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COMX 414.01: Communication in Personal Relationships

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COMX 414: COMMUNICATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Spring 2022
T/TH 12:30-1:50
CRN: 32293
Classroom: SS 356

PROFESSOR: DR. STEVE YOSHIMURA

OFFICE: LA 347

OFFICE HOURS: Videoconference by appointment

EMAIL: stephen.yoshimura@umontana.edu

Required Course Materials

Guerrero, L. K., Andersen, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2018). *Close Encounters: Communication in Relationships*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Recommended course materials

[*Concise Guide to APA style, Seventh Edition*](#). American Psychological Association, Washington DC.

Course Overview

Welcome to COMX 414, Communication in Personal Relationships. This class is about how people communicate their way into, through, and out of personal, close relationships. The course draws from research in many disciplines, including from psychology, sociology, family studies, and, of course, human communication to help show how relationships are the cause and consequence of interpersonal interaction.

Successfully completing this course will give you the ability to:

- Explain how communication plays a role in the development, maintenance, and dissolution of personal relationships.
- Be conversant with the major topical areas of research in the study of communication in personal relationship contexts.
- Independently discover, interpret, and discuss scholarly research on communication in personal relationships.
- Construct a well-written scholarly essay that summarizes and analyzes research on personal relationships.
- Apply your knowledge about theory and research on human relationships to practical problems in personal relationships.

This course fulfills the advance writing requirement for Communication Studies majors, and is an elective requirement for the [Human and Family Development minor](#).

This is a web-based version of the syllabus, for public viewing. Please contact Stephen.yoshimura@umontana.edu to request the full course version.

Assignments*

Course Calendar*

G. A., & A. = Guerrero, Andersen, & Afifi textbook. Readings not in the text book can be found in the “Course Readings” section of Moodle.

* Schedule is subject to change as necessary

SECTION 1: RELATIONSHIP BEGINNINGS

Week 1

- Course introduction
- About relationship science
- On Writing: How to find, read, and write about relationship science (will use the Hess et al., 2007 reading for this discussion).

Readings:

- Hess, J. A., Fannin, A. D., & Pollom, L. H. (2007). Creating closeness: Discerning and measuring strategies for fostering closer relationships. *Personal Relationships*, 14(1), 25-44. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6811.2006.00140.x>

Homework: Begin finding sources for the Problem Statement and Annotated Bibliography assignment.

Week 2

- The role of communication in relationships
- G, A, & A: Chapter 1

Week 3

- Attraction
- Strategic misrepresentation in online dating

Readings:

- G, A, & A: Chapter 3
- Strategic misrepresentation: Hall, J. A., Park, N., Song, H., & Cody, M. J. (2010). Strategic misrepresentation in online dating: The effects of gender, self-monitoring, and personality traits. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27(1), 117-135. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0265407509349633>

Week 4

- Relationship initiation/ Managing uncertainty and expectancy violations
- On Writing: How to write a literature review

Reading:

- G, A, & A: Chapter 4

DUE Tuesday, 2/1: Problem statement and annotated bibliography

SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

Week 5

- Models and theories of relationship growth and development

Readings:

- G, A, & A: Chapter 5

- LeFebvre, L. E. (2017). Swiping me off my feet: Explicating relationship initiation on Tinder. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407517706419>

Week 6

This week: Begin organizing, outlining, and writing your literature review

- Relationship maintenance
- Exam 1 – Thursday, 2/24

Readings:

G, A, & A, Chapter 10

- Stafford, L., & Canary, D. J. (2006). Equity and interdependence as predictors of relational maintenance strategies. *Journal of Family Communication*, 6(4), 227-254. doi:http://dx.doi.org/10.1207/s15327698jfc0604_1

Week 7

- Love and attachment
- Communicating love
- On Writing: Developing recommendations from research

Reading: G, A, & A: Chapter 8

DUE Tuesday, 3/1: Literature Review

Week 8

- Sexual interaction
- Self-disclosure and privacy management

Readings:

- Sexual interaction: G, A, & A Chapter 9
- Self-disclosure - G, A, & A Chapter 6

Homework: Outline and begin writing the recommendations paper

Week 9

- Communicating affection

Reading: G, A, & A, Chapter 7

DUE Tuesday, 3/15: Recommendations

Week 10 – SPRING BREAK

Week 11

- Social Support

Reading: G, A, & A, Chapter 7

SECTION 3: RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGES

Week 12

- EXAM 2 – Tuesday 4/5
-
- Conflict in relationships

Readings:

- Conflict: G, A, & A Chapter 11

Week 13

- Deception and infidelity
- Jealousy, stalking, and violence
- Investment and accommodation – why people sometimes stay in harmful relationships

Reading: G, A, & A: Chapter 13

Week 14

- Ending relationships
- Remediation and forgiveness

Reading: G, A, & A chapters 14 and 15

Due 4/12: Revised literature review and recommendations (all one manuscript)

Week 15

- Persuasion and interpersonal influence in personal relationships

Reading: G, A, & A, Chapter 12

Week 16: Presentations**Final exam**

8:00am – 10am Monday, May 9