COMM 300 – Nonverbal Communication
SPRING Semester 2015
Mon & Wed, 9:30AM - 10:45AM

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Office Hours:
Thur – 10:00am-12:00
Fri – 2:00pm-4:00
& by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to critically examine theories and research dealing with nonlanguage aspects of communication. We will study this aspect of communication by examining the significant functions of nonverbal behavior that occur in various contexts of communication. First, we will look at how nonverbal cues function for purposes of “Identification,” e.g., cultural communication, impression formation. Second, will look at how nonverbal cues function for purposes of “Control,” e.g., organizational communication, deception detection. And third, will look at how nonverbal cues function in terms of “Defining Relationships,” e.g., managing conversation, male-female communication.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
{NOTE: You must complete ALL assignments to earn credit for this course}

QUIZZES
There will be six (6) in-class quizzes to help keep you abreast of the assigned readings & lecture/discussion material. The questions will come primarily from the Reading Study Questions (either handed out in class or posted on Blackboard), but some will come from class lectures and/or discussions. Each quiz will be worth 25 points. NOTE: You need to be on time for all exams. If you arrive after the 1st person has finished the quiz, you won’t be able to take the quiz. DATES: Quiz #1 = Jan 21; Quiz #2 = Feb 2; Quiz #3 = Feb 18; Quiz #4 = Mar 4; Quiz #5 = Apr 2; Quiz #6 = April 15.

FINAL EXAM
There will be a final exam. This will be open-book. DATE: May 4th, 10am.

CLASS CONTRIBUTION
Communication cannot occur effectively unless speakers and listeners interact. Therefore, regular attendance is expected. The most important part of your class contribution grade will be earned by leading the class in a discussion on a subject related to nonverbal communication. You will be allowed to choose the day of your discussion (see handout for contribution assignment).

PAPERS:
(#1) A literature review focusing on nonverbal communication, a function of communication, and a particular context for communication, e.g., “Conversational distance and power in the workplace;”
“Expression of emotion and communal identity among cheerleaders;” “Body image and social comparison among male athletes;” “Nonverbal communication and control in the K-12 classroom;” “Nonverbal cues of deception by nurses in emergency rooms;” “Nonverbal communication and attraction among college freshman.” This is to be related to the context you will observe in Paper #2. Due: upload to Blackboard no later than Feb 11, 9:30am.

(#2) An observational study of a nonverbal phenomenon in a specific context, e.g., “family dynamics in the mall;” “children’s conflict at McDonald’s;” “cellphone usage in cars;” “communicating credibility in the classroom;” “customer control in a restaurant.” The requirement is you must find some phenomenon to observe in a naturally occurring situation where you will not violate privacy expectations. This is related to the literature you reviewed in Paper #1. Due: upload to Blackboard no later than March 30, 9:30am.

(#3) The development of a short instructional/training presentation on some specific aspect of nonverbal communication suitable for an undergraduate class or a workplace training seminar or other organizational context. Due: upload to Blackboard no later than May 6, 9:30am.

**Note about Special Needs:**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

**Mission of the Department of Communication Studies**

The mission of the faculty and students of the Department of Communication Studies is to examine human symbolic activity as it shapes and is shaped by relationships, institutions, technology, and culture. This work concerns the creation, analysis, and critique of messages ranging from face-to-face to digital media contexts. The department’s research and teaching devote particular attention to scholarly initiatives aimed at understanding and explaining the role of communication in (a) facilitating civic engagement, mediating public controversies, and organizing for social change, (b) constituting individual and family health, promoting healthy behaviors, and helping persons navigate relational challenges, and (c) creating, maintaining, and challenging personal, social, and community identity in a complex and diverse world.