CMS 220 Interpersonal Communication
Syllabus – Spring 2014

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Course Description:
This course focuses upon the nature and influence of communicative behavior in close, personal relationships. Interpersonal communication structure and processes will be explored as they relate to the development and maintenance of identities, friendships, romantic, and family relationships.

Course Objectives:
Through thorough examination and discussion of theoretical study and practice of communication exercises, at the end of this course, each participant should:
1. Establish effective interpersonal, intrapersonal, and group communication
2. Know the techniques for improvement of communication skills
3. Be able to assess his/her communication skills
4. Become aware of barriers to effective communication
5. Be aware of different perceptions and possibilities for interpretation of communication

Text:
Communicate! A Workbook for Interpersonal Communication.
ISBN: 0-7575-1332-8

Workbooks must be purchased new.
Used workbooks will not be acceptable for this course.
You must have your workbook with you for every class meeting!

Course Activities:
To meet the stated objectives students will complete assigned activities from the workbook prior to class meetings. Students will utilize class time to further discuss the assignments, interact and communicate with each other in large and small groups. The workbook will be handed in at the conclusion of this course for instructor review and feedback.

READ AND COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASS ONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST MEETING!!!
**Class one:**
Introductions/Syllabus Review/Attendance/Weather/Classroom rules – no cell phone use, communication rules, confidentiality/Breaks

Read Chapter 1 Communication Foundations - **due prior to class**
**Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class**
Communication Questionnaire - pages 5-6
Getting to Know Me - pages 7-8
Julie & Mr. Conroy – pages 16-17
Things to Work On – pages 19-20
Course Goals – pages 21-22
Reactions to Chapter 1 – pages 23-24

Read Chapter 2 Listening - **due prior to class**
**Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class**
Listening Quiz – pages 32-33
Listening Questionnaire – page 36
Listening Skills Self Inventory – pages 39-41
Testing for Listening Power – pages 44-45
Reactions to Chapter 2 – pages 59-60

**Class two:**
Read Chapter 3 Perception- **due prior to class**
**Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class**
Perception – pages 69-73
Quiz: Common Perception – pages 74-75
The Way I See Things – page 76
Count the Squares – page 81
The Way We See Me (Self) – pages 85-86
The Whole Truth – pages 91-92
Now the Rest of the Truth – pages 93-94
Reactions to Chapter 3 – pages 95-96

Read Chapter 4 Nonverbal Communication – **due prior to class**
**Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class**
Nonverbal Rules – pages 106-107
Reactions to Chapter 4 – pages 111-112

**Class three:**
Read Chapter 5 Using Language – **due prior to class**
**Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class**
Semantic Reactions – pages 120-121
Hidden Assumption Test – pages 122-123
The Uncritical Inference Test – pages 124-125
Polarization – page 126
Owning My Communication – page 127
The Slang Test – pages 128-129
Reactions to Chapter 5 – pages 133-134

Read Chapter 6 Understanding Self – due prior to class

Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class
Exercising Compliments – page 139
Turning Points in My Life – page 141
Comfort Survey – pages 142-143
Rate Your Self Confidence – pages 144-145
Role Analysis – pages 147-149 (look over, we will complete in class)
Reactions to Chapter 6 – pages 155-156

Class four:

Read Chapter 7 Values – due prior to class

Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class
Complete the Thought – pages 169-170
Self-Appraisal – pages 171-172
Lost in a Lifeboat – pages 173-174
Reactions to Chapter 7

Class five:

Read Chapter 8 Managing Conflict – due prior to class

Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class
Conflict Quiz – page 184
Feelings About Conflict – page 185
Identifying Conflicts Activity – pages 186-187
Five Sample Situations – pages 205-206
Reactions to Chapter 8 – pages 209-210

Class six:

Read Chapter 9 Relational Communication – due prior to class

Complete the following pages prior to class, be prepared to discuss in class
Skills 1-5 – pages 219-223
How Well Do We Know Women & Men – pages 224-225
Diagnosing Your Relationship – pages 229-230
Self-Disclosure Questionnaire – pages 231-235
Relationship Roles – pages 236-237
Reactions to Chapter 9 – pages – page 239

Chapter 10 Job Search Skills – Susan Rocker visit if available
**Class seven:**
Final Presentations

**Class eight:**
Final Presentations
Course evaluations

**Grading:**

- **Attendance:** 5 points $\times$ 8 classes = 40 points
  (must be present entire class time)

- **Participation:** 5 points $\times$ 8 classes = 40 points

- **Workbook:** 5 points $\times$ 8 classes = 40 points

- **Final Presentation:** 80 points

- **Total:** 200 points

195-200 = A+
190-195 = A
180-189 = B
170-179 = C
160-169 = D
Below 159 = F

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** New regulations under the Higher Education Act require us to verify the identity of a person doing work in a class if we receive assignments, etc. from that student electronically. We can comply with this regulation if our students submit things to teachers electronically from their Doane College e-mail address or through Blackboard, because the college issued that address, ID, and password. For that reason, I can only send assignments to your Doane e-mail address, and I can only accept assignments submitted to me from your Doane e-mail address.