

Syllabus for Communication Studies 135: Interpersonal Communication

Miramar College, Spring 2026

CN 23667: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:10–12:35, Room H-201

CN 23183: Online

CN 23710: Online (2nd 8 Week Session)

Professor: Paul “Pablo” Martin, M.A.

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- You can also communicate with me via the [Pronto app](#) or [Canvas messages](#).
- You can also post your question anonymously in the “[Have a Question? Ask it here!](#)” discussion forum in Canvas.

Student Support Hours (aka Student Visiting Hours and Office Hours):

- Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30-9:30 and 1:30-2:30 (in person, H-110L—if you wish to meet via Zoom during this time, please notify me beforehand)
- Wednesday: 12:00-1:00 (Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93742123704>)
- By appointment (in person or via Zoom: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/93742123704>—please email me or talk with me before or after class to schedule a time)

Other Important Contacts: School of Liberal Arts Administrative Assistant, [Jeanette Moore](#)
– 619-388-7873

[Canvas](#) (this is where you can access all of your courses’ online content)

[MySDCCD](#) (this is where you can access everything else related to your student account at Miramar and SDCCD)

Note: if I need to make any changes to this syllabus, I will notify you both via Canvas and Pronto (and in person for classes that meet on campus).

Required Reading:

This course uses OERs (Open Educational Resources) and are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike 4.0 International License](#).

All assigned readings are available via linked assignments within Canvas (our course LMS) and Perusall (a third-party app)—make sure that you access each reading/assignment directly through our Canvas shell. The link below is for information only.

- [Interpersonal Communication: Context and Connection](#) (OERI, 2022)
- This class relies on a variety of other free tools and materials in addition to this Open Educational Resource (OER) textbook. These can be found through our [Canvas](#) shell.

Other Required Materials

1. Have a working email account that is current in both [MySDCCD](#) and [Canvas](#) (these systems *should* share information with each other). The SDCCD provides all students with a [free MS Outlook email account](#).

2. A way to access [Canvas](#), our course management system (any private or public computer, such as can be found at the Miramar or any public library with an Internet connection, will suffice).
3. A paper or digital copy of the syllabus.

Important Dates for the Spring Semester

Classes begin (16-week session): February 2

Last Day to Add or Drop with no "W" recorded: February 9

Lincoln Day Holiday: February 13

Washington Day Holiday: February 16

Spring Break: March 30 through April 3

Cesar Chavez Day Holiday: April 3

Last day to withdraw from a course (with a "W" rather than an evaluative grade): April 17

Last day to file a petition for the [Pass/No Pass grade option](#): April 17

Last day to file an Application for Graduation (and ensure your name is in the commencement program): March 15

Last day to file an Application for Graduation and be a Spring graduate: April 30

Memorial Day Holiday: May 25

Last day of classes (16-week session): June 1

(You can [see an exhaustive list of dates here](#), or [click here for other helpful news and information](#))

A Description of the Course

This course is a study of effective interpersonal skill development and practice in oral and written communication. Emphasis is placed on the personal, situational, and cultural influences of interaction. Topics include human perception, interpersonal dynamics, listening, conflict management, and verbal and nonverbal symbol systems. The course is intended for students who communicate in one-on-one situations, including communication, fashion, allied health, public service, and business majors as well as those interested in further development of effective interpersonal skills in work, volunteer, and personal environments.

Student Learning Outcomes (based on the state's approved Course Outline of Record):

1. Analyze and adapt communication strategies based on audience, cultural background, and situational factors to enhance interpersonal effectiveness.
2. Evaluate the influence of perception, identity, self-concept, culture, and emotions on interpersonal interactions and relationships.
3. Apply conflict management strategies, including empathy, assertiveness, and negotiation, to resolve interpersonal disputes effectively.
4. Critically assess personal communication skills through self-reflection and peer feedback, leading to continuous improvement in relational interactions.

Course Specifics

- All of the assignments and materials you will need to complete this course are free and available on [Canvas](#).
- This course is organized using weekly modules within our Canvas Shell—everything that is required of you will be available there.
- This course is not only designed to satisfy the Course Outline of Record but also to give you as much choice as possible in completing the assignments to make them more meaningful and valuable for you.
- This course requires you to regularly interact with your colleagues and me, your professor, as you complete the various assignments each week. (This means that if you are taking this course online, you won't be able to work too far ahead.)
- If you are especially passionate about this topic or are otherwise interested in taking this course for honors credit, please let me know within the first few weeks of class. (See [SDCCD Honors Program](#) learn more.)

Assignment Overview:

The online and in-person versions of this course have slightly different assignments. Please see your course's Canvas Shell for specifics. You will generally be asked to complete:

- A. Reading Assignments, generally 1 per week
- B. Activities and Exercises to apply concepts from the reading, generally 1-2 per week; one of these will be more significant in nature
- C. One Concept Presentation
- D. One outline and presentation on your Presenting Self
- E. One essay observing and reflecting on your communication behaviors

Schedule:

1. A calendar as well as links to all of the assignments, readings, and other course materials can be found in [Canvas](#). I recommend you allow notifications from Canvas and Perusall, and/or use a calendar to track all of your classes (such as the ones I have available on the "Important Course Information & Resources" page in Canvas).
2. Work that is submitted after the deadline will be penalized 7% per day, with a maximum penalty of 50%. If anything is preventing you from completing an assignment on time, please contact me before it's due, or as soon as you can. I know that life can provide us with unexpected challenges, and I want to be accommodating to your needs. So please be in communication with me via the [Pronto app](#), [Canvas messages](#), or [email](#).
3. **Due Dates:**
 - a. **Online Classes:** Unless I notify you otherwise, all assignments and work for this class are due at the end of the day (11:59 PM) on the date provided—these are almost always Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - b. **In-Person Classes:** Unless I notify you otherwise, all assignments and work for this class are due before class begins on the date listed in Canvas.
 - c. *If I need to make any changes to these due dates, I will notify you both during class and via Canvas or Pronto.*