

NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION COMM 5308:W01

Instructor: Dr. Esther Rumsey
Office: FAB 106A
Office Hours: 1-4 MWF

Telephone: 837-8211
Email: erumsey@sulross.edu

Text: There is no required textbook for this course. Course reading materials will be posted on BlackBoard.

Course materials will all be located in the content area of Blackboard and arranged by Unit. Course materials will include lectures, readings and links to video clips.

Description

This class provides an examination of the interaction between nonverbal communication and verbal communication channels in influencing outcomes in mass, interpersonal and professional communication contexts. Students will examine the research on nonverbal behaviors such as body movement, territory, and environmental design, touch, eye behavior, vocal attractiveness, time use, deception, and body alterations within social contexts such as work, school and relationships.

Objectives

The class aims to:

- (1) help students understand the impact of nonverbal communication on human relationships,
- (2) improve the ability to recognize and differentiate between various kinds of nonverbal cues,
- (3) become more able encoders and decoders of nonverbal messages, and
- (4) understand how nonverbal cues can be studied systematically.

Course Schedule

The course is divided into 5 units of study, each addressing a separate context for studying nonverbal communication. Each unit of study consists of three weekly lessons. The weekly lessons contain: a Power Point Lecture on the week's topic; required readings; video clips; and, a discussion question. The specific course schedule and all the materials needed to complete the weekly lessons are posted in the content area of your black board course.

Grading

Journal Articles	20%
Discussion Questions	
Initial Response	30%
Interaction	20%
Unit Exams	30%

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Each week you will locate an additional journal article (not one included in the course materials) related to the week's topic. You will write a one to two paragraph explanation of why you selected the particular article (for example, the research presented in the article helped clarify one of the concepts discussed during the week, or the article provided newer findings related to the week's topic, or the article applied the concepts discussed during the week in some unique way, etc). You will post your explanation in the discussion board and attach the article file. The journal article posting will be due by Friday each week. You can find related journal article by searching in the Communication and Mass Media Complete data base on the SRSU library website or looking in the Journal of Nonverbal Behavior which is available online and can be located by doing a google search for the journal. When selecting an article make sure it is published in a scholarly, peer review journal and reports the results of a research project.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion questions will be posted week in the content area and on the discussion board. These questions will be related to the assigned readings. To earn full points for your comments you need to demonstrate a familiarity with the readings (in other words, read the assignment before you try to post your answer) and respond to the comments posted by your classmate. **This should be regarded as a discussion, not simply a single response to a question.** Your initial response to the discussion question is due by Wednesday each week and your replies, comments or questions about other's responses must be posted by Sunday. I would encourage you to respond early to your classmates to foster a true discussion.

UNIT EXAMS

Exams will be posted the last Wednesday of each Unit and will be due by Sunday of that week. The exam will consist of vocabulary and essay questions related to the readings, lecture and discussions associated with the unit.

ACADEMIC HONESTY (From the SRSU Student Handbook)

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is beyond reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of their classroom. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. "Cheating" includes:

1. Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs, or allowing another student to copy from same.
2. Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
3. Collaborating, without authorization, with another person during an examination or in preparing academic work.
4. Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of a non-administered test.

5. Substituting for another student; permitting any other person, or otherwise assisting any other person to substitute for oneself or for another student in the taking of an examination or test or the preparation of academic work to be submitted for academic credit.

6. Bribing another person to obtain a non-administered test or information about a non-administered test.

7. Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of a rough and/or final version of an assignment by a professional typist.

8. "Plagiarism" means the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea in one's own written work offered for credit.

9. "Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit.

10. "Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

11. "Academic work" means the preparation of an essay, dissertation, thesis, report, problem, assignment, or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

All academic dishonesty cases may be first considered and reviewed by the faculty member. If the faculty member believes that an academic penalty is necessary, he/she may assign a penalty but must notify the student of his/her right to appeal to the department chair, the dean and eventually, to the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs before imposition of the penalty. At each step in the process, the student shall be entitled to written notice of the offense and/or of the administrative decision, an opportunity to respond, and an impartial disposition as to the merits of his/her case. The decision of the Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs shall be final. In the case of flagrant or repeated violations, the Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs may refer the matter to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. No disciplinary action shall become effective against the student until the student has received procedural due process except as provided under Interim Disciplinary Action.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. ***[If the course requires students to take proctored exams or to purchase additional software or equipment, please describe those requirements here.]*** The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.