Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to acquaint you with classic and contemporary ideas about how people communicate without the use of words; that is, nonverbally. We will discuss the different ways in which people express themselves nonverbally, the types of goals that nonverbal communication helps us fulfill, how context can change our inclinations toward nonverbal messages, and the ways that nonverbal communication can be applied in “real-world” settings.

By the time you complete this course, you should be able to:

- Define and classify the types of nonverbal behaviors involved in the study and practice of nonverbal communication.
- Identify and comprehend the major theoretical perspectives that help us explain and understand why people nonverbally communicate in certain ways.
- Describe theoretical explanations for nonverbal communication and outcomes.
- Explain how one person’s nonverbal behaviors could affect another’s.
- Apply knowledge about nonverbal communication to everyday situations.

Required materials


Note: A lower-than-bookstore price on the above book can be obtained at https://store.cognella.com/81495-1B-NL-006. After purchasing, you can log into your account and click “My Digital Materials” to get access to the first 30% of the book right away.

Course assignments

The instructions for each assignment are in the “Assignments” section of the course Moodle page. Please also see the document there entitled “Writing the Nonverbal Communication Assignments Well.” This will give you an idea of the general aspects that I am looking for to assess all of the assignments.

All assignments will be submitted through the Moodle course page and never emailed. No late papers are accepted without prior arrangements. All papers must be typed in 12-point, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins on all sides, with your name and ID number in the upper left corner. Papers that deviate from these format instructions will be subject to a 20% grade reduction.
Each paper is worth 100 points, so 500 total points are possible in this class.

Course Calendar*
Readings: KHH = Knapp, Hall, & Hogan; Y = Yoshima

Week 1: Introduction - Basic Nonverbal Communication Forms and Functions
- Defining Nonverbal Communication
- The Forms and Functions of Nonverbal Communication
  Readings on Basic Nonverbal Communication Forms and Functions:
  - KHH: Chapter 1
  - Y: Chapter 1

Week 2: Communicating Nonverbally Across Cultures
- Nonverbal Communication across cultures
  Readings on Nonverbal Communication and Culture
    - KHH: Chapter 2
    - Y: Chapter 2

Week 3: Nonverbal Communication Skills
- Nonverbal Communication Skills and Impressions
  Readings on Nonverbal Communication Skills and Impressions
    - KHH: Chapter 3
    - Y: Chapter 3

Week 4: Personal Appearance Codes
- Personal appearance codes
  Readings on personal appearance:
    - KHH: Chapter 6
    - Y: Chapter 4

Week 5: Attraction
- Attraction
  Reading:
    - Y: Chapter 13

Week 6: Facial Codes
- Introduction to facial expressions and emotions
  Readings on Facial Codes:
    - KHH: Chapter 9
    - Y: Chapter 6

Week 7: Eye Behavior
- Oculesics
  Readings on Oculesic Codes:
    - KHH: Chapter 10
    - Y: Chapter 7

Week 8: Bodily Movement
- Kinesics
  Readings on Kinesic Codes:
    - KHH: Chapter 7
    - Y: Chapter 5
Week 9: Using Space and Distance to Communicate
- Proxemics
  Readings on Proxemic Codes:
  o KHH: Chapter 5
  o Y: Chapter 8

Week 10: Building Rapport
- Nonverbal immediacy
  Readings on building rapport:
  o See week 10 on Moodle

Week 11: The Use of Touch as Communication
- Haptics
  Readings on haptics:
  o KHH: Chapter 8
  o Y: Chapter 9

Week 12: Using the Voice to Send Messages
- Vocalics
  Readings on vocalic codes:
  o KHH: Chapter 11
  o Y: Chapter 10

Week 13: Communicative Aspects of the Immediate Environment Microenvironments
  Reading on microenvironmental codes:
  o KHH: Chapter 4

Week 14: Fragrance and time as nonverbal codes
- Olfactics
  Reading on olfactics:
  o KHH: Pages 179-182
  o Y: Chapter 11
- Chronemics
  Reading on chronemics:
  o Y: Chapter 12

Week 15: Putting it all together
- Nonverbal communication and successful job interviews
  Reading on nonverbal communication in job interviews:
  o Y: Chapter 14

Final meeting time: 10:10-12:10, Tuesday, April 27th

*The course calendar is subject to change as necessary.