CSS 3312 Nonverbal Communication

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide a comprehensive introduction to nonverbal communication in interpersonal relationships. The course will cover the various channels of nonverbal communication (e.g., vocalics, gestures, etc.) as well as how communicators and their environment influence these nonverbal behaviors in relationships. This course will also examine how nonverbal communication plays a role in topics such as culture, power, intimacy, and deception. Assignments are structured so as to facilitate an understanding of the pertinent research and the application of nonverbal communication concepts to everyday interactions.

Required Text

Nonverbal Behavior in Interpersonal Relations (7th Edition, 2012) by Richmond, McCroskey, and Hickson, published by Allyn & Bacon.

- ◆ This text is available at the Baylor Bookstore
- ◆ We *will* be using the book, so please find a copy to buy, rent, borrow, or share.
- ◆ Any additional class readings will be posted to Blackboard or provided in hard copy for easy access.

Course Expectations & Policies

Attendance
You are required by the Baylor College of Arts & Sciences to attend at least 75% of class periods. If you fail to meet this requirement, you will automatically receive a failing grade in the course. An absence is an absence, no matter what the reason. University-related absences and those due to illness/family emergencies *do count* when tallying absences.

Late Work/Make-up Work
Students are expected to complete/submit all work on time. All written work should be submitted in hard copy form *in class*, unless otherwise noted*.* If you fail to bring a hard copy to class for whatever reason, you may email me a copy of your assignment by 5:00 p.m. on the due date, *but be aware* that you will automatically receive 25% penalty. *Assignments will not be accepted past the due date.* If you miss class on an assignment due date due to university-sanctioned travel, a serious personal illness, or a family emergency, I will allow you to make up work that was missed on that day. However, there are 2 important conditions: (1) You must notify me of your absence *before or during* class (not after) and (2) you must provide me with *official written documentation*. Eligible, *approved* make-up work must be completed no later than 1 week following the normal turn-in date and will not be accepted after that.

Participation
This is an interactive course and your input is highly valued. I expect you to come to class ready and willing to participate in the class discussion. This includes capably answering/discussing questions I ask, as well as voluntarily adding content to the day's discussion via comments, stories, analysis, critique, personal reflections, etc. *Important question to ask yourself: Does my individual presence add value to this class?*

Personal Responsibility
As your instructor, I am *always* here to help. But, ultimately, it is your responsibility to take advantage of the resources that are available to you, including my assistance. I wholeheartedly abide by the following philosophy: *You are the master of your destiny in this course.*

Classroom Behavior
All students will be expected to treat each other with respect, courtesy, and openness. While it is perfectly acceptable to express opposing viewpoints and provide constructive criticism to each other, it is not acceptable to ridicule, belittle, marginalize, or embarrass anyone else. Should any student act in a manner that is disruptive or disrespectful, I reserve the right to directly address that person on the matter during or outside of class; additionally, disruptive students may be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the course period.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the act of representing, either directly or indirectly, and without proper source documentation, someone else's work as your own. Plagiarism will not be tolerated; if you are caught participating in any form of academic dishonesty, you will be removed from the course and will be receive an "F." For a complete description of Baylor's Honor Code Policy & Procedures, please refer to: http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode.

Coursework

Readings

You will regularly be assigned to read chapters from the textbook or other supplemental readings; these assignments are listed on the course schedule. Any non-textbook readings will be posted to Blackboard or provided in hard copy.

Examinations (200 points)

There will be 2 exams over the course of the semester. Exams will consist primarily of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The content of the exams will be drawn from readings and lectures. A light exam review sheet will be provided for you.

Practicum Exercises (100 points)

As a part of this course, you will be asked to (a) engage in informal, out-of-class observations and experiments and then (b) reflect on these experiences through short, reflective, analysis papers. There will be nine (9) total practicum exercise opportunities, *but you will only need to complete five (5)*. This means that you can pick and choose which you would like to complete based on your schedule, comfort level with the exercise, etc. The purpose of the assignment is to help you dissect typical nonverbal encounters in order to illustrate and better understand course content.

Group Theory Presentation (50 points)

To further explore a specific nonverbal communication topic and to share that knowledge with your peers, you will work with a *group* of students to research a nonverbal communication theory and present it to the class. In the presentation, groups should (a) teach the class about the theory, (b) present findings from at least three (3) scholarly research studies relating to the theory, and (c) help the class apply the theory to their lives.

Reality TV Paper (100 points)

For this assignment, you will analyze the nonverbal communication of one or more personalities from a reality television show of your choosing. Outside of class, take time to view *no fewer than* four (4) hours of the television show, carefully analyzing the nonverbal behaviors you see demonstrated by your subject(s). Locate and read at least four (4) scholarly research studies relating to one or more of the nonverbal cues you observe in the show. Compare and contrast the scholarly findings (assumed to be "real") with the nonverbal communication of the chosen personality(ies) to determine if the television personality or personalities are or aren't "real."

Class Participation (50 points)

This is an ongoing assignment and involves coming to class, showing interest in the material, verbally engaging and contributing to class discussion, actively participating in class activities, supporting and listening to your classmates, showcasing a positive attitude towards class in general and the instructor, upholding the expectations for classroom conduct, etc.

Grading

Grade System

This course is graded through use of a system in which you simply accumulate points over the entire semester. Grades are not based on averages, percentages, or weights; all the points you earn (including bonus points) are weighted equally and go into a big "bucket" of points. Your final grade is determined solely by how many points you have at the end of the semester. All grades will be posted to Blackboard and can be accessed by logging in to http://my.baylor.edu.

Grading Scale

A   = 447-500 points
B+ = 432-446 points
B   = 397-431 points
C+ = 382-396 points
C   = 347-381 points
D   = 297-346 points
F   = 0-296points