Welcome!
Welcome to Interpersonal Communication! I look forward to engaging a subject with you that I believe has a direct bearing on the quality of your life. Let’s do our best to work together to create a learning experience that is challenging and mutually rewarding.

Course Overview
This course is not a survey of “theories” of interpersonal communication. Rather, it offers a specific idea of interpersonal communication. The idea of interpersonal communication assumes a dialogic perspective emphasizing the co-creation and negotiation of one’s identity as it formed and transformed through one’s acts of speaking and listening in conversations with others. The idea is research-based and driven by a standpoint privileging the social and indebted in important ways to the writings of Martin Buber. The course is designed to enhance one’s awareness of what it means, from a dialogic perspective, to be an interpersonal communicator. It provides an opportunity to take its precepts to heart as a guide to one’s practice, and a measure of the perspective’s worth.

Assignments and Grading
Attendance:
For each unexcused absence, your final grade will be lowered by 1%.

Assigned Readings & Class Participation:
You are expected to complete the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them—in this context “discuss” means to proactively raise questions and make comments relevant to the course materials, and likewise, to respond to questions and comments.
addressed by me and your fellow students. Please make sure you read the entire chapter or assigned passage—for *BNW*, this includes the “Review Questions” and “Probes” designed to stimulate class discussion. In addition, from time to time you will be asked to participate in group & interpersonal classroom exercises connected to weekly readings. It is expected that you read the exercises and come to class prepared to engage them (e.g., if the exercise includes “making a list”, please make the list beforehand and bring it to class with you). The exercises will take place during the last five-ten minutes of class and are designed to provide you with opportunities actively engage concepts and principles. In some cases a given exercise may be engaged as the primary focus of a given class period. **10% of your final grade**

**Group Presentations:**
You will be divided into groups. Each group will (1) interview the “leadership” of a campus organization or office and ascertain a topic of interest to the organization or office that can be addressed through an interpersonal communication concept (or concepts) covered in the course; (2) create and conduct a twenty-minute classroom “pilot” mini-workshop on the concept (or concepts) that (a) begins with a brief overview of the mini-workshop’s topic, purpose, and significance to the organization or office it is intended for; (b) engages the class in a brief exercise providing practical experience with the topic; and (c) ends with a question & answer period and a critical discussion of the exercise, what the class learned from it, and how it may be improved and actually presented (with caveats) to the organization or group the mini-workshop is intended for. **20% of your final grade**

**Interpersonal Fiction: Short Paper & Presentation**
Each student will view a film and prepare a 4-6 page paper and a 5-7 minute presentation wherein she or he (1) briefly describes the film’s plotline and a key interpersonal communication episode depicted in the film (most likely a “conversation” with a discernable beginning, middle and end); and (2) applying principles and concepts from the course, comments on the “interpersonal communication lesson” the episode may teach. The description of the interpersonal communication episode must use the vocabulary and concepts covered in the course and should include reference to both verbal and nonverbal behaviors. For example, one may choose to describe a conflict episode using the vocabulary and concepts covered in the unit on “Managing Conflict Effectively”, or one may choose to focus on “Dialogic Listening.” See “Additional Resources” at ends of chapters in *TCI* for relevant films. **20% of your final grade (paper 10% + presentation 10%=20%)**

**Examinations:**
There will be two essay-type examinations. Examination One will be around midterm & will cover readings and discussions up to that point in the semester. Examination Two will take place during the scheduled final examination period. It will not be comprehensive—it will cover the remainder (post-midterm) of the course readings and discussions.
You will be given the questions beforehand for both exams. **30% of your final grade (each examination is worth 15%)**

**Log:**
You will keep a log wherein you reflect on the “connections” between what you’ve learned from readings, discussions and class exercises and your ongoing interpersonal communication experiences. For example, you may have a heading entitled “Listening” for an entry. Logs are due on dates specified below. **20% of your final grade**

**Points Possible:**
There are 100 points possible in the course. Thus, each “assignment” is worth as many points as it is a percentage of your final grade.

**Documented Disability**
Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Nancy Thompson in the Dean of Students Office (KJ 104; ext. 4022) who coordinates services for students with disabilities.

**Course Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics &amp; Activities</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week One</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>9/3</td>
<td>Read &amp; Discuss:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><em>Syllabus</em></td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>Read &amp; Discuss:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td></td>
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<td><em>TCI, Chap. 1; BNW, pp. 50-56</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Read &amp; Discuss:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><em>TCI, Chap. 2</em></td>
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<td><em>Be prepared to participate in “Responding” exercise</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Read &amp; Discuss:</td>
<td>Log</td>
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<td><em>TCI, Chap. 3</em></td>
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<td><em>Be prepared to participate in “Differences in Meaning” exercise</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week Three</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>9/17</td>
<td>Read &amp; Discuss:</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td><em>TCI, Chap. 4; BNW, pp. 83-93, pp. 108-15</em></td>
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Be prepared to participate in “Response-Option Role Plays” exercise

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<th>Date</th>
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| **TH 9/19** | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 5; BNW, pp. 168-83  
Be prepared to participate in “Perceiving Persons” exercise—e-mail me your list of “five characteristics” (before class—9/18) |
| **Week Four** |  
TU 9/24 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 6; BNW, pp. 196-206  
Be prepared to participate in “Paraphrasing” exercise |
| TH 9/26 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 7  
Be prepared to participate in “Individually ‘Being Clear’” exercise |
| **Week Four** |  
TU 10/1 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 8; BNW, pp. 231-39  
Be prepared to participate in “Object That’s Me” exercise |
| TH 10/3 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 9; BNW, pp. 289-98, 325-335  
Be prepared to participate in “Relationship Change Scenarios” exercise |
| **Week Five** |  
TU 10/8 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 10; BNW, 442-48  
Be prepared to participate in “Codependence and Detachment” exercise |
| TH 10/10 | Read & Discuss:  
BNW, pp. 403-15, pp. 431-42  
Log |
| **Week Six** |  
TU 10/15 | Read & Discuss:  
TCI, Chap. 11  
None |
TH 10/17  Examination questions distributed & discussed

Fall Recess: 10/18-10/22

*Week Seven*
TH 10/24  Read & Discuss:  
BNW, pp. 471-95

*Week Eight*
TU 10/29  Examination  
None

TH 10/31  Be prepared to participate in  
“Conflict Styles” exercise

*Week Nine*
TU 11/5  Read & Discuss BNW, Chap. 11  
None

TH 11/7  Mini-Lecture:  
Log  
Group Dynamics & Public Speaking

*Week Ten*
TU 11/12  Read & Discuss BNW, Chap. 12

TH 11/14  Groups Meet, Consultation

*Week Eleven*
TU 11/18  Groups Meet, Consultation  
None

TH 11/21  Group Presentations  
Log

*Week Twelve*
TU 11/26  Group Presentations  
None  
Final examination questions distributed  
(discuss during office hours)

Thanksgiving Recess: 11/26 (4.00 p.m.)-12/1

*Week Thirteen*
TU 12/3  Individual Presentations  
None

TH 12/5  Individual Presentations  
Log

*Week Fourteen*
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TU</td>
<td>12/10</td>
<td>Individual Presentations</td>
<td>None</td>
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