Spring, 2010

Nonverbal Communication (COMM 3333/MLCOM 5333)

Instructor – Dr. Robin Williamson

Office – Guadalupe House (1311 Branard, #102 – Branard and Yupon)

Hours – 11:00-12:00 MW; 11:15 – 12:15 & 2:00-3:00 TTh; and by appointment.

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COURSE PURPOSE: Nonverbal variables of communication include gestures, environment, touch, proxemics, paralanguage, facial expressions, eye behavior, clothing, appearance, time, smell and taste. The impact of these variables will be explored through theory, research and application.

GOALS: (1) awareness of the role nonverbal communication plays in the communication process; (2) working knowledge of nonverbal theory and research; (3) development of behavioral research skills through class exercises and research project; and (4) awareness of the impact of both gender and culture on nonverbal communication.

TEXT: Knapp, M.L. and Hall, J.A. Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction, 7th Ed.

Additional Readings and Handouts will be distributed.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Exam #1: 25%

Exam #2: 25%

Final Exam: 25%

Quizzes: 10%

Written Analysis: 10%

Group Project: 5%
(1) There will be three exams covering readings, lectures, handouts, and class discussions. These are worth 75% of your grade. Missed exams must be made up within a week at Career Services (and testing) located on the second floor of Crooker Center. You may call for an appointment at (713) 525-3160. Please do not abuse the use of the testing center.

(2) Written Analysis: This paper should be between 6-8 pages in length using APA or MLA citation styles (when appropriate.) Thoroughness of your research, the quality of your ideas, and the degree of insight you bring to your topics will be criteria for grading. The paper is due on April 14. Late papers will be penalized one grade per class period until the paper is turned in. Possible paper topics include:

(A): Literature review and observational study: Summarize a body of literature in one of the many areas of nonverbal communication. From that body of literature, create a hypothesis, an observational study to test your hypothesis, and a discussion section analyzing your results. Research methodologies will be discussed during the fourth week of the semester. (MLA students are required to complete this first paper option.)

(B): Literature review and media case study. Choose an area of research (e.g. nonverbal indicators of deception, eye contact or paralinguistic cues in political speeches, etc.) and summarize the findings in detail. Apply that research to a media event, television program, political campaign commercial or speech, or film.

(3) Quizzes: There will be three quizzes over the reading materials spaced throughout the semester and noted on your syllabus.

(4) Group Project: Each 5-6 person group will be assigned a body of research not discussed in class. Groups will summarize the research and illustrate through skits or media major ideas or trends. A 1-2 pages outline as well as a 15-20 minute oral presentation are required.

ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY ARE EXPECTED!

GRADUATE STUDENT ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

(1) For every exam, extra essays will be required showing advanced synthesis of theory and research.
Graduate students must complete Option A of the paper requirement, and your paper should be 9-12 pages in length.

SCHEDULE:

1/20  -  Overview
1/25  -  Foundations (Ch. 1)
1/27  -  Foundations continued
2/1   -  Roots (Ch. 2)
2/3   -  Environment (Ch. 4)
2/8   -  Environment continued
2/10  -  QUIZ #1 (Ch. 1 & 2); Research Methods (Handouts)
2/15  -  Territory & Personal Space (Ch. 5)
2/17  -  Territory & Space continued; Review for Exam #1
2/22  -  EXAM #1 (CHS. 1, 2, 4 AND RESEARCH METHODS)
2/24  -  MUSEUM (DEMENIL) EXERCISE
3/1   -  Physical Appearance & Clothing (Ch. 6)
3/3   -  Gestures & Posture (Ch. 7)
3/8   -  Gestures & Posture continued
3/10  -  QUIZ #2  (CHS. 5 & 6);  Touch (Ch. 8)
3/15  -  SPRING BREAK
3/17  -  SPRING BREAK
3/22  -  Touch continued; Review for Exam #2
3/24  -  Facial Expressions (Ch. 9)
3/29  -  EXAM #2 (CHS. 5, 6, 7, 8)
3/31  -  Eye Behavior (Ch. 10)
4/5   -  Paralanguage (Ch. 11)
4/7   -  The Sub-codes (Smell, Taste, Biofeedback, Mood & Emotion) - Handout
4/12  -  QUIZ #3 (CHS. 9 & 10; Ability to Send & Receive Messages (Ch. 3)
4/14  -  Explain Group Projects  PAPER DUE
4/19  -  Work on Group Projects
4/21  -  Work on Group Projects
4/26  -  GROUP PROJECTS
4/28  -  GROUP PROJECTS
5/3   -  GROUP PROJECTS
5/12  -  FINAL EXAM (3:00 PM – 5:30 PM)