

COURSE OUTLINE

SPCH-110

Interpersonal Communication

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Students will learn basic theories of oral communication, studying the types of verbal exchanges each of us has every day. The course begins with an overview of the human use of communication, including perception (with emphasis on inter-gender and intercultural communication), listening, verbal and non-verbal language, and sending and receiving feedback. Students will practice communication skills in pairs and write extensively about their experiences. When a student's curriculum requires HMDV-100, it should be completed before this course is taken. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completing this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the process of interpersonal communication, its principles and misconceptions and how it is affected by and how it effects self-concept and emotions.
2. Distinguish effective and ineffective language with labels, being able to self-evaluate language use, and analyze its affect on communication.
3. Describe non-verbal behavior and analyze its affect on communication.
4. Identify types of non-listening, effective listening elements and describe various methods of listening to help.
5. Explain intimacy and distance in relationships, including stages of coming apart and coming together, self-disclosure, and how to control confirming and disconfirming climates.
6. Describe defensiveness, its causes and remedies, its affect on relationships, and how to respond non-defensively to criticism.
7. Explain five styles of conflict, how to be assertive without being aggressive, and how follow a constructive resolution method.
8. Apply the above principles to personal experiences.
9. Apply the course material to a specific interpersonal relationship in essay form.
10. Participate in a small group of classmates for study and for practicing course material.

Major Topics

- I. Basics of Interpersonal Communication
 - A. process
 - B. principles
 - C. competence
 - D. self-concept
 - E. perception
 - F. emotions

- II. The act of communicating
 - A. language
 - B. non-verbal communication
 - C. listening

- III. Relationships
 - A. interpersonal attraction
 - B. intimacy/self-disclosure
 - C. confirming/disconfirming messages
 - D. defensiveness
 - E. conflict

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Final grades will be based on class and group participation weekly writing assignments, three objective and short answer tests, and one term paper.

Writing: Students will write ten 500 word essays during the semester applying the course material to personal experiences, and one final 1000 word paper applying the principles of interpersonal communication to one major relationship in their lives.

Other Course Requirements

This course is a Humanities Core Course and a Humanities, English, and Arts and Sciences elective.