

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

## **Interpersonal Communication**

INGL 3256

Three credit hours

Dr. Alma Simounet

**Office:** Pedreira #4, Days and Hours: Tues. 9:00-10:00, 1:00-2:00PM & Thurs. 1:00-5:00PM

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**Book:** DeVito, J.A. *The Interpersonal Communication Book*. 14<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2016, (15<sup>th</sup> Ed. 2019 e-version). Pearson.

## **Course Syllabus**

**Course Description:** The study of the different aspects of communication between individuals from cultural, psychological, linguistic and social 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 how cultural, psychological, linguistic and social aspects influence interpersonal communication and identify the elements 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 roles of culture, the self and the perception process and their implications for human interaction--four weeks
2. The analysis of IP messages (verbal, nonverbal, emotional and conversational) and the listening aspect of communication--six 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, oral presentations 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 (Ley 51). Class attendance will receive a specific number of points as the information below shows. Participation in class discussion is a requirement, no matter the frequency or length. These methods may change, only with the consent of all the students.

A limited number of points in an additional assignment is available to bring up grade. Let your teacher know immediately after the Midterm grade.

There will be no make-up exams unless the student presents evidence of a legitimate emergency.

Two tests @ 100 pts. ea.	200 pts.	50%
Students' Individual Oral Reports*	100 pts.	25%
Class attendance (6 pts./20 classes)	<u>100 pts.</u>	<u>25%</u>
<u>Total</u>	400 pts.	100%

\*Guidelines for the reports will be given in class.

**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 to mute** and put away during class time. Emergency calls will be responded to outside the classroom. You can use your laptop with the e-version of the material; **unfortunate consequences could happen** if not used properly as to class material. Report any emergency situation to the instructor.

Tardiness of ten to fifteen minutes on three different occasions will count as an absence. According to UPR policy, more than four absences will result in grade reduction.

**SPECIAL NOTICE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of

Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

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

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Discussion</u>
1	Introduction; Film assigned; Ch. 1 <i>Foundations of IPC</i>
2	Ch. 1 continued; Ch. 2 <i>Culture and IPC</i> (Reference to film)
3	Ch. 2 continued (Brief Oral Presentations)
4	Ch. 3 <i>Perception of self and others</i> (Brief Oral Presentations)
5	Ch. 3; <b>Test 1</b>
6	Ch. 4 <i>Verbal Messages</i> (Reference to film & Oral Presentations)
7	Ch. 5 <i>Nonverbal Messages</i> Docum. 'The Language of the Body'
8	Ch. 7 <i>Emotional Messages</i> (Oral Presentations)
9	Ch. 8 <i>Conversational Messages</i> (Oral Presentations)
10	<u>Review</u> ; Columbus Day; (Monday classes meet on Tuesday)
11	<b>Test 2</b> ; Ch. 9 <i>IPR Stages, Theories &amp; Comm.</i> (Oral Presentations)
12	Ch. 9; Ch. 11 <i>IP Conflict &amp; Conflict Management</i> (Oral Pres.)
13	Ch. 11; Ch. 12 <i>IP Power and Influence</i> (Oral Presentations)
14	Veteran's Day (Nov. 11); Ch. 12; <u>Oral Reports*</u>
15	PR Discovery Day (Nov. 19); <u>Oral Reports*</u>
16	<u>Oral Reports*</u> ; Thanksgiving Recess (Nov. 28-30)
17	<u>Oral Reports*</u> (Tuesday, Dec. 3 is last day of class) * Final Oral Reports based on second film (Test 3 grade)

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