

AMBERTON UNIVERSITY
SYLLABUS FOR LECTURE/CLASSROOM COURSE

COM5407.01 Nonverbal Communication
Winter 2027
Location: Garland

PROFESSOR INFORMATION:

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COURSE INFORMATION:

COM5407.01 Nonverbal Communication
Level: Graduate
Beginning Date of Session: Saturday, December 5, 2026
Ending Date of Session: Thursday, February 25, 2027
The first class meeting is December 5, 2026, in **Room Student Center Garland**
Saturday 1 classes meet: Dec. 5, Jan. 2, 16, 30, Feb 13

All Saturday lecture classes begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Winter Holiday Break:
Saturday, December 19, 2026, through Friday, January 1, 2027
No assignments are due during this time.
(Classes resume on Saturday, January 2, 2027.)

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None

TEXTBOOK(S) AND REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Title: Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction
Author: Mark Knapp, Judith Hall, & Terrence Horgan
Publisher: Kendall Hunt Publishing
Year Published: 2021
Edition: 9th
ISBN: 13: 9781792410666 (print), 9781792438394 (ebook)
Price: Available at <http://amberton.ecampus.com>

Amberton University has an agreement with eCampus.com to provide a full-service online bookstore to students. The Amberton University Virtual Bookstore is accessible through the University's website, www.Amberton.edu. There is also a bookstore link in the Student Portal.

The AU Virtual Bookstore provides an easy to use interface, online buyback of books, and same day shipment of most titles with an average delivery time of 2-3 days depending on the student's location. Textbook options include new, used, rental, and electronic media as available.

Since no books are sold on campus, students should plan accordingly and purchase their books in advance of the first day of class, allowing time for shipping. Be certain you are enrolled in the course before purchasing your book(s). All textbook information (Title, Author, ISBN, etc.) is available in course syllabi so students can shop competitively. Most textbooks can be purchased from many different textbook vendors. Some textbooks may only be available on the University's Virtual Bookstore. Students should be careful to obtain the exact resource(s) required for the course.

APA Requirement

APA (American Psychological Association) style is most commonly used to cite sources within the social sciences. This resource, revised according to the 7th edition, offers examples for the general format of APA research papers, in-text citations, endnotes/footnotes, and the reference page. For more information, please consult the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, (7th ed.). All coursework at Amberton University will comply with the standards contained in the APA Publication Manual.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

The nonverbal communication course investigates the impact of nonverbal behavior on the communication process. It explores how the environment, space, dress, appearance, movement, facial expressions, eye behavior, chronemics affect, and digital communication. The cultural context of nonverbal communication is considered. Special attention is given to nonverbal research and analysis.

CAVEAT: No graduate credit will be awarded if COM4407 has been successfully completed.

UPON COMPLETION OF THE COURSE, THE STUDENT WILL BE COMPETENT IN:

1. Discussing the different types of nonverbal behaviors: oculosics, facial kinesics, kinesics, environment, haptics, chronemics, smell, dress, and appearance.
2. Describing how to locate scholarly nonverbal behavior using appropriate indexes in EBSCO and other appropriate on-line sources.
3. Designing a methodology and tabulate results of a nonverbal study.
4. Developing a paper which presents an introduction, a literature review, designing a methodology, tabulating results and findings of a nonverbal study.
5. Using analytical skills to evaluate an environment by applying the research on nonverbal environments.
6. Describing the four different types of proxemic spaces, including: intimate, interpersonal, social, and public.
7. Applying concepts of dress, appearance, eye, facial kinesics, and environment in a self-analysis paper.
8. Discussing how personal appearance can be manipulated so the person looks credible, knowledgeable, and approachable.
9. Evaluating the messages being sent by others' nonverbal appearance.
10. Describing how personality can be communicated through facial expressions.
11. Discussing how pupil metrics can help identify who is attracted to whom, what products are desirable, and which political candidates are preferred.
12. Examining and explaining the role of haptics in human development from birth to death.
13. Describing the role of vocalics in affecting the image of an individual.
14. Studying how postural and gestural kinesics affect human interaction.
15. Discussing how persuasion can be affected by kinesics.
16. Applying the theories and research of nonverbal communication to analyze interactions.
17. Analyzing the cultural effect on nonverbal communication.
18. Comparing how different cultures communicate nonverbally and how the similarities or differences affect communication in the home, workplace, or Church.
19. Analyzing digital body language and the application of technology-mediated forms of nonverbal communication in the workplace, home, or Church.
20. Analyzing the effect of digital body language in different cultural contexts
21. Evaluating how different cultural groups use artificial intelligence in their communication in personal and professional settings

ACQUIRED SKILLS:

1. Body Language Analysis
2. Intercultural Communication
3. Non-Verbal Communication
4. Pupil Metrics

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Please label your assignments EXACTLY this way: last name, first name, course number, assignment number, i.e. SmithJaneCom6420ex1.

2. Because this is a Communication-based course, correct spellings, grammar, and punctuation are expected in all assignments. Also, use the correct APA Style.
3. Your participation on the discussion board is part of the grade.
4. You must log onto Moodle within the first two weeks to stay enrolled in the class. To be considered present, you must answer the first discussion question.
5. Late papers will be penalized 5%. After 3 days, the assignment will be penalized 10%. Thereafter students will lose 10% per week.
6. No late assignments will be accepted during the 10th session.
7. The assignment must be placed in the correct link in Moodle. The documents must be able to be opened by the professor for the assignment to be considered.
8. It is highly unlikely that you can pass the course without submitting all the assignments.
9. Incompletes are rarely given.
10. If your paper scores more than 20% plagiarism on Turnitin or if Turnitin detects more than 20% of your content as having been generated by AI, this is unacceptable and will be graded accordingly.
11. If you use research on any of your assignments, you are required to cite, and failure to cite would constitute plagiarism.

Please familiarize yourself with the Amberton University plagiarism and AI policy contained in this syllabus.

Student's Responsibilities

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for a specific course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual class attendance and engagement is expected at Amberton University. In case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor as soon as possible. If a student intends on withdrawing from a course, it is the student's responsibility to follow the university's policy on formally withdrawing from a course. **Ceasing to attend classes does not constitute an official withdrawal.**

Attendance in a lecture course is defined as punctual arrival to, and engagement in, a full lecture session. A Student in a lecture course missing more than 20% (two class periods for weekday classes or one class period for Saturday classes) of the class meetings may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Attendance in a distance learning course is defined as active participation in the weekly online class sessions. "Active participation" can be defined as: submitting an academic assignment, taking an exam, engaging in an interactive tutorial, participating in an online discussion forum (or chat session), or initiating (or responding to) a communication with a faculty member about an academic assignment or the subject matter of the course. A student not meeting these requirements may be assigned a grade of an "F" or withdrawn at the discretion of Amberton University.

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as though it were your own. If you use another person's words, ideas, or information; or if you use material from an outside source – whether a book, magazine, newspaper, business publication, broadcast, speech, or electronic media – you must acknowledge that source. Plagiarism is a violation of the University's code of student ethical conduct and is one that is taken seriously. Amberton University operates on an honor system; therefore, honesty and integrity are essential characteristics of all who are associated with the institution. All Amberton students are expected to abide by the honor system and maintain academic integrity in all their work. Amberton University and its instructors monitor student work for plagiarism and reserve the right to submit such work to technology-based plagiarism detection services and applications at any time.

Self-plagiarism means reusing work that you have already published or submitted for a class. It can involve:

- Resubmitting an entire paper
- Copying or paraphrasing passages from your previous work

Self-plagiarism misleads your readers by presenting previous work as completely new and original. Students may not submit the same paper in substance in two or more classes without prior written permission of the instructors involved.

Amberton University students who use Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated content must adhere to the following policies:

Originality: Students must avoid presenting AI generated content as their own original work. It is essential to acknowledge the involvement of AI in the content creation process in order to maintain academic and ethical standards.

Paraphrasing: When using AI generated content, students must rephrase and/or modify the generated text. Paraphrased AI generated content should also be properly cited.

Acknowledgement: When using AI generated content in any assignment, proper credit must be given to the AI system that generated the content. <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Students agree that by taking this course, all required assignments may be subject to submission for a textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism and self-plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in future papers. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com website.

Turnitin is a writing improvement and plagiarism prevention tool which uses special algorithms, to compare text-based student submissions to the Turnitin database and other online sources. Turnitin produces a detailed **similarity report** that can be customized and viewed by instructors and students.

Turnitin "Draft Coach" is a Google based add-on to Turnitin which supports students in developing high-quality academic writing; and serves as an integrity coach. Draft Coach helps address errors and improve the quality of student's writing by highlighting grammar mistakes, identifying incorrectly cited sources, and scanning for similarity across several databases. By providing formative feedback on how to address citation issues, incorrect grammar, and matches with the Turnitin database, Draft Coach provides explanations to help students become more confident writers, capable of producing higher quality work both in academics and in the workplace.

Please see below for instructions.

COURSE DELIVERY METHODOLOGY:

This course is offered as a Lecture/Classroom course. This course requires that students meet at a designated time in the classroom.

(Describe the kinds of activities that will be used in the classroom: lecture, group presentations, oral reports, written reports, research papers, etc.)

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR:

The activities used in the classroom are: lecture, group discussions, oral reports, written reports, research papers.

This syllabus contains information, policies, and procedures for the Nonverbal Communication course. By enrolling, the student agrees to read, understand, and abide by the policies, rules, regulations, and ethical standards of Amberton University as contained in the current university catalog and schedule of classes.

Dec 19 - Holiday Break. Classes resume Saturday, January 2nd
Jan 1 No assignments are due during this time.

Week	Topic	Assignment	Competencies Covered	Due Date
1	Introduction Nonverbal Communication: Basic Perspectives	Read Textbook – Chapters 1 and 2	1	Discussion Board Due December 11th
2	Environment Kinesics	Read Textbook – Chapters 3 and 4	1,9,17	Discussion Board Due December 18th
3	Appearance Cultural influences on nonverbal communication	Read Textbook – Chapters 5 and 6	1,5,6,12,14,15,16	Assignment #1 Due January 8th
4	Touch Body, gestures, and voice over	Read Textbook – Chapters 7 and 8	1,10,11	Discussion Board Due January 15th
5	Facial expressions Oculesics	Read Textbook – Chapters 9 and 10	2,3,4,16, 21	Assignment #2 Due January 22nd
6	Smell Eye, Vocal Cues	Read Textbook – Chapter 11	1,7,9,10,19	Discussion Board Due January 29th
7	Deception What is digital nonverbal communication? Digital nonverbal communication	Read Textbook – Chapter 12	1,8,9,13	Assignment #3 Due February 5th
8	Culture The four laws of digital body language	Read Textbook – Chapter 13	2,3,4,16	Discussion Board Due February 12th
9	Special Contexts		2,3,4,16	Assignment #4 Due February 19th
10	Presentation		ALL	Discussion Board Due February 24th

GRADING CRITERIA:

Discussion Board (sessions 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10) 110 pts 20%

Assignment 1 80 pts 16%

Assignment 2 100 pts 20%

Assignment 3 100 pts 20%

Assignment 4 120 pts 24%

Total 510 pts 100%

Graduate	
92 – 100	A
82 – 91	B
72 – 81	C
62 – 71	D
Below 62	F

GRADE NOTIFICATION AND INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK:

Each assignment/exam submitted will be reviewed, graded, and returned to the student in a timely manner, along with appropriate commentary.

Final grades are processed approximately one week after the last day of the session and may be located in the My Grades section of the online registration portal as well as being emailed to the student's Amberton University email. Amberton University staff will not release grades over the phone. University instructors will not leave a message with comments or grades in any type of media that is not secure.

For questions regarding grades after the semester has ended, students should use their email account and contact the instructor at the faculty email address as provided above in *Professor Information* area.

Incomplete Grades

An "I" (incomplete grade) is given at the discretion of the professor and may be given only when an emergency or illness prevents the student from completing course requirements. Should an "I" be granted, the student has 30 days from the end of the session to complete the conditions of the incomplete. An "I" which is not properly removed within 30 days following the session enrolled will become an "F" grade.

How to Withdraw From a Course

To be official, the class withdrawal must be in writing and signed by the student requesting the withdrawal; no withdrawal is accepted verbally. Please review the "Schedule of Classes" for procedures for class changes or withdrawals and the refund policy and schedule.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS:

This course is offered as a lecture course. Amberton University provides several technology resources that students may use for course communication and University services.

Amberton University uses Single Sign-On (SSO) as the primary access point for University systems, including Amberton Email (Gmail), CampusWeb, Library resources, financial information, Moodle when used by the instructor, and other University applications.

Access the Amberton SSO Portal

Go to:

<https://sso.amberton.edu>

Students should bookmark this page. The SSO portal is the main entrance to Amberton University's online systems.

The SSO Login link may also be accessed through the Amberton University website at <https://amberton.edu>.

Activate Your Account

New students receive an Amberton University welcome email containing an account activation link.

Select the activation link and follow the instructions to activate your Amberton SSO account and configure Two-Factor Authentication (2FA).

Your assigned username and Amberton student email address are included in the welcome email.

Student email addresses use the following format:

username@my.amberton.edu

Sign In to SSO

After your account has been activated, go to:

<https://sso.amberton.edu>

Enter your Amberton username or assigned Amberton account information and the password you established during account activation.

If you forget your password, select “Forgot Password?” on the SSO login page and follow the instructions provided.

Access Your Amberton Applications

After signing in, the SSO dashboard will display the applications available to your account. These may include:

Amberton Email (Gmail)

CampusWeb

Financial Records

Library resources

Moodle

Other University applications and services

Select the appropriate application from the SSO dashboard.

Email Communication

Each student is assigned an Amberton email address in the following format:

username@my.amberton.edu

Students should access their Amberton email through the University Single Sign-On portal at:

<https://sso.amberton.edu>

Students are encouraged to check their Amberton email regularly for University notices and course communications.

Students should follow the communication requirements established by the instructor for the individual course.

The Amberton University Moodle Learning Platform

Students enrolled in this course will also use the Moodle Learning Platform.

Students should access Moodle through the Amberton SSO portal:

<https://sso.amberton.edu>

Sign in to SSO and select Moodle from the dashboard.

Students do not need a separate Moodle username or password when accessing Moodle through SSO. Account activation and password recovery should be completed through the Amberton SSO portal rather than through Moodle.

Moodle Tutorial

A Student Moodle Tutorials course is available within Moodle to assist students with course navigation, communication, assignments, examinations, grades, and other Moodle functions.

Technical Support

If you experience difficulty activating your account, signing into SSO, or accessing an Amberton application, please contact:

support@amberton.edu

INSTRUCTOR/COURSE EVALUATION:

Each session, all Amberton students are requested to evaluate their courses. The evaluation process is an important one and provides students with an anonymous and confidential way to give meaningful feedback to the University. Summary information and comments are provided to faculty after the close of the session. Students' identities are not disclosed.

Students will be notified through the Amberton email system of the Course Evaluation procedures. Usually, the evaluations take place in class during week 9 of the session. Please take advantage of this opportunity and participate in the evaluation process.

RESEARCH RESOURCES:

The Library provides access to full-text, and peer reviewed articles, and digital research tools. Students can search Library holdings through the online catalog and databases search engines available on the Library website or browse the physical library space and holdings located at the Garland campus.

Research items not contained in the Amberton Library collection can be located through interlibrary Loan (ILL) or through the TexShare program with the help of the Library staff. Students with questions about available services, resources, or research, may contact the Library via email at Library@amberton.edu.

RESEARCH ACCESS:

Databases can only be accessed by authorized users, and students at Amberton must enter their Amberton ID credentials-same as Moodle login-to gain access when off-campus. Use an Amberton website, such as the University site (Amberton.edu) or the library site (Library.amberton.edu) to find links to databased and digital books. Online resources are available all day, every day.

Library Live Chat Feature

Library staff are available to assist students with research problems or questions during Library hours through a live online chat feature, telephone, email, "How-to" videos, or in person. The library telephone is (972-279-6511 ext. 185. You can email questions to library@amberton.edu or visit the library in person on the Garland campus for assistance.

Microsoft Office 365 Education:

Amberton University students have access to a license for Office 365 Education, a comprehensive suite of productivity tools. This package includes:

- Microsoft Word for document creation
- Excel for spreadsheets and data analysis
- PowerPoint for presentations
- OneNote for digital note-taking
- Microsoft Teams for collaboration
- Additional classroom tools to enhance your learning experience

To set up your student account and access these resources, please follow the instructions provided in our step-by-step guide: https://amberton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Office365_Setup_Students.pdf

Google Workspace for Education:

All students are assigned a Gmail account in Google Workspace for Education.

To set up your student account and access these resources, please follow the instructions provided in our step-by-step guide: https://amberton.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Google_Drive_Students.pdf

Once logged into your student account, you'll have access to a suite of tools designed to enhance your learning experience:

- Google Docs: Create and edit essays, reports, and other written assignments
- Google Slides: Develop engaging presentations for projects and class discussions
- Google Sheets: Perform data analysis, create charts, and manage calculations
- Google Drive: Store, organize, and easily access all your files in the cloud
- Google Calendar: Schedule study sessions, track assignment deadlines, and manage your academic timetable
- Google Keep: Take and organize quick notes during lectures or study sessions
- Google Meet: Attend virtual classes, participate in group study sessions, or meet with teachers
- Google Classroom: Access course materials, submit assignments, and receive feedback from instructors
- Google Forms: Create surveys for research projects or participate in class quizzes
- Google Sites: Build websites or digital portfolios to showcase your work

Turnitin Draft Coach

Instructions for Accessing Turnitin Draft Coach in Google Docs

Turnitin Draft Coach is typically available as an add-on or extension within Google Docs, allowing you to check for similarity, citations, and grammar *before* final submission.

Important Pre-requisites:

- Institutional Access: Draft Coach must be licensed and enabled by your school or institution's Turnitin and Google Workspace administrators. If you cannot find the extension, contact your instructor or IT support.
- Account: You must be signed into Google Docs using your institutional/school email account, not a personal Gmail account, for the extension to appear and work correctly.
- Document Type: The document must be a native Google Doc (not an uploaded .doc, .docx, or .pdf file opened in Docs). If you have another file type, copy and paste the text into a new, blank Google Doc.

Step-by-Step Guide

1. Open Google Docs: Sign in to your institutional Google account and navigate to Google Docs.
2. Open Your Document: Open an existing assignment draft or start a new document and paste your writing into it.
3. Access the Extension: In the top menu bar of your Google Doc, click on Extensions.
4. Select Draft Coach: Hover over or click Turnitin Draft Coach, and then select Turnitin Draft Coach again from the submenu.
 - *Note: If the option does not appear immediately, refresh your page and try again.*
5. Draft Coach Panel: The Draft Coach panel should now appear on the right-hand side of your screen.
6. Get Started: The first time you open it, you may need to click a "Get Feedback" or similar button, and you will likely need to read and accept the Terms and Conditions to continue.
7. Run Reports: Once loaded, you can select the tabs or cards in the panel to run different checks:
 - Similarity Check: Checks against Turnitin's database. (*Note: You typically have a limited number of checks for similarity, often three.*)
 - Citations Check: Analyzes your document for correct citation and referencing practices.
 - Grammar Guide: Provides feedback on grammar and mechanics (usually US-English rules).

You are now ready to use Turnitin Draft Coach to review and improve your writing!