

COMM 272: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

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COMM 272: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

Instructor Contact Information

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Best time to contact: Weekdays before 10 p.m. Eastern Time

Instructor Email Response Policy

Any course related email sent to the instructor will have a response either by email, phone, or through the LMS within 48 hours.

Course Description and Credit Hours

This course focuses on developing interpersonal communication skills that value effectiveness, love, and treating others in a Christ-like way. By approaching people from a position of love and by learning principles of nonviolent communication, students will learn to communicate in small and large group dynamics, to establish and maintain a positive communication climate and resolve conflict in a positive manner. Students will also begin to examine critically the cultural influences of violence that impact communication and relationships.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to:

- To increase your awareness and understanding of interpersonal communication as a dynamic process of creating and sharing meaning.
- To identify your own strengths and weaknesses as an interpersonal communicator.
- To develop your own skills and strategies in interpersonal communication including the ability to identify and minimize violent influences in your method(s) of communication and practice nonviolent communication in multiple settings.
- To understand some key theories and research in interpersonal communication.
- To recognize and apply interpersonal communication principles from the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- To nonviolently handle and resolve conflict in one's relationships.

Big Picture Objective: Reflecting God's image, we will work together on becoming more authentic and fully alive through loving God and loving our neighbors.

Required Textbook / Materials

Title: Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life.
Author(s): Rosenberg, Marshall B.
Publisher: Puddledancer Press
Published ISBN: 978-1-89200-503-8

Title: Practicing the Presence of People
Author(s): Mason, Mike.
Publisher: WaterBrook
Published ISBN: 978-1-57856-265-7

Textbooks and other required course materials can be purchased from the [online campus bookstore](#).

Course Requirements

Any online course activities assigned to the course are performed within Canvas.

Additional web sites and related web-based activities, if assigned, will be accessed through the course or through web links provided for web sites located outside the course.

Final Grade Calculation

Grade Distribution

Assignment	Point Value
Participation	350
Midterm	100
Journaling (5 at 40 points each)	200
Popular Culture Project	150
Interpersonal Competence Project	200
Total	1,000

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percent
A	100% - 94%
A-	< 94% - 90%
B+	< 90% - 87%
B	< 87% - 84%
B-	< 84% - 80%
C+	< 80% - 77%
C	< 77% - 74%
C-	< 74% - 70%
D+	< 70% - 67%
D	< 67% - 64%
D-	< 64% - 60%

F	< 60% and below
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Netiquette Policy

In an online course, almost all your interactions with other people will be through the internet. This netiquette policy applies to all your interactions with the instructor and your fellow students, and you are expected to follow the guidelines outlined below.

Respect other people and be willing to share your ideas and thoughts in a respectful way. Simply, respect others' views. You may disagree with someone, but do so graciously and constructively. Pause before writing emails or posts when you are angry, and reread what you wrote carefully before clicking 'send.' Treat others the way you wish to be treated—with respect.

Do not post or communicate offensive or hateful content. Bethel College does not permit discussions that are obscene, harassing, sexually explicit, or derogatory toward individuals or groups. These will be deleted, and repeat offenders may be barred from future participation.

Do not post or share personal information. Do not post or share information such as addresses, telephone numbers, etc., and do not post or share someone else's personal information.

Learning Activities and Tests

Online Discussion

Class Participation

In the event of classroom meeting cancelation due to a campus scheduled holiday or severe weather, the scheduled class session will continue online. The following requirements are for online discussions:

The student will submit an initial discussion post per discussion topic. This initial discussion is a minimum of 250 words. This initial discussion post must include a level of detail, analysis and reflection related to the discussion topic. The student is expected to cite references to support their opinion. Any use of references must be properly cited using APA format.

Each student is required to reply to a minimum of two student initial posts. The reply post is a minimum of 100 to 150 words. This post must include a level of detail, analysis and reflection.

To receive the minimum points possible for a weekly discussion requires each student to post their initial discussion response on the regular night of the class session and two student reply posts by day four of the session – unless otherwise directed by the professor.

Post / Response Guidelines

In an online classroom the majority of discussion among class members will take place in the discussion forum. Online discussion forums are designed to allow the class to engage in a healthy dialog on the lesson topic or question being presented. However, for the dialog to remain productive Bethel College requires each person to conduct themselves in a responsible manner by following the simple guidelines below. These help to maintain a collaborative and

congenial environment by reminding us all that, when we communicate online, we are still engaging real people.

Stay on the discussion topic. Be respectful of participants and their time by staying on-topic and not commandeering a discussion with vague or unrelated comments. Contribute productive information when participating in a discussion by stating a complete and logical idea or concept. The goal in the discussion is to delve into a topic and “learn,” so when you post a comment stay on topic and explain your point of view.

Access the discussions several times in the weekly sessions to remain current and active in the discussion.

Do not post copyrighted material without the expressed, documented permission of the copyright holder or following proper source citation of the information, just as you would when writing an essay or term paper. Cite a source if you use it.

Contact your instructor if you have any questions.

Weekly Assignments

Participation: (350 points)

There will be a series of weekly discussion assignments, which will be available to you each week at the start of the week (Sunday morning, just after midnight). Each of these topics will concern the practical application and/or meaning of principles from the texts.

Journaling: (200 points)

You will write a two-page reflection on a particular question given each week. While these reflections are private, in that only you and I (the instructor) will read them, you should share only what you are comfortable sharing. This journal is assigned so that you have a way to work with the course content in your own life; I am only concerned with your authentic attempts to apply the techniques and concepts from class in your own life. The journal entries will be graded each week. You will be graded on the quality and faithfulness to this task.

Classroom Discussion

Each week a portion of the course will be devoted to an online class discussion related to a particular concept or topic.

Ground Rules for civil discourse will be created by the class, but will include:

- Respect other people in all things.
- Be open and willing to share your true and authentic thoughts, observations, etc.
- If you disagree with another person in the discussion, do so respectfully and thoughtfully.
- Criticisms should be constructive and offered only to further discussion.
- Comments should stay on topic and be relevant.
- No personal remarks or attacks shall be permitted.
- Everyone shall have equal opportunity to participate in the discussion and shall be heard.

- Bethel College does not permit discussions that are obscene, harassing, sexually explicit, or derogatory toward individuals or groups.

Major Assignments

Test: (100 points)

There will be a comprehensive midterm over textual material. This exam will contain approximately 50% objective content questions and 50% subjective application questions. The material will come from readings, course materials, resources, discussions, etc. Anything covered to the point of the midterm may be included.

Popular Culture Project: (150 points)

In this assignment, you will explore the connection between popular culture and interpersonal communication. You will select a movie that shows some aspect of interpersonal communication and the topics covered in class. This artifact should connect a theory or concept from IPC and connect it directly to some aspect covered in class.

For example, what does the TLC show *Day Yes to the Dress* say about romantic love and how does this potentially influence our expectations about romantic love and marriage? Or what can we see in the movie *He's Not That Into You* about how relationships come together and come apart?

Or, how does a movie like *Beaches* reflect the theories of social penetration theory? You need to connect the content of the film with some concept we discuss in class or through your reading of our textbooks.

You will turn in a three-page report describing the film and application to interpersonal communication, and any conclusions you have about its influence in Module 5.

Please select your film by Module 2 and your report should be uploaded in Module 5.

Interpersonal Competence Development Project: (200 points)

In this semester long project, you will select an interpersonal skill that you want to improve. [A list of possible skills will be provided, but off-list topics will be permissible.] After a skill is selected, you will explain your purpose in choosing the skill, describe how you wish to improve, set behavioral objectives, determine how you will evaluate your progress, report your results, and write a conclusion. Any challenges faced should also be addressed.

This project is expected to indicate a depth of knowledge, and a thoroughness of understanding and growth in your personal journey through Interpersonal Communication from the readings and from class discussions. Your journal entries will assist you in marking your progress.

The project should be in the form of a 7 page paper with a cover page and bibliography. Five pages of text are required. You shall reflect on your journey, including what you have learned about Interpersonal Communication, and the process of building *I/Thou* relationships through the improvement of the chosen skill. A rubric is included and further guidelines may be provided. Collegiate level writing is required, as reflected in the grading rubric.

Course Schedule

Week #	Required Reading	Assignment / Activity
1 Self: Intro, Conscious and unconscious influences, love and communication	NVC Ch. 1	Read chapters assigned, think about what influences the way you construct your communication to your audiences
2 Perception	NVC 2-3/PP 1-2, 15-18, 27-34, review Wink	Select skill for final project Homework/ Journal #1
3 Feelings	NVC 4-5	Homework/ Journal #2
4 Verbal & Nonverbal	NVC 6/PP50-54	NVC 6/PP50-54 Mid term Homework/ Journal #3
5 Empathy	NVC 7-8/ PP46-47	Homework/ Journal #4 Popular Culture Project
6 Conflict	NVC 9-10/PP 55-61	Homework/ Journal #5
7 Authenticity	NVC 12-13/PP-epilogue	Interpersonal Competence paper due

Bethel College Policies and Resources

To view all Bethel College policies and information, please review the [Student Handbook](#).

Online Attendance

Online attendance is recorded each time that you log into the learning management system. The academic week is seven days for an online session and is based on the night the class normally meets (i.e. if the class meets on Monday night then the online session will be from Monday night through Sunday night of the following week). To receive full credit for attending online, you must login AND one of the following items must be completed as directed by the instructor:

- Submit an academic assignment.
- Submit a quiz or exam.
- Participate in a posted online academic discussion.

Note that the following actions will not count as attendance:

- Logging into class without active participation does not constitute attendance.
- Work done in a lab or other outside environment will not count toward online attendance.
- Assignments completed the week after the online assignment is due will not count toward attendance for the previous week.

Students are strongly encouraged to log into the course a minimum of three days during the week the course is “online” in order to understand the subject fully and to be successful in class.

An online absence is counted the same as an in-class absence.

Late or Make Up Work

It is important for students to submit work on time as scheduled in the class. This allows the instructor time to grade the material and provide feedback if necessary. Circumstances may interfere with the ability to submit an assignment on time. However, as a student you agree to take the class and therefore agree to submit work on time.

Students are encouraged to work ahead to avoid late assignments. Please communicate with your professor promptly if you have extenuating circumstances that may contribute to a late assignment.

Assignments (excluding discussion questions) will be accepted late, subject to a 10% deduction off the earned grade per day late (24-hour period), for up to 3 days. No assignments will be accepted after 3 days. Discussion posts and responses that are not posted by the due date will receive 0 points and are not accepted past the due date.

All work must be completed and submitted by the end of Week 7 of the course. No work will be accepted after the last day of the course.

Class Cancellation / Weather Policy for Online Courses

In the advent of in-classroom meeting cancellation due to a campus scheduled holiday or severe weather, the online course schedule will be maintained. Campus closures do not affect the online course schedule.

Plagiarism

Any act of deceit, falsehood or stealing by unethically copying or using someone else's work in an academic situation is prohibited. A student found guilty of plagiarism will receive an "F" for that paper, assignment or exam. The professor will have an interview with the student and submit a written report to the Program Director or Coordinator for the area in which the student is enrolled. If a second offense should occur, the student will be required to appear before the professor, the director and the vice president for adult and graduate studies. At this point the student's continuation in the course and academic career are in jeopardy. Students are encouraged to refer to the Bethel Library's [online help for proper citation](#).

Disability Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a law that provides civil rights protection for people with disabilities. Bethel College is compliant with equal access laws and requests students with disabilities The Center for Academic Success (CAS) is located in the lower level of the Miller/Moore Academic Center.

If you have a disability, or think you have a disability, please make an appointment by calling Disability Services at the Center for Academic Success at (574) 807-7460 or (574) 807-7462 or email academicsuccess@bethelcollege.edu.

Bethel's website offers more detailed information under CAS. Please check out the [Student Guide for Disability Services](#).

Information Technology Help Desk

The Help Desk is open Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., during the fall and spring semesters, and 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. during the summer (starting May 1). Hours may vary on holidays and breaks.

Contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@bethelcollege.edu or by calling (574) 807-7777.

Library

Bethel's Bowen Library offers a range of resources and services, both online and physical, to all students enrolled at Bethel College. All online resources are available at the [library website](#).

Almost all periodicals and journals are available online, and there is a wide selection of e-books available as well. Off-campus access to these resources requires an active Bethel login account. For assistance in locating information, librarians are available to answer questions via email ([Ask a Librarian](#)), phone, or in person during regular business hours. For physical resources, students are able to use the [library catalog](#) to locate books and resources that are

held either by Bethel or any other library. Students may use the catalog to request books from another library and have them delivered to the Bowen Library.

Students may also go to any [PALNI](#) library or to Notre Dame or Holy Cross and check material out in person with a valid student ID. PALNI is a consortium of several academic libraries in Indiana of which Bethel is a member; some nearby member libraries include Saint Mary's, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Goshen, and Grace. In addition, physical books and journals, the Bowen Library provides study spaces, computers, and printers (included a web print station) to all students.

Syllabus Acknowledgment

Enrollment in this course is considered an acknowledgment that the student will review and follow the course syllabus and additional college policies as stated within the student handbook, college catalog and student information provided by the college through the campus website.

This syllabus is not a legal contract, but serves as a general outline for the semester. The professor reserves the right to make adjustments to the course as the need arises.