

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

RP1203 INTERPERSONAL COMPETENCE
COURSE OUTLINE

F.97

FALL 1997: SEPTEMBER 5 - DECEMBER 5

CLASS TIMES: Tuesday and Thursday
 9:30 - 10:50 am

CLASS LOCATION: Room E311

INSTRUCTOR: Betty Barton

OFFICE: H229

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2:00 - 4:00pm
 Wednesday 1:00 - 2:00pm

PHONE: 539-2892 (office)
 539-6337 (home)

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course develops basic skills and awareness in interpersonal communication and behaviour. It emphasizes self-understanding and the elements of interpersonal communication.

This course requires considerable self-examination and openness concerning one's own behaviour, and an orientation towards personal growth and change.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Adler and Towne, Looking Out/Looking In, Eighth Edition, Harcourt Brace College Publishers, Orlando, Florida, 1996. Chapters 1-10, excluding chapter 7.

Readings from additional sources may be assigned during the course. If so, these will be placed on reserve.

CLASS FORMAT:

Classes will utilize a mixture of lecture, group discussion, role-playing, and class activities. Student participation is an essential element of the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

1. Define and discuss interpersonal communication using the components of an appropriate communication model.
2. Effectively use a self-evaluation tool on a given interpersonal communication.
3. Recognize the role and implications of culture and gender on communication.
4. Discuss the characteristics and development of self-concept and how it affects communication.
5. Realize the individual differences related to perception and develop effective communication strategies to minimize misunderstandings.
6. Discuss the role of emotions and cognition in effective communication.
7. Understand and discuss the ambivalence of word and language usage and develop strategies for overcoming troublesome language.
8. Discuss the characteristics of non-verbal communication and practice the interpretation of non-verbal behaviour.
9. Discuss the dynamics of interpersonal relationships and self-disclosure.
10. Explain the importance of a positive communication climate and demonstrate skills in reducing defensiveness.
11. Identify the nature and styles of conflict and conflict resolution.
12. Demonstrate a method of conflict resolution that utilizes assertion rather than aggression.

GRADING:

1. Assignments

50% Five (5) Communication Skills mini-assignments

Detailed instructions for the completion of the five assignments will be provided as material is covered in class.

All mini-assignments should be typed or legibly handwritten. Marks will be deducted for poor legibility, disorganization, or improper language usage.

NOTE: No more than one resubmission opportunity per mini assignment will be provided. A 10% penalty will be applied to resubmissions, i.e. the maximum grade on a resubmission is 90%.

2. Tests and Exams

There will be two unit tests and a final exam. The final exam, which will emphasize material covered from the third unit, will be written during exam week.

30% Each unit test will be worth 15% of the final grade.

20% The final exam will cover material from the entire course.

NOTE: Students who have maintained a grade of 80% or better on BOTH unit tests may choose to write a final unit test instead of the final exam. In this case all unit tests will be equally weighted. The final unit test will be written at the same time as the final exam.

In order to obtain credit for this course, students must achieve a minimum final grade of 6 i.e. 65%.