# Bridging the Communication Gap

Strategies for Large Classes

## Dealing with Non-Verbal Communication

- Four Areas of Non-Verbal Communication
- a. Proxemics
- b. Movement and Stance
- c. Facial Expression
- d. Gesture

### **Proxemics**

#### Means: use of the space

- Layout of the room
- a. Objects in the room set the speaker apart
- b. Is physical and psychological
- c. Informal style: reduce barriers
- d. Formal style: maintain objects
- e. Distance also a factor
- f. "Public Distance is 12 feet or more from audience
- g. Requires a more animated speaking style

#### **Movement and Stance**

- 1. Movement includes shifts in stance
- Posture is also a factor: how you stand and your relaxation level
- Moving towards your audience (leaning or walking) can indicate interest in them and/or an important point
- 4. Beware of aimless moving/walking

### **Facial Expression**

- Audience scans your face to determine how you feel about yourself
- 2. Helps audience interpret content of your message
- 3. Are you sure of what you are saying?
- 4. Is message harsh or pleasant?
- 5. Eyes establish visual bond
- 6. Eye contact important for credibility
- 7. Emotional impact of speaker's message is: words 7%; vocal 38%; facial expression 55%

#### Gestures

- 1. Support or illustrate your ideas
- 2. Avoid fidgeting (distracting)
- 3. Three kinds of Gesture
- 4. Conventional
- 5. Symbols with specific meanings
- 6. Condense ideas (raised hand for "stop")
- 7. Descriptive
- 8. Describe ideas; draw a picture for listener
- 9. Must be purposeful
- 10. Size; shape; location
- 11. Indicators
- 12. Movements that express feelings
- 13. Eg. Pounding the podium when angry (Kruschev)
- 14. Encourage arousal of feelings in listener

#### **Effective Gestures**

- 1. Relaxed/natural: executed with ease
- 2. Vigorous and definite
- 3. Properly timed

## Non-verbal Communication Summary

Three general points to remember:

- Communicate your feelings through the non-verbal
  - 1. Facial expression
  - 2. The way you stand and walk
  - 3. What you do with your head, arms, shoulders, and hands

## Three general points to remember

2. Non verbal clues enrich or elaborate the message

Taking a few steps can tell an audience that you are changing topics

## Three general points to remember

3. Non-verbal messages create a reciprocal interaction

### The Motivated Sequence

- Get their attention
- Create a need: describe the problem or goal
- 3. Satisfaction: present solution or means to reach the goal
- 4. Visualisation: create a picture of the results
- 5. Action: request action or approval (close the deal)

### That's all folks

Questions/discussion