

Interpersonal Communication COMK 3304-125

Spring 2020

Texas A&M University Central Texas

Course dates and mode of instruction:

March 22nd- May 14th

This course is a 100% online course and uses TAMUCT Canvas Learning System (<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>). You will use your individual Canvas username and password to logon to this system.

Instructor: Laura Mallonee, M.A.

Email: laura.mallonee@tamuct.edu

(The preferred method of communication is through TAMUCT email or Canvas Inbox)

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COVID-19 SAFETY MEASURES

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- Self-monitoring—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not

attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.

- **Face Coverings**— Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
 - o If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
- **Physical Distancing**—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- **Classroom Ingress/Egress**—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.
- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

Course Information

Course Overview and Description

A study of communication, focused on research and theories about interpersonal communication in a variety of communication contexts. It can be argued that interpersonal communication is the building block or foundation of all other areas of communication. This course should lead to a broad understanding of interpersonal communication. We will explore communication in interpersonal relationships. Although interpersonal relationships can involve more than two people, this course focuses on dyadic relationships and the communication process that drives relational development, maintenance, and disengagement. Throughout the semester, we will review social scientific research and theory that attempts to explain human communication in the interpersonal context.

Course Objective

A course designed to improve individual communication skills relevant to human relationships. The development and maintenance of interpersonal (one-to-one) relations are examined, with special emphasis on identifying and correcting communication breakdown.

Student Learning Outcomes

- *Define* interpersonal communication in relation to various communication contexts (e.g. group communication, public communication, family, friendship, professional, and intercultural).
- *Recall, describe, and explain* at least three interpersonal communication theories and apply the theories to your own relationships.
- *Describe and apply* principles of self-concept, interpersonal perception and cultural sensitivity to your own interpersonal behavior.
- *Describe and appropriately apply* the following interpersonal communication skills to your own interpersonal communication behaviors: listening, paraphrasing, perception checking, empathy, self-disclosure, assertiveness, managing conflict, nonverbal responsiveness, and supportive verbal messages.

Course Required Textbook

- Mottet, T. P., Vogl-Bauer, S., & Houser, M. L. (2017). *Your Interpersonal Communication: Nature/Nurture Intersections* (2nd ed.) Boston: Pearson.

Course Requirements

The learning goal of this course is a thorough understanding of the course content as presented throughout the textbook, online lessons, other resources, online discussions, and as demonstrated through personal written and verbal presentation. Points will be deducted for failure to follow grammatical, syntactical rules for college level writing, proper appearance, and class instructions. It is incumbent on the student to seek out the instructor for assistance or clarification of course requirements should the student feel overwhelmed, confused, or frustrated. Students need to stay focused and timely in their class preparation.

Quizzes

Students will take six timed lesson quizzes. In order to effectively prepare for the quizzes, students should read the assigned chapters, complete the assigned corresponding lesson and review personal notes from pertinent chapters. It is important to note that the quizzes will be timed, taken in a one-time seating and will not be reset. Therefore, it is imperative students have sufficient and reliable internet connection before sitting to take the quiz.

Weekly Discussion Forums

Students will need to post to the discussion board on the assigned weeks. An initial forum post is due on Thursday and a response to at least one fellow classmate's discussion post is due by the following Sunday on the assigned weeks. The expectations for the discussion posts are found in the Discussion Forum Guidelines posted to the Pages tool on Canvas. The requirements for each forum post can be found in the 'Discussions' tool for the corresponding week on Canvas.

Homework Assignments

There will be seven homework assignments (see course schedule). Homework assignments are due by end of day each Thursday. The homework assignments are worth 10 points each, for a total of 70 points. The requirements for the assignments can be found on the homework assignment rubrics posted to Canvas.

Personal Introduction Assignment

There will be a personal introduction assignment. Students will create a power point or prezi presentation to introduce themselves to the class and post the presentation to the discussion board. The expectations for this assignment can be found in the ‘Course Assignments’ folder in our course. The instructor introduction power point can be used as an example/guide for the assignment.

Current Event Interpersonal Communication in the News

Students will select a current event related to interpersonal communication and write a two page paper over this current event. The current event must have been published within the last two months. You may find your current event on The Today Show or other talk shows, in any major newspaper, articles from magazines, online dating websites, etc. The requirements of the assignment can be found on the Current Event Rubric posted to Canvas.

Interpersonal Reflection Report

Students will be required to complete an interpersonal reflection report at the end of the course. This analysis report provides an opportunity for students to reflect on the concepts and theories they have learned throughout the course. Students will have the opportunity to apply what they have learned throughout the course to their personal lives. The requirements of the assignment can be found on the Interpersonal Reflection Report Rubric posted to Canvas.

It is important to note all assignments should be submitted via Canvas.

III. Grading Criteria and Conversion

Assignment	Points
Lesson Quizzes (6 quizzes x 25 points)	150
Weekly Discussion Forums (6 forums x 7 points)	42
Personal Introduction Assignment	20
Homework Assignments (7 assignments x 10 points)	70
Current Event Interpersonal Communication in the News	30
Interpersonal Reflection Report	100
TOTAL	412

Percentage Earned Letter Grade Assigned

412-371	A
370-330	B
329-289	C
288-248	D
247-0	F

III. Course Policies

Policy on Grades

Records of grades will be available on Canvas gradebook and students should monitor their grade status using this tool. Students should expect to receive returned graded work with feedback within a week from when the assignment is due. Feedback will always be provided on all assignments and can be found on the returned assignment through Canvas.

Policy on Late Work

All assignments are due on the dates specified in the class schedule. Late work will not be accepted. However, the instructor reserves the right to accept late assignments for a lesser point value based on extenuating circumstances.

IV. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Have Read/Reviewed	Assignments Due
Week 1: March 22nd- March 28th	Introduction to Course	Syllabus, Course Schedule Textbook Chapter 1	Due Thursday March 25th: Homework Assignment #1 Due Sunday March 28th: Personal Introduction Assignment
Week 2: March 29th- April 4th	Understanding Self & Others	Textbook Chapters 2 & 3 Lesson Two	Due Thursday April 1st: Post Forum Two Homework Assignment #2 Due Sunday April 4th: Response to Forum Two Lesson Two Quiz
Week 3: April 5th-11th	Verbal and Nonverbal Communication	Textbook Chapters 4 & 5 Lesson Three	Due Thursday April 8th: Post Forum Three Homework Assignment #3 Due Sunday April 11th: Response to Forum Three Lesson Three Quiz
Week 4: April 12th- 18th	Listening, Responding and Understanding Conflict in Relationships	Textbook Chapters 6 & 7 Lesson Four	Due Thursday April 15th: Post Forum Four Homework Assignment #4 Due Sunday April 18th: Response to Forum Four Lesson Four Quiz
Week 5: April 19th- 25th	Understanding Relationships	Textbook Chapter 8 Lesson Five	Due Thursday April 22nd: Post Forum Five Homework Assignment #5 Due Sunday April 25th: Response to Forum Five Current Event in the News Lesson Five Quiz

Week 6: April 26th – May 2nd	Self-Disclosure & Intimacy in Relationships, Family & Friend Relationships	Textbook Chapters 9 & 10 Lesson Six	Due Thursday April 29th: Post Forum Six Homework Assignment #6 Due Sunday May 2nd: Response to Forum Six Lesson Six Quiz
Week 7: May 3rd-9th	Workplace Relationships	Textbook Chapter 11 Lesson Seven	Due Thursday May 6th: Post Forum Seven Homework Assignment #7 Due Sunday May 9th: Response to Forum Seven Lesson Seven Quiz
Week 8: May 10th -14th		Lesson Eight	Due Thursday May 13th: Interpersonal Reflection Report

V. Technology Requirements and Support

Technology Requirements

For this course, you will need reliable and frequent access to a computer and to the Internet. You will also need speakers to be able to listen to online resources and a web camera to be able to record a video presentation. If you do not have frequent and reliable access to a computer with Internet connection, please consider dropping this course or contact me (laura.mallonee@ct.tamus.edu) to discuss your situation. Your ability to function within the Canvas system will facilitate your success in this course. ***Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of deadlines.***

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.
24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf]

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

In this course specifically, the first offense will result in a zero for the plagiarized assignment. The second offense will result in a failing grade for the course and the incident will be reported to the Associate Director of Student Conduct.

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

Important Information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring

support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Spring 2021 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WCOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

For Spring 2021, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.