

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

COM 110: INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: COMM-110: Interpersonal Communication

B. New or Modified Course:

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2016

D. Effective Term: Fall 2017

E. Sponsoring Department: Communication & Languages

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3

G. Weekly Contact Hours: Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites: None

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair at time of approval: Sara Banfield, Sara.Banfield@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

This course is a survey of concepts, principles, theories, and practices of Interpersonal Communication. Students will participate in small-group and large-group experimental learning simulations that reinforce theory and practice of effective Interpersonal Communication. Emphasis is on self-awareness as the key to awareness of others. Topics covered include listening, self-esteem, self-disclosure, interpersonal dynamics, and assertiveness training. Students who complete this course will become more effective and confident in their relationships with family, friends, colleagues, significant others, and strangers.

III. Statement of Course Need

Interpersonal Communication provides valuable communication applications for students in any program that requires interaction with individuals in contexts including but not limited to families, friends, colleagues, and significant others. The course provides foundations of interpersonal communication theory as well as practical interpersonal communication skills. Interpersonal Communication traditionally transfers as an introductory or survey course in Interpersonal Communication.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free elective
- B. General Education elective
- C. Fulfills a program elective for the Communication Studies A.A. Program requirement for Event Planning/Meeting Management Certificate; Liberal Arts-Women & Gender Studies option, A.A.; Computer Support Certificate; Electric Utility Technology, A.A.S.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual website.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course explores the following topics:

- A. Advantages and disadvantages of self-disclosure
- B. The Johari Window process
- C. Message construction and communication cycles
- D. Problems and practice in conversation
- E. Relational communication
- F. Theory and practice of active listening
- G. Communication styles
- H. Communication issues and “the awareness wheel”
- I. Hidden agendas in interpersonal communication
- J. Nonverbal communication and paralanguage
- K. Proxemics and communication
- L. Assertiveness training
- M. Coping with difficult people
- N. Communication modalities and personality types
- O. Negotiating to a “yes/yes” position
- P. How to “fight fairly”

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. Students will:

1. Explain basic concepts and theories of interpersonal communication. (GE 1)
2. Write clearly and coherently about their own interpersonal communication processes. (GE 1)
3. Demonstrate active listening skills. (GE 1)
4. Demonstrate effective verbal communication skills, both informally and in formal oral presentations. (GE 1)
5. Recognize non-verbal communication. (GE 1)
6. Identify strengths and weaknesses of their own interpersonal communication style. (GE 1)
7. Recognize where interpersonal communication breaks down. (GE 1)
8. Recognize ethical issues in interpersonal communication. (GE ER)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

1. Explain advantages and disadvantages of self-disclosure
2. Explain the Johari Window process
3. Demonstrate active listening skills
4. Write clearly and coherently about their own interpersonal communication processes
5. Analyze strengths and weaknesses of their own communication style
6. Take ownership for their own verbal and non-verbal acts of communication
7. Recognize where interpersonal communication breaks down
8. Use feedback from others to communicate more effectively in conversation

C. Assessment Instruments

1. Oral presentations
2. Presentation outlines, bibliographies, visual aids

3. Student self-evaluations/critiques of speeches
4. Student peer evaluations/critiques of speeches

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations
- D. simulation/role playing
- E. student collaboration
- F. audio/visual presentations
- G. bibliographic instruction

Given the goals and outcomes described above, the primary formats, modes and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. Lecture/discussion
- B. Small-group work
- C. Guest speakers and lecturers
- D. Student oral presentations
- E. One-on-one interaction
- F. Simulation/role playing
- G. Journal writing
- H. Film excerpts

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. Suggested textbook: *Communicate!* K. Verderber/R. Verderber. Oxford Press. Most recent edition. (Or other comparable current interpersonal communication textbook.)
- B. Suggested textbook: *Messages*. McKay/Davis/Fanning. New Harbinger. Most recent edition

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Students must have access to internet resources to complete research assignments.
- B. Access to College computer labs is necessary and available.
- C. Video/DVD recording and projection

- D. Smart classroom
- E. Guest speakers
- F. Flexible open space

X. Honors Option Not Applicable