

Eastern Communication Association
Short Course Program Syllabus
103rd Annual Convention | April 26-29, 2012 | Cambridge, MA

Title

A New Perspective for Teaching Interpersonal Communication: Transitions in Nature / Nurture Intersections

Presenter(s)

Timothy P. Mottet

Dean

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Texas State University-San Marcos

512-245-2308

tm15@txstate.edu

Sally Vogl-Bauer

Professor

Department of Communication

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

voglbaus@uww.edu

Marian L. Houser, Associate Professor

Department of Communication Studies

Texas State University-San Marcos

512-245-3137

mh53@txstate.edu

Description

This short course is designed for instructors and educational leaders who have an interest in teaching Interpersonal Communication from a new and unique perspective. Historically, most interpersonal communication textbooks have focused more on the nurture perspective, but this short course and *Your Interpersonal Communication* will provide a balanced coverage of the research examining the variety of influences on our communication behavior. This approach will introduce instructors to a perspective for teaching interpersonal communication that is geared toward helping students better understand the influence of their own personal dynamics; it will show them how an individual's personality influences social style and interaction. The short course will offer participants a variety of new teaching approaches, in-class activities, assignments, assessment instruments, and teaching strategies for various groups of students to help them understand the transitions between nurture influences and nature influences on their interpersonal communication. The instructors of this short course have experience teaching graduate and undergraduate students, students in teacher certification programs, and professionals seeking continuing education credit in both traditional and distance education classroom contexts. All participants of the short course will receive complimentary copies of Mottet, Vogl-Bauer, and Houser's *Your Interpersonal Communication* courtesy of Allyn and Bacon publishers

Target Audience

This short course is designed for instructors and educational leaders who have an interest in teaching *Interpersonal Communication* from a new and unique perspective. It is targeted towards those interested in or already teaching an undergraduate interpersonal communication course. While the emphasis is on those teaching at the higher education level, this program should also be relevant to those teaching at the community college level as well.

Outline of Topics

- Understanding the Nature / Nurture Perspective – its value in teaching interpersonal communication
- Presenting Specific Chapter Teaching Methods to understand Interpersonal Communication & Personality
- Presenting Assessment Tools to Develop Interpersonal Communication Skills
- Class activities & assessments that facilitate critical thinking
- Supplemental resources (e.g., recommended videos, internet sites, resource materials, cases, etc.)

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of the short course participants will:

- Be prepared to teach a class in interpersonal communication that is geared toward helping the student understand the pivotal role both social and biological influences play in their communication.
- Understand and have access to multiple assessment tools for use in the classroom that will enhance the presentation and teaching of course material.
- Understand and be presented with methods and materials to teach interpersonal communication within a variety of contexts and taking into consideration a variety of important influential factors (e.g., culture, gender, and technology).
- Be presented a syllabus to assist them in teaching the course.
- Have an understanding of how to integrate theory with practice and research.
- Have access to a collection of practical tools including exercises, cases, web resources, videos, internet sites, exams, assignments, and other teaching materials that can add life to a current class.
- Be provided the textbook and information regarding access to the instructor's manual that will provide new and current instructors a solid framework for approaching the class.

Teaching Methods

Through a guided power point presentation, group discussions, and participation in specific text activities, short course participants will be offered a new teaching approach to the interpersonal communication course—one that creates transitions between the nature-nurture communication perspectives. A variety of in-class activities, assignments, assessment instruments, and teaching strategies will be provided to help instructors assist their students in a self-discovery process of their communication.