

**University of Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
College of Humanities  
Department of English**

Interpersonal Communication  
INGL 3256  
Three credit hours

**Course Syllabus**

**Textbook:** DeVito, J.A. The Interpersonal Communication Book. 14<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016. Pearson.

**Course Description:** The study of the different aspects of communication between individuals from psychological, social, linguistic, and cultural perspectives.

**Course objectives:** At the end of the course the students will be able to:

1. Define and explain key terms
2. Discuss the major theories and perspectives that explain interpersonal communication (IPC) and apply them to the analysis of particular situations.
3. Become aware of the aspects in their communicative behavior that need modification
4. Apply successfully many appropriate behavior modification strategies
5. Be more understanding and tolerant of differences from others and contribute in an effective way to make the necessary adjustments for the inclusion of students with special needs in the classroom setting
6. Feel more comfortable expressing their ideas in English

**Course outline:**

1. Major theories of IPC, the role of culture and the self in IPC, the perception process and its implications for human interaction, and the listening aspect of communication--four weeks
2. The analysis of IP messages (verbal, nonverbal, emotional and conversational)--four weeks
3. Interpersonal relationships: stages. Theories, development, deterioration and types of IPR; conflict and conflict management, power and influence--five weeks

**Teaching strategies:** Lecture, group discussion, written responses to short articles or documentaries, small group activities, and the analysis of films; those students who receive the services provided by the office of Vocational Rehabilitation must contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester in order to plan for a reasonable accommodation and the necessary equipment according to the recommendations provided by the *Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI)* at the Office of the Dean of Students. Any other students with special needs or who require any type of assistance or special arrangements should contact the professor.

**Required resources:** DVD machines to be provided by the lab

**Methods of evaluation:** Special arrangements for those students requiring reasonable accommodation must be discussed with the instructor. Class attendance will receive a specific number of points as the information below shows. Participation in class discussion will be taken into consideration for additional points at the end of the semester.

Three tests @100 pts. ea.*	300 pts.	50%
Five 30-pt. response papers*	150 pts.	25%
Class attendance (6 pts./25 classes)	<u>150 pts.</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Total</u>	600 pts.	100%

**Grading system in percentages:**

94-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	0-59	F
90-93	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C		
		80-82	B-	70-72	C-		

All mobile phones must be turned off (all modes) and put away during class time. Report any emergency situation to the instructor. Tardiness of ten minutes or more on three different occasions will count as an absence.

**Bibliography:** In addition to the bibliography in your textbook, your instructor will provide you with additional related publications.

\*Test 1 (100 pts.) will consist of two parts. Part I will have 25 multiple choice questions @ two points each. Part II will have two essay questions @ 25 point each.

Test 2 (50 pts.) will have 20 examples of messages and five listening styles to be correctly identified. Each item is worth two points.

Test 3 (Take-home test for 150 pts.). Here you will be assigned a film to watch on your own. You will respond to questions based on the film and on information from the three parts of the book. It will be like a final exam.

\*\*There will be no time extensions for responses.