CMS 220  INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION  
3 CREDIT HOURS  
Thursday Nights 6-10 PM

**Contact Information**

Instructor  
Melanie Smith

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Class will not meet the first week. The first class session will be June 6.

**Course Description**

This course focuses upon the nature and influence of communicative behavior in close, personal relationships. Interpersonal communication structures and processes are explored as they relate to the development and maintenance of identities, friendships, romance, family relationships and work relationships.

**Required Text**


**Course Objectives**

1. Develop individual personal growth.
2. Establish effective interpersonal, intrapersonal, and group communication.
3. Understand concepts and practice of appropriate communication skills.
4. Become aware of barriers to effective communication.
5. Have the ability to apply new communication skills to personal and professional life.

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article Review (2)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Activities</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Communications Paper</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>80 pts</td>
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Note that class participation is necessary for each of us to learn as much from one another as possible. There will be several opportunities for you to participate. Please be an active participant. If you are not, you will not earn full credit for the week.
Moreover, grading is based on the extent to which each student demonstrates adequate knowledge of the assigned materials. It is suggested that each student find related materials on the Internet, think of experiences he/she has experienced related to each topic etc., and bring these into the discussion to show mastery of materials.

Students are to read and provide two written article reviews of their choice on any topic of interpersonal communication. Topics may include: (but are not limited to) communication, avoidance, conflict, pseudo-listening, questioning, self talk, stereotyping, transactional, problem solving, and upward communication. This article review will be due the 3rd and 6th class meetings. (The article reviews are to be 2 pages double spaced.)

Periodically, individual and group activities will be assigned throughout the course. Some of these activities include: videos, work sheets, or case studies. Students are expected to complete the assignments according to guidelines given. Late work will not be accepted.

The individual project includes one five-page essay in which you will focus on applying course concepts to your own communication behavior in:
- *Personal Relations (within relationships of family, friends, spouses, etc.)*
- *Work Relations*
- *Group Communication*
- *Analyzing your Self Assessments from Chapter Work*

**Outline for the essay:**

1. What is your personal definition of effective communication? How has your understanding of effective communication changed?
2. Why is listening an important communication skill?
3. How can empathic or active listening improve communication in your personal and/or professional life?
4. What event recently (new job, birth or death in family, etc.) has affected your intra/interpersonal communication?
5. Why is an understanding of nonverbal communication essential to being an effective communicator? Include an example.
6. What does knowing who we are have to do with communication skills in our personal or professional life?
7. What do you plan to do with your major when you graduate and how will knowing about communication skills help you in your profession?
8. How has this class helped you improve your communication?
**Academic Integrity Policy**

The Doane College Academic Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.