Interpersonal Communication

HU321 Summer 2001
P. Sotirin, Walker 345, x7364, pjsotiri@mtu.edu; office hours 11-12 MW

Texts:
Recommended: P.M. Kellett & D.G. Dalton, Managing Conflict in a Negotiated World: A Narrative Approach to Achieving Dialogue and Change

Rationale:
Interpersonal communication is more than "mere talk" or even "interpersonal skills." The argument of this course is that interpersonal communication creates who we are and can be as both individuals and social beings. During the course, we will explore various aspects and implications of this argument. You will be asked to reflect on your own assumptions and experiences in order to more fully develop your understanding of yourself as an interpersonal communicator.

Objectives:
1. Know the basic processes and elements of the transactional model of interpersonal communication.
2. Reflect on personal habits and assumptions in view of interpersonal concepts.
3. Engage philosophical and ethical issues about what interpersonal communication is and our responsibilities as communicators.

Policies:
The schedule I propose here is flexible and we may alter it depending on circumstances and our collective interests. I will hold office hours faithfully and encourage you to come in, call me, or send me email regarding any aspect of your involvement in this course. I expect you to document your sources carefully, especially electronic sources. Plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students. I ask that you attend class regularly; after three absences, your grade will be affected. I adhere to the university's accommodation policy: "MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (72212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department head, or the Affirmative Action office (73310)."

Grading:
10 reading responses, each due on the day the reading is assigned 5% each
Presentation of an assigned reading, with handout, outline, and questions for class discussion or an in-class exercise 20%
Course paper 10%
Class participation 20%
Assignments

Reading responses (2 pages)
Choose 2 of the review questions in the text (do not choose fill in the blank questions) and one of the approved Probe questions (see below).

Presentation (10 minutes)
Prepare an outline for your presentation and a handout that highlights the main points and concepts of your article. Answer the following questions during your presentation:
1. What is the author's primary argument or goal?
2. What are the main points and how is the argument developed?
3. What are the major contributions of this article to your understanding of interpersonal communication? (What will the class find most interesting, helpful, or insightful?)
4. How does this reading relate to our common communication assumptions and experiences?

Your presentation must have an opening overview and a concluding summary and closing line. Your handout must pose at least 3 questions for class discussion. Alternatively, you can prepare a short in-class exercise that applies the constructs you presented. Altogether, the presentation should serve as enticement for others in the class to read this material and as a basis for class discussion.

Paper (5 pages)
At any time during the course but before the last day of class (June 28), write a short research paper on a topic of your choice. Alternatively, you may review the recommended text.

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| June 4 | Trenholm & Jensen (154-65)  
Presentations:  
Wood (167-73)  
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Bohm (184-93) | 1, 4, 5 |
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| June 5 | Presentations: Roach & Wyatt (196-200)  
McKay, et al (201-10)  
Sanford (211-14) |
| June 6 | Stewart & Logan (215-37) | 7, 8, 9 |
| June 7 | Presentations: McKay et al (242-54)  
Duck (254-62) |
| June 11 | Stewart & Logan (283-97)  
Presentations: Vangelisti (265-74)  
Welwood (275-80) | 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| June 12 | Presentations: Stewart & Logan (302-18)  
Wilmot (318-34)  
Cissna & Sieburt (335-46) |
| June 13 | Presentations: Wood (374-84)  
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| June 14 | Duck (348-60) OR  
Hardwig (361-72) | 4, 5, 6 |
| June 18 | Folger et al (430-41)  
Presentations: Canary et al (396-407)  
Cory & Cory (408-19)  
Welwood (419-26) | 1 (and why), 2, 3 |
| June 19 | Presentations: Gibb (442-48)  
Prather & Prather (449-58)  
Kottler (459-68) |
| June 20 | Johnson (486-98) | 2, 3, 4 |
| June 21 | Presentations: Pogrebin (500-15)  
Carbaugh (516-30)  
Gundykunst & Kim (6th ed.)  
Cargile, "Language Matters"  
Siple, "Cultural Patterns of Deaf People" |
| June 25 | Christensen (534-553)  
Presentations: Josselson (555-563)  
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<p>| June 26 | Kellett &amp; Dalton (3-48) |
| June 27 | Kellett &amp; Dalton (49-100) |
| June 28 | Kellett &amp; Dalton (143-183) |</p>
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