Syllabus – Summer 2015

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Interpersonal Communication  
Credits: 3  
Format: Online  
Prerequisites: Comm 1000  
Professor: Amanda Denes, PhD

Email: amanda.denes@uconn.edu  
Office Hours/Availability: Via email or by appointment

Course Materials

Required course materials should be obtained before the first day of class.

Texts are available through a local or online bookstore. The UConn Co-op carries many materials that can be shipped via its online Textbooks To Go service. For more information, see Textbooks and Materials on our Enrolled Students page.

Required Materials:


Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

This course is an introduction to research and theories in the field of interpersonal communication. The goal of this course is to learn about the process of interpersonal communication and apply what you learn to your interpersonal relationships.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Define interpersonal communication, identify the goals of this form of communication and the needs interpersonal communication helps individuals meet, and differentiate these concepts from other related terms.
2. Explain communication competence, identify areas in which competence is lacking, and practice skills to improve interpersonal communication.
3. Identify verbal and nonverbal channels of communication and their functions in interpersonal relationships.
4. Analyze the process of identity-formation and the influence of interpersonal communication on understandings of self.
5. Differentiate the stages of relationship development and evaluate the role of self-disclosure in developing interpersonal intimacy.
6. Describe the process of relational maintenance, including how to manage and engage in conflict, as well as issues related to closeness, affection, love, sex, power, and uncertainty.
7. Examine the process of relationship deterioration including the stages of disengagement, types of break-ups, and intrapsychic processes.
8. Discuss the major theories of interpersonal communication and apply these theories to real-life experiences.

Course Outline (and Calendar if Applicable)

Module 1: What is Interpersonal Communication?
Module 2: Review of Verbal and Nonverbal Communication
Module 3: The Self and Social Identity
Module 4: Attraction
Module 5: Uncertainty Reduction and Expectancy Violations
Module 6: Beginning Relationships
Module 7: Relationship Maintenance
Module 8: Love and Attachment
Module 9: Conflict and Relationship Transgressions
Module 10: Relationship Dissolution
Module 11: Course Wrap-Up

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graded Quizzes</td>
<td>5@20pts. each = 100pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>8@10pts. each = 80pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journals</td>
<td>5@10pts. each = 50pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Graded quizzes** (GQs) will consist of multiple choice, true and false, and essay questions. Each quiz will be worth 20 points. Students are given 30 minutes to complete each quiz. Please note the following quiz dates: Quiz 1-June 5, Quiz 2-June 9, Quiz 3-June 18, Quiz 4-June 21, and Quiz 5-June 27. The specified quizzes must be completed by these dates.

2. Students are expected to participate in **discussion boards**. Full credit (10 points) will be awarded to students who provide insightful, thought-provoking comments on the discussion board and respond to at least one other student’s post. Students who do not provide such comments will receive fewer points. Please note that Modules 3-10 all include a discussion component that needs to be completed by the time the module ends. Responses should be unique and original; put some thought in… not just replicating or agreeing with someone else.

3. **Journal entries** are privately submitted and graded. Students are expected to submit journals, which should include 2-3 paragraphs of insightful comments regarding the journal topic. Each module will contain a journal option, and you must choose one option per week and submit that journal on the due date indicated in the course calendar. Grades for the journals will be posted on HuskyCT. If students wish to receive comments or feedback on their journals, they should email the instructor. Journal entries are due on June 5, June 13, June 18, June 27, and July 2. Similar to the grading scale below, the following scores will be given for the journal entries:
10 points = outstanding work that is superior and demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the skills and material that far surpasses the minimum expectations of a student in the class.

8 points = above average work that demonstrates an understanding of the skills and material that exceeds the minimum requirements.

6 points = average work which illustrates that the student has met the minimum requirements and expectations for a particular assignment.

4 points = below average work in which the student does not meet the minimum expectations for a given assignment.

2 points = below average work in which little or no effort seems to have been expended by the student.

0 points = no journal entry submitted.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in the course calendar. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

Late assignments will not be accepted. You must complete all assignments by the deadlines on the course calendar.

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within one week of the assignment due date. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

If you would like to discuss a grade with me, submit your appeal via email. Please include the following in your email:

1. Offer a cogent and well-supported written argument. This means that you should support your claims from course materials and/or class lectures.
2. This written argument should be submitted via email. You must also set an appointment to have a phone conversation with me so that the process may be completed. No grade appeals will be completed via email; you must speak with me via telephone or Skype before the appeal is completed.

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**Student Responsibilities and Resources**

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

**Student Code**

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the [University of Connecticut's Student Code](#). Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- [Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research](#)
- [Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research](#)

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- [Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It](#)
- [University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction](#) (includes research, citing and writing resources)

**Copyright**

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

**Netiquette and Communication**

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, [The Core Rules of Netiquette](#).

**Adding or Dropping a Course**

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:

- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the [Student Administration System](#).
- Non-degree students should refer to [Non-Degree Add/Drop Information](#) located on the registrar’s website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Graduate Catalog](#)

**Academic Calendar**

The University's [Academic Calendar](#) contains important semester dates.

**Academic Support Resources**

[Technology and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.
Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University’s mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Refer to the Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships for more information.

Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help. Refer to the Sexual Assault Reporting Policy for more information.

Software Requirements and Technical Help

The technical requirements for this course include:

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.
Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.