

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
*WELCOME TO CMT-COMM 100-18*  
**INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION**  
SPRING 2010                      Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:15-5:30 p.m.

**CLASS SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Christopher Leonard, M.A., B.A.

**Office Hours:** 30 minutes before and after class in the Instructor's Office

**Phone:** To contact me by phone, please call 773/807-7845.

**E-mail:** c-leonard@neiu.edu

**Required Text:** Interpersonal Messages: Communication and Relationship Skills by Joseph A. DeVito (2006). Book can be acquired at the El Centro campus this week only. After this week, you will have to purchase your book at the main campus bookstore.

**Course Description**

This course is designed to help you increase your understanding of communication skills and practice those skills in a classroom setting. We will explore forms of interpersonal communication, both verbal and nonverbal, and discuss how they operate in a variety of contexts: with friends and family, in intimate relations, in class and at work. In addition, we will learn about critical thinking and listening, examine how culture affects communication and consider issues of conflict and ethics.

**Course Requirements**

Quizzes and Exams These will be based on material contained in the readings and presented in class. You MAY not have an opportunity to make up a missed quiz or exam unless you receive permission to do so in advance of the date of the exam. Quizzes and exams will be taken during class on Blackboard. Quizzes and exams will be closed book/closed notes.

Writing Assignment The writing assignment is designed to give you an opportunity to apply concepts learned in class to situations observed in a television or movie series. Although proper English usage, grammar and style are important, papers will be graded primarily on originality of thought and how well you develop your ideas.

<b>Grading (Assignment)</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Point Allocation</b>
Midterm Exam	March 4, 2010	20% of overall grade
Quizzes	See schedule below	20% of overall grade
Writing Assignment	April 22, 2010	20% of overall grade
Attendance/Participation	All semester	20% of overall grade
Final Exam	April 29, 2010	20% of overall grade

90 – 100% = A; 80 – 89% = B; 70 – 79% = C; 60 – 69% = D; Below 60% = F

**All late written assignments will be assessed a 10% PER CALENDAR DAY penalty. Quizzes and exams will be assessed a 10% per class meeting penalty. This penalty MAY be waived (on a case-by-case basis) due to things such as: illness requiring medical attention, family emergency, or airline flight cancellation.**

### **Attendance Policy**

Each class meeting is worth a possible 7 points for attendance and participation. You need to be on time, present for the whole class period, and you must fully participate in any in-class activities that may be assigned in order to receive all the points for each class meeting. If you are absent, you will lose those points. If you are late to class, you will lose points depending upon how late you are. If you are physically present, but not mentally present (sleeping, studying for another class, etc.), you will lose participation points.

The following quote is from the Northeastern Illinois University Academic Catalog: “Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and examinations. If a student has more than three unexcused absences, the instructor may lower the student’s grade, require additional work, and/or impose other sanctions as appropriate.”

All written assignments completed outside of class must be typed. This is standard procedure throughout the academic, creative and business world. The document should use 1 ½” margins on all sides, be double-spaced and in 12-point font, and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. For your protection, you should keep a hard copy and a disk copy of everything you turn in.

Your instructor reserves the right to make any changes to this syllabus at any time. It is your responsibility to come to class so that you are aware of any changes that are made.

## **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **Class # 1 – Tuesday, 1/12/2010**

- Syllabus and Introductions
- Icebreaking Activities
- Discuss Extra Credit Opportunities

### **Class # 2 – Thursday, 1/14**

- Discuss Chapter 1

### **Class # 3 – Tuesday, 1/19**

- Continue Discussion of Chapter 1

### **Class # 4 – Thursday, 1/21**

- **Chapter 1 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 2

### **Class # 5 – Tuesday, 1/26**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Culture: *Elf*, *Karate Kid Part 2*

### **Class # 6 – Thursday, 1/28**

- **Chapter 2 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 3

### **Class # 7 – Tuesday, 2/2**

- Chapter 3 Activities

### **Class # 8 – Thursday, 2/4**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Self: *The Truman Show*, *Elf*

### **Class # 9 – Tuesday, 2/9**

- **Chapter 3 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 4

### **Class # 10 – Thursday, 2/11**

- Chapter 4 Activities

**Class # 11 – Tuesday, 2/16/2010**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Perception: *My Fair Lady*, *Coach Carter*

**Class # 12 – Thursday, 2/18**

- **Chapter 4 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 5

**Class # 13 – Tuesday, 2/23**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Listening: *Stranger Than Fiction*

**Class # 14 – Thursday, 2/25**

- **Chapter 5 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 6

**Class # 15 – Tuesday, 3/2**

- Midterm Exam Review

**Class # 16 – Thursday, 3/4**

- **Midterm Exam**

**Class # 17 – Tuesday, 3/9**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Verbal Com.: *Devil Wears Prada*

**Class # 18 – Thursday, 3/11**

- **Chapter 6 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 7

**Class # 19 – Tuesday, 3/16**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Nonverbal Com.: *Noises Off*

**Class # 20 – Thursday, 3/18**

- **Chapter 7 Quiz**
- TBA

**NO class on 3/23 or 3/25 – SPRING BREAK!**

**Class # 21 – Tuesday, 3/30/2010**

- Discuss Chapter 8

**Class # 22 – Thursday, 4/1**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Conversation Messages: *Groundhog Day*

**Class # 23 – Tuesday, 4/6**

- **Chapter 8 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 9

**Class # 24 – Thursday, 4/8**

- Continue Discussion of Chapter 9

**Class # 25 – Tuesday, 4/13**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Relationships: *50 First Dates*

**Class # 26 – Thursday, 4/15**

- **Chapter 9 Quiz**
- Discuss Chapter 10

**Class # 27 – Tuesday, 4/20**

- Watch/discuss scenes pertaining to Conflict.: *Mean Girls*

**Class # 28 – Thursday, 4/22**

- **Communication Analysis Papers Due**
- **Chapter 10 Quiz**

**Class # 29 – Tuesday, 4/27**

- Final Exam Review

**Class # 30 – Thursday, 4/29**

- Communication Analysis Papers Returned
- **Final Exam**