
<b>Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:</b>	In a three- to five-page paper, list five elements of interpersonal communication such as (listening, language, identity, non-verbal, emotions, etc). With these five elements in mind, explain how they would affect interpersonal communication within and across different cultural, social, or gender groups. Use examples and sources to support claims.

<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 1:</b>	In a three- to five-page research paper citing interpersonal communication concepts and theories, students will explore interpersonal communication styles across distinct communities or cultures, focusing on at least four identified theories or elements of interpersonal communication. Through critical analysis, students will examine how these communication aspects impact interactions across cultures or identified populations by identifying potential challenges, and proposing strategies for effective communication.
<b>Critical Thinking Assignment 2:</b>	In a four- to six-page research paper, students will analyze how self-concept, perception, emotional expression, and conflict resolution influence interpersonal relationship dynamics. The paper should integrate course theories with real-world examples to understand these themes' impact on relationship development, quality, and influence of interpersonal communication in relationships.
<b>Other Evaluation Methods:</b>	Class Performance, Multiple Choice, Essay Exams, Other Exams, Performance Exams, Quizzes, Objective Exams, Oral Exams, Presentation, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
<b>Instructional Methods:</b>	Lecture, Discussion, Multimedia presentations, Group Activities, Guest Speakers
<b>If other:</b>	
<b>Work Outside of Class:</b>	Answer reflection questions, Journal ( <i>done on a continuing basis throughout the semester</i> ), Problem solving activities, Required readings, Skill practice, Study, Written work ( <i>such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research</i> )
<b>If Other:</b>	
<b>Up-To-Date Representative Texts:</b>	Proctor and Adler, <u>Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication</u> , 16th Edition, OUP, 2023. Proctor and Adler, <u>Looking Out, Looking In</u> , 16th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2022.
<b>Alternative Texts:</b>	
<b>Required Supplementary Readings:</b>	
<b>Other Required Materials:</b>	
<b>Requisite:</b>	
<b>Category:</b>	
<b>Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.</b>	
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill:</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable</b>	
<b>Requisite course:</b>	
<b>Requisite and Matching skill(s):Bold the</b>	

<b>requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).</b>	
<b>Requisite Skill:</b>	Eligibility for English 1A
<b>Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable</b>	<p><b>This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills.</b></p> <p>Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.</p>
<b>Enrollment Limitations and Category:</b>	
<b>Enrollment Limitations Impact:</b>	
<b>Course Created by:</b>	H. Wennstrom, N. Lilienthal, H. Borden
<b>Date:</b>	10/01/1972
<b>Original Board Approval Date:</b>	
<b>Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:</b>	Larry Leach
<b>Date:</b>	04/15/2024
<b>Last Board Approval Date:</b>	06/17/2024
<b>Effective Term:</b>	FALL 2025