

COMM 4900: Nonverbal Communication (Special Topics Course)

Fall 2016, Face to Face

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Course Description: Some studies argue that up to two-thirds of all meaning in communication stems from nonverbal messages (Philpott, 1983). Clearly, then, nonverbal communication is crucial to our accurate and appropriate interpretation of our relationships, our culture, and our world. This course is designed to introduce you to and help you identify the elements of nonverbal communication. Further, we will explore various functions of nonverbal messages within a variety of communication contexts.

Textbook and Required Materials:

Guerrero, L. K., & Hecht, M. L. (2007). *The nonverbal communication reader: Classic and contemporary readings* (3rd ed.). Waveland Press: Longrove, IL.
[ISBN: 9781577665441]. [ISBN: 1577665449].

Leathers, D.G., & Eaves, M. H. (2007). *Successful nonverbal communication: Principles and applications* (4th ed.). Routledge: New York, NY.
[ISBN: 9780205617425].

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Have an increased understanding of the types and functions of nonverbal communication.
2. Be able to more accurately identify and interpret your own and others' nonverbal messages, becoming a more competent communicator.
3. Better understand the influence of context, medium, and culture on nonverbal meaning.

Additionally, through our class discussions and projects, you should also:

4. Gain experience working cooperatively in a group setting.
5. Identify empirical research articles and topics to support your arguments.
6. Hone your oral communication skills through both informal discussion and a formal presentation.

National Communication Association Learning Outcomes in Communication (LOCs):

LOC #5:

Critically Analyze Messages

- *Identify meanings embedded in messages*
- *Articulate characteristics of mediated and non-mediated messages Recognize the influence of messages*
- *Engage in active listening*
- *Enact mindful responding to messages*

Description of Major Assignments

Attendance and participation (20 points): You will be expected to attend class regularly, come prepared, and participate actively.

Midterm exam (60 points): This exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Final Exam (70 points): This exam will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Group Project (100 points). For this project, you and your group of 4-5 people will serve as nonverbal communication consultants. You will conduct research to determine a problem, then identify at least four actionable solutions, and present them to the class. Your presentation should be professional and display a good grasp of the nonverbal concepts we have discussed in this class thus far. The presentation should be about 10 minutes long. In addition to the group grade you'll receive for the presentation, you as an individual will be rated on a scale of 1-10 (10 being the best) by your group mates, and will receive up to an additional 10 points based on the average of their ratings. More information is available on Blackboard.

Final Portfolio (150 points). Your final project in this class is actually a collection of smaller projects that you can complete throughout the semester. You are also given some element of choice in this process; you must complete one large assignment (6 pages) and 6 smaller assignments (2-2.5 pages each). I have outlined three larger assignments—choose only one. I have also outlined several smaller assignments. For these, you may choose 6, but you also have the option to propose to me an alternative assignment you'd like to complete. You must have my approval for this assignment at least one week prior to the due date for the portfolio. A more complete description of the assignment is posted on Blackboard.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Day	Topic	Readings Due
1	M W F	Syllabus overview What is NVC? Vocalics	Leathers & Eaves (LE), Ch. 1; Guerrero & Hecht (GH), Ch. 1 & 2 LE, Ch. 8; GH, Ch. 20 (Jaworski)
2	M W F	Vocalics in CMC Kinesics- Facial Kinesics- Body Language	LE, Chs. 2 & 3; GH, Ch. 13 (Grumet) LE, Ch. 4; GH, Ch. 11 (Ekman & Friesen)
3	M W F	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY Proxemics Proxemics	LE, Ch. 5 GH, Ch. 21 (Smeltzer, Waltman, & Leonard)
4	M W F	Env Cues- Workplaces Env Cues- Workplaces, cont'd Env Cues- Instructional Spaces	LE, Ch. 15 GH, Ch. 31 (Sallis & Kerr)
5	M W F	Haptics Haptics Chronemics	LE, Ch. 6 GH, Chs. 25-27 (various authors) GH, Chs. 29 (Hall & Hall) & 30 (Ballard)
6	M W	Personal Appearance Artifacts	LE, Ch. 7; GH, Ch. 5 (Kurzban & Weedan)

	F	Midterm Review	
7	M W F	NO CLASS: READING DAY Midterm Exam NO CLASS : Work on Group Project/Your Portfolio	
8	M W F	NVC Function 1: Influence	LE, Ch. 10 GH, Ch. 50 (Segrin) & 51 (Kopacz) GH, Ch. 8 (Frank & Gilovich)
9	M W F	NVC Function 2: Communicating Emotion use my lecture from UCSB- masking, etc.	GH, Chs. 43-45 (various authors)
10	M W F	NVC Function 3: Impression Management	LE, Ch. 9 Gh, Ch. 16 (Forbes & Jackson) LE, Ch. 12
11	M W F	NVC Function 4: Communicating Relational Messages	GH, Ch. 39 (Muehlenhard et al.) GH, Ch. 24 (Afifi & Johnson) & 38 (Praeger)
12	M W F	NVC Function 5: Detecting Deception NO CLASS: VETERAN'S DAY	LE, Ch. 11 Gh, Ch. 47 (Goleman) & CH. 48 (Vrij)
13	M W F	NVC Function 6: Cultural Displays	LE, Ch. 14; GH, Ch. 12 (Axtell) LE. Ch. 13; GH, Ch. 41 (Knofler & Imhof)
14	M W F	Nonverbal Impacts of Food NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING	(For this class, we will have a potluck and discuss global nonverbal customs surrounding food)
15	M W F	Presentations Presentations Presentations	