

PSY-276
PSYCHOLOGY OF COMMUNICATION
COURSE SYLLABUS

TERM: Spring 2010

INSTRUCTOR: Michael Blevins

CREDITS: 3

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MEETS: Tuesday/Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:45am.

OFFICE HRS.: One hour before and after each class. Other times to be discussed and set up in person.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will get into the many ways in which we communicate with ourselves and others of this world. It will cover aspects of the spoken word, the written word, and forms of non-verbal communication, and the various ways these forms of communication create different influences depending on how we use them. We will cover the processes of communication in the brain, the mind, the body, and the metaphoric mind and how all of these factors relate to the world of our own psychological profile as well as others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be expected to actively participate in a personal process of self-discovery, specifically focused on your motivation, values, skills, and interest in the field of psychology. Demonstrate principles of effective communication and how it relates to you personally, professionally, and socially while exhibiting awareness of critical and creative thinking in your communication process with your self and others.

PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS: Students will be expected to be on time and ready to actively participate in class discussion and small group processes. Students will earn **1 point** for being in class on time and staying until dismissed, **½ point** will be taken away for being late or leaving early. Students will also be awarded **1 to 5 points** for your participation and attitude during class. These accumulated points will count for **40%** of your total grade. Students are also expected to have assignments ready and turned in when due. One whole grade will be taken away for each week of being late.

REQUIRED TEXT: Influence: Science and Practice 5th edition.
By Robert B. Cialdini

EVALUATION SYSTEM: Students will be evaluated based on their performance on the following:

*Attendance, attitude, and participation.	100 points
*Special project that you and I will create.	50 points
*Mid-term exam/presentation/paper.	50 points
*Final exam/presentation/paper.	100 points
*Total overall points.	300 points

POINT SYSTEM:

*300-295= A+	279-274= B+	259-255= C+
*294-285= A	274-265= B	254-245= C
*284-280= A-	264-260= B-	244-240= C-

*I do not expect any student to get a score any lower than what is stated above. If there is some sort of issue with Me, the class, your work, or your personal life then please come and see me so we can work out something for the benefit of both of us.

COURSE SCHEDULE: This is the basic layout of the course as we go through the semester. It is subject to change depending on the weather or any other unforeseeable process that I do not have any control over.

WEEK 1, class 1: Getting acquainted with each other and basic layout of the course. Book and handouts for course.

WEEK 1, class 2: Getting into the brain.

WEEK 2, class 1: Getting into the mind.

WEEK 2, class 2: How the brain and mind connect to the metaphoric mind.

WEEK 3, class 1: Psychological profile.

WEEK 3, class 2: Discussion of the psychological profile.

WEEK 4, class 1: Oral communication and its dynamics.

WEEK 4, class 2: Written communication and its dynamics.

WEEK 5, class 1: Non-verbal communication and its dynamics.

WEEK 5, class 2: Other forms of communication?

WEEK 6, class 1: Set up topics for special projects and possible due dates. Set topics and format for mid-terms.

WEEK 6, class 2: Deeper into oral communication.

WEEK 7, class 1: Deeper into written communication.

WEEK 7, class 2: Deeper into non-verbal communication.

WEEK 8, class 1: Deeper into other forms of communication.

WEEK 8, class 2: Mid-terms.

WEEK 9, class 1: Alternative aspects of psychological communication and how do we choose what they are?

WEEK 9, class 2: Alternative aspects continued.

WEEK 10, class 1: Special projects.

WEEK 10, class 2: Special projects continued.

WEEK 11, class 1: Set up format for finals.

WEEK 11, class 2: Deeper into oral communication.

WEEK 12, class 1: Deeper onto written communication.

WEEK 12, class 2: Deeper into non-verbal communication.

WEEK 13, class 1: Deeper into other forms of communication.

WEEK 13, class 2: Deeper into alternative forms of communication.

WEEK 14, class 1: Finals.

WEEK 14, class 2: Finals.

WEEK 15, class 1: Finals

WEEK 15, class 2: Finish and have fun.