

Las Positas College  
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**Course Outline for SPCH 4**  
**INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES**  
**Effective: Fall 2017**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

SPCH 4 — INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATION STUDIES — 3.00 units

Introduction to the breadth of the communication discipline with a focus on the foundations of interpersonal communication, small group communication, and public speaking. Examination and practice of basic human communication principles and theories to develop critical thinking and communication competencies in a variety of contexts.

3.00 Units Lecture

**Strongly Recommended**

- Eligibility for ENG 1A -

**Grading Methods:**

Letter or P/NP

**Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

A. -Eligibility for ENG 1A

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

1. Identify similarities and differences between the fields of Interpersonal Communication, Small Group Communication, and Public Speaking;
2. Demonstrate, at an introductory level, interpersonal concepts of perception, self-concept, nonverbal communication, verbal communication, listening and conflict management;
3. Participate in small group activities to demonstrate a basic understanding of leadership communication, problem solving, role orientation, and conflict management strategies to achieve group goals;
4. Research, organize, and deliver an effective public address.

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. Principles of human communication
- B. Ethics and communication
- C. Listening skills in a variety of contexts
- D. Interpersonal communication in various contexts
  1. Personal
  2. Professional
  3. Intercultural
  4. Computer mediated
  5. Family interactions
- E. Role of communication in perception of self and personal identity
- F. Small group communication
  1. Leadership
  2. Decision making
  3. Conflict management
- G. Elements of effective public speaking
  1. Situational analysis
  2. Ethics and diversity
  3. Audience
  4. Occasion
  5. Purpose
  6. Topic selection

7. Research
8. Evidence evaluation
9. Organization
10. Presentation skills
11. Evaluation of communication effectiveness

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Student Presentations** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Classroom Activity** -
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** -
- E. **Lecture** -
- F. **Projects** -

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. **Paper:** Record a verbal conversation or take screen shots of a text message dialogue you've had with a friend or family member and analyze it according to human communication principles. Write a 2 - 3 page analysis.
- B. **Oral Presentation:** Find a video clip of an interpersonal conflict from a film and give a report showing verbal and nonverbal elements and the possible different outcomes if conflict had been managed according to effective conflict management strategies.
- C. **Group presentation:** Decide on a service project for your group and record tasks, leadership, and implementation of your project. Make a two minute video public service announcement of your project to present to the class.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Oral Presentation
3. Group Projects
4. Class Participation
5. Class Work
6. Home Work

##### B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
  - a. Weekly participation in class activities
  - b. A minimum of two oral presentations
  - c. One to two written papers
  - d. Weekly homework assignments
  - e. A minimum of one group project
  - f. One midterm examination
  - g. One final examination

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Adler, Ronald, George Rodman, and Athena du Pré. *Understanding Human Communication*. 12th ed., Oxford University Press, 2013.
2. Wood, Julia. *Communication Mosaics: An Introduction to the Field of Communication*. 7th ed., Wadsworth Publishing, 2013.
3. Beebe, Stephen, Susan Beebe, and Diana Ivy. *Communication: Principles for a Lifetime*. 6th ed., Pearson, 2015.
4. Duck, Steve, and David McMahan. *Communication in Everyday Life: The Basic Course Edition with Public Speaking*. 1st ed., Sage Publications, 2014.

#### X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: