



El Camino College
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD – Official

Course Acronym:	COMM
Course Number:	C1004
Descriptive Title:	Interpersonal Communication
Division:	Humanities
Department:	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
Course Disciplines:	Communication Studies (Speech Communications)
Catalog Description:	This course covers theory, research, and application of ethical one-to-one communication practices in various and diverse interpersonal relationships including in personal, professional, and social situations.
Prerequisite:	
Co-requisite:	
Recommended Preparation:	Eligibility for English C1000
Enrollment Limitation:	
Hours Lecture (per week):	3
Hours Laboratory (per week):	0
Outside Study Hours:	6
Total Course Hours:	54
Course Units:	3
Grading Method:	Letter Grade only
Credit Status:	Credit, degree applicable
Transfer CSU:	Yes
Effective Date:	Prior to 7/1992
Transfer UC:	Yes
Effective Date:	Fall 2006
General Education: ECC	Area 1B: Oral Communication and Critical Thinking
Term:	
Other:	
CSU GE:	CalGETC: Area 4 - Social Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
IGETC:	CalGETC: Area 4 - Social Sciences
Term:	

Other:	
CalGETC:	CalGETC: Area 4 - Social Sciences
Term:	
Other:	
Student Learning Outcomes:	SLO #1 Influence on Social Engagement Demonstrate knowledge of adapting interpersonal communication styles to effectively engage with diverse cultural, gender and social groups, reflecting an understanding of the complexities of global interpersonal interactions. SLO #2 Role in Cultural & Social Communication Students will demonstrate understanding of the role of interpersonal communication within cultural and social organizations in their own society and other human societies, including Western and non-Western cultures. SLO #3 Theory Application Students will demonstrate understanding of social science research through analysis of interpersonal communication theories, concepts, or principles
Course Objectives:	At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to (Identical and Required): 1. Evaluate and apply research methods and theories of interpersonal communication. 2. Analyze the ways that communication can create, develop and shape perceptions of personal and social identities including variables such as but not limited to culture, gender, ethnicity, race, age, and orientation. 3. Evaluate the influences of culture, gender, ethnicity, race, age, accessibility, and orientation on the development, maintenance, and dissolution of interpersonal relationships. 4. Critically assess and utilize ethical communication practices within interpersonal relationships as part of interpersonal communication competency. 5. Critically assess sources of conflict in interpersonal relationships and implement appropriate conflict management strategies.
Major Topics:	PART 1: California Community Colleges CCN Required Course Content 1. Foundational theories, models, and research in interpersonal communication. 2. Influences on identity development, and the impact of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, orientation, etc. on interpersonal communication. 3. The role of perception in interpersonal communication; including theories such as Attribution Theory and Uncertainty Reduction Theory.

	4. Symbolic and linguistic attributes with respect to language in interpersonal communication. 5. The role of emotions in communicating effectively; may include physiological, cognitive, and neurological theories. 6. Nonverbal communication; may include principles and theories such as Expectancy Violation Theory. 7. Listening; processes, styles, types, challenges, and responses. 8. Interpersonal climate (social tone of relationships) such as confirming/disconfirming messages, self-disclosure, and relational trust. 9. Ethics in interpersonal communication; may include concepts such as navigating power, influence, bias, stereotyping, bullying, and the dark side of communication. 10. Interpersonal conflict theories; may include Face-Negotiation Theory and Accommodation Theory. 11. Development, maintenance, and dissolution of various types of relationships; may include Social Penetration Theory, Attachment Theory, and Knapp's Relational Model PART 2: ECC Expansion of Major Topics I. Course Introduction (3 hours, lecture) A. Course Introduction and Overview of Interpersonal Communication B. Discussion on perspectives of interpersonal communication based on social sciences research. II. Interpersonal Process (6 hours, lecture) A. Introduction to Interpersonal Communication B. Models of Communication C. Impacts of Computer Mediated Communication III. Interpersonal Communication and the Self (3 hours, lecture) A. Identity Development, Self-Awareness, and Self-Esteem B. Impact of Identity on Interpersonal Communication IV. Perceiving Others (6 hours, lecture) A. Perception and Communication B. Empathy and Understanding V. Review and administration of Exam 1 (3 hours) VI. Language (3 hours, lecture) A. The Power of Words B. Language, Thought, and Culture
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	VII. Emotions (3 hours, lecture) A. Emotional Expression in Communication B. Managing Emotions in Interpersonal Interactions VIII. Nonverbal Communication (3 hours, lecture) A. Decoding Nonverbal Signals B. Nonverbal Communication in Different Contexts IX. Listening (3 hours, lecture) A. Barriers to Effective Listening B. Active Listening Techniques X. Review and Administration of Exam 2 (3 hours) XI. Communication Climate (3 hours, lecture) A. Creating Supportive Environments B. Dealing with Defensive Communication XII. Ethics in Interpersonal Communication (3 hours, lecture) A. Interpersonal Power and Influence B. The Dark Side of Communication XIII. Managing Conflict (3 hours, lecture) A. Conflict Styles and Strategies B. Negotiation and Resolution XIV. Interpersonal Relationship Types and Theories (6 hours, lecture) A. Relationship Types B. Attraction Theory and Social Penetration Theory C. Social Exchange Theory and Knapp's Relational Model XV. Review and Administration of Exam 3 (3 hours)
Total Lecture Hours:	54
Total Laboratory Hours:	0
Total Hours:	54
A.1. Primary Methods of Evaluation (Part 1 - CCN courses only):	Quizzes, Exam, and Substantial Writing Assignments
A.2. Primary Method of Evaluation (Part 2 - all courses; choose one):	1) Substantial writing assignments
Typical Assignment Using Primary Method of Evaluation:	In a three- to five-page paper, list five elements of interpersonal communication (such as listening, language, identity, non-verbal, emotions, etc). With these five elements in mind, explain how they would affect interpersonal communication within and across different cultural, social, or gender groups. Use examples and sources to support claims.
Critical Thinking Assignment 1:	In a three- to five-page research paper citing interpersonal communication concepts and theories, students will explore interpersonal communication styles across distinct

	communities or cultures, focusing on at least four identified theories or elements of interpersonal communication. Through critical analysis, students will examine how these communication aspects impact interactions across cultures or identified populations by identifying potential challenges, and proposing strategies for effective communication.
Critical Thinking Assignment 2:	In a four- to six-page research paper, students will analyze how self-concept, perception, emotional expression, and conflict resolution influence interpersonal relationship dynamics. The paper should integrate course theories with real-world examples to understand these themes' impact on relationship development, quality, and influence of interpersonal communication in relationships.
Other Evaluation Methods:	Class Performance, Multiple Choice, Essay Exams, Other Exams, Performance Exams, Quizzes, Objective Exams, Oral Exams, Presentation, Term or Other Papers, Written Homework
Instructional Methods:	Lecture, Discussion, Multimedia presentations, Group Activities, Guest Speakers
If other:	
Work Outside of Class:	Answer reflection questions, Journal (<i>done on a continuing basis throughout the semester</i>), Problem solving activities, Required readings, Skill practice, Study, Written work (<i>such as essay/composition/report/analysis/research</i>)
If Other:	
Up-To-Date Representative Texts:	Adler, R., & Proctor II, R. (2022). <u>Looking Out, Looking In</u>. 16th ed.: Wadsworth Publishing. Wood, J. (2020). <u>Interpersonal Communication: Everyday Encounters</u>. 9th ed.: Wadsworth Publishing. Discipline Standard. Guerrero, Anderson & Afifi. (2020). <u>Close Encounters: Communication in Relationships</u>. 6th ed.: Sage Publications, Inc. Discipline Standard. Adler, R., & Proctor II, R. (2023). <u>Interplay: The Process of Interpersonal Communication</u>. 16th ed.: Oxford University Press.
Alternative Texts:	Department of Communication Studies, Austin Community College. (2021). <u>Communication to Connect: Interpersonal Communication for Today</u>. OER: Department of Communication Studies, Austin Community College. Leonard. (2019). <u>Interpersonal Communication Textbook</u>. OER: College of the Canyons. Wrench, Punyanunt-Carter, & Thweatt. (2023). <u>Interpersonal Communication: A Mindful Approach to Relationships</u>. OER: State University of New York.
Required Supplementary Readings:	
Other Required Materials:	
Requisite:	
Category:	
Requisite course(s): List both prerequisites and corequisites in this box.	

Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	
Requisite Skill and Matching Skill(s): Bold the requisite skill(s). If applicable	
Requisite course:	
Requisite and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s).	
Requisite Skill:	Eligibility for English C1000
Requisite Skill and Matching skill(s): Bold the requisite skill. List the corresponding course objective under each skill(s). If applicable	Students who are eligible for English C1000 possess the knowledge of English required to satisfy the minimum requirements for the papers and presentations needed to pass this course. This course involves reading college level textbooks, developing projects, and answering essay questions. A student's success in this class will be enhanced if they have these skills. Identify an implied main idea (thesis), and support with major and minor details, from a longer text or novel. Apply appropriate strategies in the writing process including prewriting, composing, revising, and editing techniques. Plan, write, and revise 500-word multi-paragraph expository essays including an introduction and conclusion, exhibiting coherence and unity, avoiding major grammatical and mechanical errors that interfere with meaning, and demonstrating awareness of audience, purpose, and language choice. Summarize, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize college-level texts. Write a well-reasoned, well-supported expository essay that demonstrates application of the academic writing process.
Enrollment Limitations and Category:	
Enrollment Limitations Impact:	
Course Created by:	H. Wennstrom, N. Lilienthal, H. Borden
Date:	10/01/1972
Original Board Approval Date:	

Last Reviewed and/or Revised by:	Jason Davidson
Date:	09/11/2025
Last Board Approval Date:	11/18/2025
Effective Term:	Fall 2026