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Interpersonal Communication: Context and Connection (ASCCC OERI)

Alexis Johnson

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Part of the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Commons

OER Review: An OER – is an Open Educational Resource that allows a faculty member to deliver a course without expense to students. Please refer to the Library Guide to find OER Resources: <https://bit.ly/oersources> By adopting an OER, you could have your course identified as ZTC-Zero Textbook Cost.

Faculty Member Name: Dr. Alexis Johnson
Department: Communication and Media Studies

What OER Book are you reviewing (Title): Interpersonal Communication: Context and Connection (ASCCC OERI)

Location/ Link where it can be found:

[https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Communication/Interpersonal_Communication/Interpersonal_Communication%3A_Context_and_Connection_\(ASCCC_OERI\)](https://socialsci.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Communication/Interpersonal_Communication/Interpersonal_Communication%3A_Context_and_Connection_(ASCCC_OERI))

Does the author have appropriate authority of standing to release a book? (Professor associated with a university etc..) The book does have authors listed with pictures and information about each author. There are 15 total authors, which seems like a lot to me. There is also a way to contact them.

For what course are you reviewing this book: Interpersonal Communication

What is this course's average enrollment:

Fall: 25 per class

Spring: 25 per class

Summer: 0

What is the current resources used for this class and how much does it generally cost? The Interpersonal Communication Playbook by Gamble & Gamble. It costs about 50 dollars.

What are your course objectives for this course? (copy and paste)

Which chapters or sections align to each course objective.

Course Objective	Section or Chapter that addresses it.
Engaging in competent, flexible, and appropriate communication with others.	Chapter 1: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
Demonstrate effective ways to listen and manage conflict.	Chapter 6: Listening Chapter 9: Interpersonal Conflict
Articulating the role of perception, self-concept, and identity-management in interpersonal communication.	Chapter 2: Communication and Self Chapter 3: Perception and Communication
Practicing empathy, emotional sensitivity, and perspective taking in conversations.	Chapter 7: Emotions

Managing trust, deception, and power in interpersonal relationships.	Chapter 11: The Dark side of Communication
Applying interpersonal communication theories to pragmatic interpersonal situations in different relational contexts inside and outside of the classroom.	Chapter 10: Building and Maintaining Relationships Chapter 12: Interpersonal Relationships in the workplace

Which Course objectives are not covered in the book.

Course Objective
Power is touched on in Chapter 11, but I would need to supplement this.

If you were to use this book, what would be your plan to find material to meet the uncovered objectives? (One option is to find another OER to meet it. Multiple Open Educational Resources can be used for a course)

I would likely find an academic article that is accessible to the students on Power. After looking at a few of the interpersonal books I saw that this was a common phenomenon. It is lumped together with the dark side and I would not go over the entire chapter on dark side since I teach a class exclusively dedicated to the subject.

Are there additional materials available (power points, test questions etc..)

I did not see any materials (power points) that would be accessible to faculty members. However, I did see that they had some sample questions and activities woven into each chapter for students. So that is a plus because I can include those in my course content.

Is the author contact information available to contact if there are more materials?

Yes, the authors have their email addresses and other important contact information available.

What are the strengths of this book? (Think: writing style, citations, currency, diagrams etc..)

This book seems written more effectively for the students at tech. The chapters don't seem as long. They are broken up so you can either download the whole book or simply click on the chapter that you are wanting to look at (I think this makes the text more manageable for people accessing it on different devices. There are learning objectives at the start of each section of each chapter, which is a great way to get students getting an understanding of what they should be learning once finished with the chapter. There are also discussion prompts. This text is broken down a lot more effectively for the students (there are sections within each chapter as well). The text has strong citations for interpersonal, which again is important. I wish there were citations at the end of each section (this wasn't abundantly clear to me) just in case a student would want to check out any of the research in the book. The book does have visuals, which again I think is useful for visual learners.

What are the weaknesses of this book?

The biggest weakness is I am still missing a section on power for this text as I was with the last. I would have to find something to accommodate that or rethink learning objectives. I am the main interpersonal scholar in our department and have control over what the students should learn as a result of taking the class. From what I see the tone of the book doesn't seem consistent. This may be because there were 15 authors involved. I don't think it takes away from the information presented, but you can tell there are various writing styles throughout.

To be able to use this book – what will you have to supplement?

I would need to find a power and influence chapter in another book, which wouldn't be an issue.

Compared to your previous purchased book – is the effort required to use this OER worth it _ why or why not?

This book seems to be more worth my while to actually adopt. It is broken down into smaller chunks (which is what I am looking for) making it more manageable for students and less overwhelming. The book covers almost every learning objective that I focus on (including a section on emotions. Thank you!) I also like that it doesn't go into other topics that are individual classes for an interpersonal scholar like myself.

If you were to use this book, would you also use a homework system? If yes, which one would you use (LibreTexts and Lumen learning are some examples)

I don't know much about homework systems like this, but it seems that this book is linked to Libretxts and so I would be interested in learning more and possibly adopting depending on how it would connect to this book.

Please submit the completed review to: oer@atu.edu