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189:101:04 Introduction to Communication
Assignment 2: Nonverbal Observations

This exercise is designed to help you develop your observational skills and to increase your nonverbal awareness. Complete the following three tasks and record your observations, including what you saw others do and your own reactions. Be sure to report what you learned about nonverbal communication and the norms that govern it from each observation. Be as specific as possible. Make sure that you answer all questions.

1. The next time you have a conversation with a friend, notice how close you stand or sit to him/her. In your next conversation with a different friend, notice if the distance is similar to your distance from the first friend or different. What factors might help you explain the differences or similarities?
2. At a bar, a party, or other social event, look at someone you do *not* know for as long as you can. Try not to avert your gaze from that person. Then, look at someone you *do* know for as long as possible, again without averting your gaze. What happens in each case? Explain the similarities and/or differences.
3. Position yourself at a place where you can observe people walking by. Observe two different people who are walking *alone* and then two different couples or groups of people who are walking *together*. How do these people show that they are walking alone? How do they show that they are together? Were you ever not sure and why? Report your observations and explain in detail how you were able to tell if people were alone or together.

In your written response, you should **use the textbook** for this assignment, particularly Chapter 4. Cite the textbook appropriately and include a Reference list (see Assignment 1 for instructions).

- The assignment must be **typed, single-spaced**. Your response to each of the above questions will be approximately half a page long.
- Please put both your **Name** and your **Rutgers ID** on your assignment.
- Hand in a **paper copy** of your assignment **at the beginning of the class on Monday March 20**. Additionally, submit your paper on **Sakai before noon on the same day** (March 20): Go to Assignments > "Assignment 2" and follow the instructions. You must do both!
 - *Late assignments* will be penalized (1 point deduction for each 24 hour period). Assignments not submitted in class will be penalized as well. To submit your late assignment, go to Sakai > Assignments > "Assignment 2" and follow the instructions.
 - Always keep an electronic copy of your paper for your records!



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