

COMM 3353 Interpersonal Communication

3 credit hours

Summer, 2020

This course is administered online, May 11 to June 22

Instructor: Brian Simmons, Ph.D. (Professor of Communication)

Office Location: Garvey Center 125

Email: brian.simmons@oc.edu

Office Phone: (405) 425-5525

Office Hours: Video conferences can be arranged through email

OC Mission Statement

Oklahoma Christian University is a higher learning community that transforms lives for Christian faith, scholarship, and service.

Departmental Mission Statement & other departmental information (optional)

The mission of the Department of Communication is to train students to:

1. serve through words to honor the One who called himself the Word;
2. serve through scholarship as the young Jesus did in the Temple surrounded by His elders;
3. serve through stories to be like the Master Teacher who scarcely taught without a parable;
4. serve through images to remind the world of a God who made man in His own image;
5. serve through speech to access its power like the One who scrambled speech at the Tower of Babel and brought it back together again at Pentecost;
6. serve through drama to be like God who ransomed the world through the Passion of the cross;
7. serve through leadership modeling after the One who led by words, deeds and examples during His earthly ministry

Christian Worldview & Teaching Philosophy

- *On the student-teacher relationship:* "Students learn best when they are friends with the instructor." This does not mean that you and I will hang out on the weekends in your dorm, but it does mean that I will attempt to cultivate a friendly, banter-filled yet professional relationship with you.
- *On the nature of higher education:* "Higher education is a privilege, not a right." It's not for everyone. Higher education should be about learning and applying a few principles to life situations rather than memorizing minute details.
- *On the nature of Christian higher education:* "The Christian perspective should inform the entire educational process." Moreover, college classes, campus life, and teacher student interactions ought to be more mature than those found in high school. It's college, not church camp!
- *On types of assignments:* "Papers that get students to apply ideas to the real world are the most worthwhile kinds of assignments. And presentations are valuable too." I think that tests and quizzes are poor means of gauging learning. After college, few people will take tests or quizzes but most of us will write and speak to groups; therefore we ought to practice doing so.
- *On evaluating student work:* "There is no shame in a C." Assignment and course grades ought to reflect the fact that most students do average work, a few above or below average, and fewer still excellent or failing. Students are responsible for demonstrating in their work what makes it worthy of a grade reflecting that it is above average or excellent work.

- *On teaching:* “I’m not going to open your head and pour in knowledge. I want you to think and apply ideas to the real world.” Ultimately, it’s up to you whether you get anything out of the class.
- *On honor:* “Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10).” I will honor you by being prepared, organized, respecting of your time and crafting a worthwhile class that you want to attend. I will always treat you professionally and I will always treat you like an adult. I expect you to honor me by investing in the class and being a professional, serious student in all regards.

Course Description

This course is an application of interpersonal communication theory and research pertaining to developing relationships and family communication. Course topics include listening, nonverbal communication, conflict management, and gender differences in communication.

Course Outcomes

This course meets the following of Oklahoma Christian University’s Outcomes:

Course Objective	Assessment Tool	Program Objective(s)	University Objective(s)
At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to demonstrate the ability to understand and describe how research findings in interpersonal communication are at work in specific interpersonal communication contexts.	6 papers		Critical and Creative Thinking

Course Requirements & Grading Standards:

Students will complete several Units each of which is composed of a sequence of Modules and a written assignment over each module.

1. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #1 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #1 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on May 18 or any day earlier than that.
2. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #2 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #2 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on May 25 or any day earlier than that.
3. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #3 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #3 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on June 1 or any day earlier than that.

4. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #4 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #4 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on June 8 or any day earlier than that.
5. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #5 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #5 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on June 15 or any day earlier than that.
6. Written Assignment pertaining to Unit #6 (100 points)
 - a. Write a five-page, double-spaced, 12- point, paper that describes how the specific ideas contained in Unit #6 have been evident in your own experiences, a television program or a film.
 - b. This assignment is to be emailed to the instructor at brian.simmons@oc.edu by 11:59PM on June 22 or any day earlier than that.

The final course grade will be determined as follows:

90-100% of the total available points = A

80-89% of the total available points = B

70-79% of the total available points = C

60-69% of the total available points = D

0-59% of the total available points = F

Availability and Timeliness of Grades: All grades will be posted to Blackboard upon their determination.

Six Weeks Grades: Six Weeks grades serve as a “snapshot” of the student’s progress to date and will be computed based on the student’s average on all work submitted at the time six weeks grades are due.

Materials Needed

There are no required textbooks.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Students will complete several Units each of which is composed of a sequence of Modules and a written assignment. Each Unit’s videos must be viewed during the time-frame that unit runs and the written assignment over each unit must be submitted by the date and time specified in the course schedule below. Of course, videos may be watched and assignments may be submitted at any point prior to the specified dates in the course schedule below.

May 11-18
Unit #1: Gender Communication
Module 1 Welcome to the Course
Module 2 Gender Communication: The Male & Female Lenses
Module 3 Gender Communication: Three Kinds of Talk

Module 4 Gender Communication: Everyday Differences
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #1 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM MAY 18 (OR EARLIER)
May 19-25
Unit #2: Interpersonal Conflict
Module 5 Conflict: An Overview of Interpersonal Conflict
Module 6 Conflict: The Disagreement Stage of Conflict
Module 7 Conflict: The Confrontation Stage of Conflict
Module 8 Conflict: The Escalation Stage of Conflict
Module 9 Conflict: The De-Escalation and Resolution Stages of Conflict
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #2 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM MAY 25 (OR EARLIER)
May 26-June 1
Unit #3: Technology & Interpersonal Communication
Module 10 Social Media as Interpersonal Communication
Module 11 Negative Effects of Social Media
Module 12 Texting and Interpersonal Relationships
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #3 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM June 1 (OR EARLIER)
June 2-8
Unit #4: Communication in Friendships
Module 13 Friendships: Communication in Friendships
Module 14 Friendships: The Initiation and Growth of Friendships
Module 15 Friendships: Cross-Sex Friendships and Friends With Benefits
Module 16 Friendships: Difficult and Unusual Friendships
Module 17 Friendships: The Demise of Friendships
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #4 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM JUNE (OR EARLIER)
June 9-15
Unit #5: Communication in Romantic Relationships
Module 18 Romantic Relationships: The Early Stages of Romantic Relationships
Module 19 Romantic Relationships: The Established Stages of Romantic Relationships
Module 20 Romantic Relationships: The Dissolution of Romantic Relationships
Module 21 Romantic Relationships: Forces of Social Attraction
Module 22 Romantic Relationships: Communication in Long Distance Relationships
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #5 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM JUNE 15 (OR EARLIER)
JUNE 10-22
Unit #6 Special Topics in Interpersonal Communication
Module 23 Defensiveness
Module 24 Forgiveness
Module 25 Gossip
Module 26 Lying and Deception
Module 27 Apologies and Excuses

Module 28 Profanity
Module 29 Sarcasm
COMPLETE THE PAPER ASSIGNMENT FOR UNIT #6 AND SUBMIT VIA EMAIL BY 11:59PM JUNE 22 (OR EARLIER)

Course Policies:

E-mail

The instructor makes extensive use of e-mail as an efficient means of communicating with students enrolled in this course. Please make a point to check your university e-mail on a regular basis!

Attendance

This course is delivered as an asynchronous, self-paced, online course.

Late assignment/exam policies

Students are expected to turn in course assignments on time. Late work will only be accepted if (1) students are given specific permission to submit late work, and (2) such permission is secured prior to the time at which the work is due. Failure to secure such permission will result in the work not being accepted and a zero entered into the gradebook for that assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act

If you have a diagnosed disability and need special accommodations, please notify Ms. Katy Roybal (425-1876) before or immediately after your first scheduled day of class. After your disability has been verified, your instructor will work with you, with Ms. Roybal, and with the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this course.

Sexual Misconduct Policy (Title IX)

Oklahoma Christian University is a Christian community unequivocally committed to ensuring a working and learning environment in which the dignity of every individual is respected and providing a campus environment that is free of unlawful discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct. OC's Sexual Misconduct Policy (see the OC Student Handbook) is compliant with Title IX, which states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." Sexual harassment is a breach of community, which expresses disrespect, exploits and undermines relationships based on trusts, and interferes with learning and productive work.

Students are encouraged to immediately seek available assistance and report incidents of sexual misconduct as defined by the Sexual Misconduct Policy to either the Title IX Coordinator or one of the Title IX Deputy Coordinators listed below:

Ms. Tamie Willis 405.425.5320 tamie.willis@oc.edu

Title IX Coordinator

Students have access to confidential services through OC's Counseling Center and the Spiritual Life office.

OC Counseling Center 405.425.5250

Spiritual Life

Jeff McMillon, Dean of Spiritual Life 405.425.5919

Summer Lashley, Ethos Director 405.425.5908

Inclement weather policy

If any kind of assignment is cancelled due to weather, the student's overall course grade will be calculated without considering that assignment; the assignment will not be made up.

Campus Closing Policy

Because a large majority of OC's students live on or very near the campus, and because most professors also live very near, it is the policy of the University not to suspend classes for bad weather conditions unless their severity poses unnecessary risk to faculty, staff and students. Students who are prevented from meeting a class because of road conditions should notify their professors as to the cause of their absence, and the professor will treat the absence as being for an acceptable reason.

Emergency statement

One example:

In case of an emergency, faculty, staff, and students who have signed up for OC Campus Messenger (oc.edu/notify) will be notified by text, email, or Twitter. If the emergency occurs during class, the instructor will inform the students present of the appropriate procedures.

Cheating

Cheating on an examination, assignment, roll sheet or other course related work or activities undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who cheat on examinations, assignments or other course related work or activities will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

Plagiarism

One particular form of cheating is plagiarism. Plagiarism is the transmission of another's ideas, words, or materials as one's own and/or the failure to credit accurately the ideas, words, or materials of another. Plagiarism also includes passing off another's work (a friend, a parent, a website) as one's own. Plagiarism undermines the ethics of the academy and the specific Christian purposes of Oklahoma Christian University. Accordingly, students who engage in plagiarism in assignments submitted will face serious consequences, as outlined in this policy.

Penalties for Academic Dishonesty

1. On the first offense, the student will receive zero (0) credit for the examination or assignment. For forms of cheating or dishonesty other than on examinations or assignments, the Professor shall have the discretion to impose an appropriate penalty. Professors must send documentation of the first offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the Chief Academic Officer, and the Dean of Students.

2. On the second offense in the same course, the student will receive an F in the course. Professors must send documentation of the second offense to the appropriate chair, the dean of the appropriate college, the Chief Academic Officer, and the Dean of Students.
3. At either the first offense or second offense, the student may appeal using the process described in both the *OC Student Handbook* and the *OC Academic Policy Manual* covering Grade Appeals.
4. If the student commits offenses in two or more courses, the Academic Appeals Committee, described in the *OC Student Handbook* and in the *OC Academic Policy Manual*, may assign penalties for academic dishonesty in addition to the penalties assigned by the professors in the courses. The Academic Appeals Committee may impose penalties up to and including suspension from the University in instances where a student has engaged in cheating or plagiarism in two or more courses. The Academic Appeals Committee will inform the Chief Academic Officer and the Dean of Students in writing of any penalties imposed by it and will report annually on its activities to the University's Academic Affairs Committee.
5. Professors should maintain the highest standards of academic honesty both in and out of the classroom. Professors must report and apply the rules regarding cheating/plagiarism to the appropriate channels. The student should be referred to the Oklahoma Christian University Covenant for principles which should guide conduct in these matters.

Copyright notice

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