The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking.
— Albert Einstein (1936)

This social science course aims to refine your thinking about a most important and pervasive aspect of everyday human life: social interaction. Many scholars argue that our unique brand of social interaction – including our use of language – is at the root of what makes us human.

Throughout the semester, we explore a range of phenomena included within the scope of interpersonal communication. Our first focus is on the foundations of human communication. How and why do humans have the capacity for language? What are the evolutionary foundations of human speech? How do words come to have shared meaning so we can understand one another? How do we describe and categorize aspects of the world? How does communication intersect with culture? Does the social (e.g., language) impact the cognitive (our perception)? Do names/labels/categories affect how we perceive, define and behave toward ‘reality’?

Then we examine interpersonal communication as it relates to and directly impacts various aspects of our social world. How do we use interaction to construct and manage our many social identities? Who are you in interaction with others? How do you form an impression on – and of – others? How do we manage to take turns when talking to each other? How do we do things (social actions) with words? How are our social relationships created and maintained – or not – through the choices we make about how we interact with one another? And finally, how do we use social interaction to establish harmony, maintain the bonds of social solidarity (cohesion), and avoid conflict?

This course addresses – and will help you answer – all of these questions. Through this course, you will learn how to analyze human social behavior by developing an understanding of key research, theories and concepts critical to the study of language and social interaction.

Required readings are compiled in one Course Pack/Reader
Available at MUB Copy Center, Memorial Union Building Level 2 East, Durham, NH 03824
Tel: (603) 862-1984, Hours: Monday – Friday 10:00am – 3:00pm

CMN 457 Blackboard (Bb) course website: http://blackboard.unh.edu
Check our Blackboard course website and your email daily for important updates and information
The structure of the course and the required readings are outlined on the following pages.

Course grades will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date Due</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(10) Q-A Posts</td>
<td>Mondays at 11:59pm (see Reading List below)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5-10) In-class Exercises</td>
<td>TBA during classes (unannounced)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) In-class Quizzes</td>
<td>TBA during classes (unannounced)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>Tuesday 2/28 in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2 (non-cumulative)</td>
<td>Tuesday 4/17 in class</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>Tuesday 5/15 3:30pm-5:30pm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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The nature of these assignments will be discussed in class. All dates on this syllabus are tentative, and may need to be adjusted during the semester due to unforeseen circumstances. I will update the schedule at each class meeting as needed. Note: Our class will not meet on: Thurs March 8th [conference]; Tues March 13th and Thurs March 15th [Spring Recess].

Exams: There will be three (3) exams for this course. These exams will follow a true/false, multiple choice, and short answer format. You must take these exams at the scheduled time and date. I am unable to make special arrangements for individual students to take exams before or after the rest of the class, except in the case of medical or university-excused emergencies. Incompletes will not be granted except under extraordinary circumstances. Please note that the University has scheduled our Final Exam for Tuesday May 15, 3:30pm-5:30pm.

Quizzes: There will be five (5) unannounced in-class quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes will be short (usually 5-10 multiple choice and/or true/false questions). They will be ‘open book’ and ‘open note’ – you may use your own personal copy of the one required Course Pack/Reader, and/or you may refer to your own hard-copy (handwritten or printed out) lecture notes. During quizzes, you may not use any electronic device (e.g., use of laptops, smart phones, BlackBerries/iPhones, iPads, cell phones is prohibited). Quizzes will cover material presented in lectures and assigned readings. There is a strict time limit on these quizzes – be sure to stay up-to-date on your reading. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Exercises: There will be five to ten (5-10) unannounced in-class exercises throughout the semester. These will be short, interactive exercises that I will assign and collect during class. You must be in class on the day I assign/collection an exercise to earn credit.

Q-A Posts: Ten (10) times throughout the semester, you will write your own multiple choice questions and answers on the required readings and then post these to our Blackboard course website under the “Discussion Board” button. Please see my “Create-Your-Own Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers” instructions below - note the list of due dates. Late Q-A Posts will not receive credit.
Class Policies

Please arrive to class on time. Please power off all electronic devices (e.g., please do not send/receive text messages, update Facebook, etc. during class). Please do not audibly chew gum in class (my pet peeve).

Attendance: I expect you to be physically and mentally present at each and every class. I will keep track of attendance throughout the semester. Regular attendance is necessary for you to successfully complete this course. Much of the material I will expect you to know and use in doing graded work will come only from my lectures and in-class discussions. I do not lecture ‘from the book’. If you must miss a class, please get the notes from a classmate and discuss the material covered with that person. Then, if you have questions come to my office hours. It’s not feasible for me to give one-on-one repeat performances of lectures. Complete reading assignments before class meetings, and come to class prepared to discuss them. The in-class exercises and quizzes are built-in incentives meant to reward you for consistent attendance and participation. If a serious illness or death in the family will result in your missing a class or exam, please follow the University’s procedures for notifying the Dean’s office (603-862-2062), which in turn will notify all of your professors.

Discussion of grades: If you have questions about grades, set up an appointment with me to discuss your work. This appointment must be set up within one week of the return of a score/grade for a particular exam/assignment. I cannot discuss grades or scores via email due to their sensitive nature.

Academic honesty: The University of New Hampshire’s Academic Honesty Policy will be strictly enforced. The University has a policy of zero tolerance for plagiarism. Plagiarism is the undocumented use of someone else’s ideas, words, or sentences. To present another’s work as one’s own, even if paraphrasing, is plagiarism. Doing so is a serious offense and will result in failure for that assignment and, most likely, for the course. If you are not sure about how to use certain materials, see me. All of the work you submit must be your own original work. Review UNH’s policy at http://www.unh.edu/student/rights/ It applies to all class work, including in-class and take-home work.

Special needs: The University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you must register with Disability Services for Students (DSS). Contact DSS at (603) 862-2607 (located in 201 Smith Hall, 3 Garrison Avenue). If you have received Accommodation Letters for this course from DSS, please provide me with that information privately in my office during the first week of the semester so that we can review and prepare for those accommodations. In fairness to other students, I cannot make special arrangements for students who are not registered with DSS.
SYLLABUS

Unit 1: INTRODUCTION
What is interpersonal communication? What kinds of phenomena are included in its scope?


--Complete Unit 1 readings by Monday 1/30
Q&A Posts on Unit 1 readings due Monday 1/30 11:59pm EST

Unit 2: EVOLUTIONARY FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNICATION
How and why do humans have the capacity for speech?


--Complete Unit 2 readings by Monday 2/6
Q&A Posts on Unit 2 readings due Monday 2/6 11:59pm EST

Unit 3: WORDS, MEANINGS AND THEORIES OF CATEGORIZATION
How do words come to have shared meaning so we can understand one another? How do we describe and categorize aspects of the world?


--Complete Unit 3 readings by Monday 2/13
Q&A Posts on Unit 3 readings due Monday 2/13 11:59pm EST
Unit 4: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
How does communication intersect with culture? Does language shape and constrain how we perceive the world?


--Complete Unit 4 readings by Monday 2/20
Q&A Posts on Unit 4 readings due Monday 2/20 11:59pm EST

***Exam #1 Tuesday 2/28***

Unit 5: COMMUNICATION, IDENTITY AND THE SELF
Who are you? How do you form an impression on/of others? How are identities constructed through social interaction?


Staples, Brent. (1986). Just walk on by: Black men and public space. 6 August, Ms. Magazine.


--Complete Unit 5 readings by Monday 3/19
Q&A Posts on Unit 5 readings due Monday 3/19 11:59pm EST
**Unit 6: TURN TAKING IN CONVERSATION**
*How do we manage to take turns when talking?*


---Complete Unit 6 readings by Monday 3/26
Q-A Posts on Unit 6 readings due Monday 3/26 11:59pm EST

---Complete Unit 7 readings by Monday 4/2
Q-A Posts on Unit 7 readings due Monday 4/2 11:59pm EST

**Unit 7: COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL ACTION**
*How do we do things (social actions) with words?*


---Complete Unit 8-Part A readings by Monday 4/9
Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part A readings due Monday 4/9 11:59pm EST

---Complete Unit 8-Part A readings by Monday 4/9
Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part A readings due Monday 4/9 11:59pm EST

---Complete Unit 8-Part A readings by Monday 4/9
Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part A readings due Monday 4/9 11:59pm EST

***Exam #2 Tuesday 4/17***
Unit 8-Part B: Assessing (Dis/ Agreeing, Complimenting, Self-deprecating, Bad-mouthing)


---Complete Unit 8-Part B readings by Monday 4/23
Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part B readings due Monday 4/23 11:59pm EST

Unit 8-Part C: Laughing and Swearing


Unit 8-Part D: Belonging (or not), Including (or not)


---Complete Unit 8-Part C and Part D readings by Monday 5/7
Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part C and Part D readings due Monday 5/7 11:59pm EST

***Final Exam Tuesday 5/15 3:30pm-5:30pm***
Create-Your-Own
Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers
(abbreviated “Q-A Posts” below and above on Syllabus)

One of the best ways to study for quizzes and exams is to teach others about the material you’ve just learned.

By this point in your educational career, you are no doubt an expert at taking multiple choice tests. For this class, I give you the opportunity to parlay this expertise by producing your own multiple choice questions.

I ask you to first read the required readings (see the list on the Syllabus).

Then, for each of the (10) groups of readings (listed on the Syllabus, and copied below), you are to:

• write at least one (1) multiple choice question for each reading in that particular group of readings;
• state which of your multiple choice ‘answer’ options is correct for each question; and
• explain why each of your multiple choice ‘answer’ options is either correct or incorrect (this is the most important part of this assignment – to earn credit you must do this)

You will do this ten (10) times throughout the semester.

Post your Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers (or “Q-A Posts”) to the CMN 457 Blackboard course website’s “Discussion Board” by the due dates listed below:

1. Q-A Posts on Unit 1 readings due Monday 1/30 11:59pm EST
2. Q-A Posts on Unit 2 readings due Monday 2/6 11:59pm EST
3. Q-A Posts on Unit 3 readings due Monday 2/13 11:59pm EST
4. Q-A Posts on Unit 4 readings due Monday 2/20 11:59pm EST
5. Q-A Posts on Unit 5 readings due Monday 3/19 11:59pm EST
6. Q-A Posts on Unit 6 readings due Monday 3/26 11:59pm EST
7. Q-A Posts on Unit 7 readings due Monday 4/2 11:59pm EST
8. Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part A readings due Monday 4/9 11:59pm EST
9. Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part B readings due Monday 4/23 11:59pm EST
10. Q-A Posts on Unit 8-Part C and Part D readings due Monday 5/7 11:59pm EST
Here’s an example:

According to Malcolm Gladwell (“The naked face”), Paul Ekman:
   (a) established that facial expressions are universal products of evolution
   (b) believed that facial expression is culturally determined
   (c) helped create a taxonomy of facial expressions so he could learn to read the face the way that people like John Yarbrough did intuitively
   (d) options (a) and (c) only

The correct answer is (d) because both options (a) and (c) are correct:
(a) is correct; on p.40 of the article, Gladwell writes that, as a result of travelling around the world to find out whether people of different cultures agreed on the meaning of different facial expressions, Ekman established that facial “expressions were the universal products of evolution.”
(b) is incorrect; on p.40, Gladwell describes how, before Ekman set out on his travels around the world, he went to see Margaret Mead. “Like most social scientists of her day, she believed that expression was culturally determined”, and therefore she “looked at” Ekman as though he was “crazy” when he told her his idea of seeing whether people of different cultures agreed on the meaning of different facial expressions. Ekman’s research proved Mead wrong: he found that, everywhere he went, people agreed on what facial expressions meant.
(c) is correct; on p.42 of the article, Gladwell writes that “Ekman and [his colleague] Friesen decided that they needed to create a taxonomy of facial expressions.” On p.43, Gladwell explains that those people who learn their Facial Action Coding System “learn to read the face the way that people like John Yarbrough did intuitively.” This taxonomy of facial expressions helps to define the ‘hunch’ you have about another person: “An experience that used to wash over you becomes particularized and nuanced” (p.43).

Submit your Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers for each group of readings by posting it to our CMN 457 Blackboard course website http://blackboard.unh.edu under the “Discussion Board” button.

You are to write at least 1 question-and-answer for each reading listed in a given Unit grouping. (So if a given Unit grouping contains two readings, you should write at least two Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers – or at least 1 Question-and-Answers set for each reading.)

When you post your own Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers, read over your fellow students’ Multiple Choice Questions-and-Answers. This is a wonderful way for you to study for exams and quizzes, teach others about what you’ve learned, and connect and collaborate with one another.

You may comment on others’ postings – just be sure to follow one simple rule: Always be courteous and treat others’ contributions with respect.

Multiple Choice Questions and Answers posted after 11:59pm on the due dates listed above will not receive credit.

Your Q-A Posts are collectively worth 10% of your course grade (1% each).