



5200 – Communication Department
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The following information pertains to sections of SPCH 120 (Dynamics of Communication) that are taught fully online. SPCH 120 is a general communication course that examines elements of interpersonal (one-on-one) communication, small group communication, and public speaking. Basic skill issues and theories for each of these communication areas are presented and put into practice.

Welcome to Online Learning in the Speech Program at Lansing Community College!

This may be your first online learning experience, or you may have completed several online classes at LCC or at other colleges and universities. In order to ensure your success in this class, the Speech Program has compiled a list of questions most often asked at the beginning of a class. Keep in mind that not all online classes are alike, so whether this is your 1st online class or your 101st, take a moment and look over these questions and answers so you know what's expected of you and what you can expect from your instructor.

Question: How do I know if online classes are right for me?

Answer: Online classes are for students who are able to work independently, manage time well, take responsibility for their performance, are comfortable with computers, and are proactive problem solvers. If you are a little unsure if online classes are right for you, go to <http://www.lansing.cc.mi.us/online/> and take the self-assessment. This will give you a better idea if online learning is for you.

Q. Are online classes easier than traditional face-to-face classes?

A. It really depends on the type of learner you are. Online classes may be more convenient for you because of your schedule, but you will be required to complete the same Communication Department projects expected of a student in a face-to-face class.

Q. How much computer experience do I need?

A. You will need to know how to navigate throughout the course site so you can find assignments, drop boxes for submitting work, group pages, and chat rooms. You will need a current e-mail address and will need to check your e-mail regularly through Angel (the college's course management system) since that is the primary way you and your instructor communicate. You will also need to know how to save a file as a rich text format (.rtf). Tutorial sessions are offered by the college for those who are using Angel for the first time at the beginning of each semester. We would advise everyone to take one of these sessions to learn more about Angel.

Q. Will I ever be able to talk to my instructor?

A. Your instructor will post "office hours" in the syllabus and instructions on how to reach him or her. These ways may include traditional walk-in office hours on main campus, virtual office hours online, email communication or phone communication. Each instructor will do it a little differently, but you will have plenty of opportunity to talk with your instructor. But remember, communication is a two-way street. The primary way your online instructor has of getting in touch with you is through email and information on the course site, so you'll be expected to regularly check your email and the course site to keep up to date on what is happening.

Q. How much time will I have to spend in an online class?

A. Basically, a traditional three-credit hour course requires that you be in a classroom in contact with your instructor for three hours a week for 16 weeks (in addition to your reading and time needed to complete your major projects). That means that in a three-credit hour online class, your instructor will create three hours of participation in some sort of online learning experience (discussion boards, exercises/activities, individual and group assignments, quizzes, etc.). So, to recap, plan to spend the following time on this course each week: 3 hours of online activity + 2 hours of textbook reading + up to 2 hours on the major projects.

Q. Will I have to write a lot in online classes?

A. Since you will be doing most of your communicating with your instructor and fellow students online, you are likely to do more writing in an online class than a traditional class. Again, this depends on the instructor.

Q. So, how do I give a speech in an online class?

A. Actually, it's not as difficult as you may think. Since this is an overall course in human communication, public speaking is just one component (unit) of the course. During that unit, you will create and then deliver a public speech. Your instructor will set up

an on-campus presentation day for you to deliver your speech. Please see Procedure Statement to get all the details on how this will work.

Q. Will I get to work with other students in the class?

A. Since we are studying human communication, you certainly will get plenty of opportunity to work with other students. This will come about in your weekly online work in ways such as reading and responding to the postings of other students on discussion boards. Interaction with other students will also take place when we get to the small group communication unit of the course. In that unit, you will work on a formal group project.

Q. Can I do my work in the course whenever I want to?

A. Yes and No. All of our work is done in an asynchronous format. This means that you don't have to be online at any particular moment. You can work at 2:00 in the afternoon or 2:00 in the morning. However, SPCH 120 is NOT a self-paced course. On a week to week basis, you will have deadlines for your online participation. As well, throughout the semester, you will have specific due dates for each of the major projects involved in the course.

(revised Spring '07)