

Communication 3624
Communication in Personal Relationships

The Ohio State University
School of Communication

Spring 2017

Dr. Susan L. Kline
Associate Professor
Office: 3106 Derby Hall
Building 025
Office Phone: 614-292-0464
Office Hours: Wed. 8:30-10:30 or by appt.
kline.48@osu.edu

Class: Monday and Wednesday
2:20-3:40 pm.
Room: 082 University Hall

**Communication in Relationships as
Mutual Sense-Making, Mutual Care, and Mutual Dialogue**

Welcome! This course develops a framework for exploring the processes involved in communication (both face to face and online) in the context of interpersonal relationships. The principal concern is on understanding the operation of interpersonal messages, interpersonal communication processes, and communication competencies in adults. Knowledge of interpersonal messages and communication processes is associated with personal growth and wellness, organizational success, and satisfying community life. Hence, a primary objective is to help students to become better analysts and producers of interpersonal messages in relationships at home, at work and in the community.

The primary goals of this course are to

- (1) Help you understand the role of communication in interpersonal relationships. We'll explore how relationships develop as people come to understand each other, care for one another, and have meaningful conversations with each other.
- (2) Help you develop your interpersonal communication skills by expanding your understanding and use of a range of functional communication strategies.

Course Texts

Guerrero, L., Andersen, P.A., & Afifi, W.A. (2014). *Close encounters: Communication in relationships, 4th edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. **Required.**

Selected chapter reading, from J. Stewart (2013). *U & Me: Communicating in moments that matter*. Chagrin Falls, OH: Taos Institute Publication. Posted on Carmen.

Course Activities

In-Class Assignments (ICAs). On many days there will be class activities or small homework assignments, such as role-play, observations, conversation tasks, and questionnaires to help illustrate points in the lectures. These assignments are designed to facilitate mastery of course concepts and sharpen your skill in analyzing and engaging in effective interpersonal interactions. Specifications for each group assignment will be given in written form. Five ICAs completed with the highest grades will be counted as In-Class Assignments (8%). Only students who participate in in-class activities can receive credit for ICAs.

Online Assignments and analyses. On two days the class will move online. Students will be asked to complete two online assignments based on the assigned chapter reading, handouts, and students' notes (8%). We will not meet on those days but I will be available to discuss the assignment and answer questions. The overall goal is to increase learning flexibility and effectiveness. Assignments will be discussed and also posted on Carmen, with their due dates. In addition, each student will be asked to complete one *individual paper* (10%). You will be asked to analyze one type of relationship (e.g., friendship) with theories and concepts covered in the textbook. This assignment will be distributed in Week #3.

Activity Leader: You and 1-2 other students will be in charge of developing an activity for one day's session (worth 5%). The activity must a) be relevant to the readings/topic of lecture or highlight an important and specific relational or communication skill, b) include all students in the class, and c) take 5-10 minutes of class time. The individuals in charge of the activity must meet with the instructor at least one class period before their scheduled activity day to go over the activity.

"Best Practices for Communication in Relationships": Small group project. Each student is asked to participate in a small group project that will research some aspect of interpersonal communication (worth 15%). Details of this group assignment will be distributed in Week #2 and groups formed by Week #4; time will be allocated in class sessions for groups to meet.

Examinations. All students are asked to take three "mini" examinations over the content of the course. These examinations will consist of multiple choice and short essay items. They will each count 15% toward the final grade in the course. Please bring a #2 pencil on exam days. Make-up exams will only be offered for medical or other similar, legitimate reasons.

To help you master the reading and class discussion material:

1. Study guide questions for each reading that will be available on our Carmen course website.
2. There will be plenty of in-class application and discussion exercises for you to develop your skill at analyzing and producing interpersonal messages.
3. Power-point outlines of lectures will be available on Carmen.

EVALUATION:

Your grade in this course is a function of the following:

Assignment Weights			
Exams (weighted equally) 15*3	45%	A	93% – 100%
		A–	90% – 92%
Short Paper	10%	B+	87% – 89%
Online Assignments	8%	B	83% – 86%
Group Project	15%	B–	80% – 82%
In-Class Assignments	8%	C+	77% – 79%
Participation, attendance	10%	C	73% – 76%
		C–	70% – 72%
Activity Leader	4%	D+	67% – 69%
		D	60% – 66%
		E	Less than 60%

Course Policies

Participation. Students are responsible for attending class and participating in class discussion. Students with excessive absences (>4) will be evaluated under the class participation portion of the grade.

Scholarly integrity. Students are expected to demonstrate their knowledge with honor and credibility. It is imperative that all work you submit be your own. When you use someone else's ideas, you must give proper credit to the original author(s). Please adhere to the 5th edition of the APA manual of style when citing others' work.

According to the Committee on Academic Misconduct "Academic misconduct is defined as any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process," (<http://oaa.osu.edu/procedures/1.0.html>). Further, the term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed and is illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335- 5-487). It is the responsibility of the Committee of Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp). Plagiarism of any kind on examinations or written assignments will not be tolerated. If you are caught plagiarizing you will be prosecuted through appropriate University channels.

Diversity. The School of Communication at The Ohio State University embraces and maintains an environment that respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and people. Our commitment to diversity moves beyond mere tolerance to recognizing, understanding, and welcoming the contributions of diverse groups and the value group members possess as individuals. In our School, the faculty, students, and staff are dedicated to building a tradition of diversity with principles of equal opportunity, personal respect, and the intellectual interests of those who comprise diverse cultures.

Title IX. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at titleix@osu.edu

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

**Please review the following for more details: <http://ada.osu.edu/resources/Links.htm>
The Office for Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue;
telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; slds@osu.edu; <http://slds.osu.edu>**

Students with flu like symptoms are asked not to attend class: securing health/medical notification will help to manage attendance and participation expectations.

Selected Interpersonal Communication Competencies Focused on in Class Sessions

1. The wider context of relationships
2. Developing perspective-taking skills and empathy
3. The Michelangelo Model, altercasting and affirmation
4. Managing uncertainty
5. Interpersonal needs, interpersonal rituals
6. Face-work
7. Designing person-centered messages
8. Providing social support
9. Interpersonal influence strategies, interpersonal argument
10. Collaborative conflict management strategies

SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Lecture	Topic and Reading
M	1/9	1	Course Introduction/Studying Interpersonal Communication
I. Relationships as Mutual Sense-Making			
W	1/11	2	Conceptualizing Relational Communication Ch. 1
M	1/16		Martin Luther King Holiday
W	1/18	3	Conceptualizing Relational Communication Ch. 1
M	1/23	4	Communicating Identity Ch. 2
W	1/25	5	Communicating Identity/Interpersonal Attraction Ch. 3
M	1/30	6	Interpersonal Attraction/Managing Uncertainty Ch. 3, 4
W	2/1	7	Uncertainty/Relationship Stages Online assignment Ch. 4, 5 (pp. 105-119)
M	2/6	8	Relationship Stages/Review
W	2/8		Mini- Exam #1
II. Relationships as Mutual Care			
M	2/13	9	Turning Points and Dialectics Ch. 5 (pp. 119-130)
W	2/15	10	Self-Disclosure and Privacy Ch. 6
M	2/20	11	Expressing Closeness; Support Ch. 7 (pp. 159-185)
W	2/22	12	Paper #1; Optional group work; no formal class
M	2/27	13	Love and Attachment Ch. 8
W	3/1	14	Maintaining Relationships/Review Ch. 10 (pp. 242-254)
M	3/6	15	Maintaining Relationships Ch. 10 (pp. 255-269)
W	3/8		Mini- Exam #2
III. Relationships as Mutual Dialogue			
M	3/13		Spring Break
W	3/15		Spring Break
M	3/20	16	Managing Conflict Online Assignment Ch. 11 (pp. 270-280); Crucial conversations training
W	3/22	17	Managing Conflict Ch. 11 (pp. 280-295)
M	4/3	18	Hurtful Messages, Transgressions Ch. 13 (pp. 324-327; 344-366); Ch. 14
W	4/5	19	Relationship Repair Ch. 14
M	3/27	20	Influencing each Other Ch. 12, Handouts:
W	3/29	21	Influence: Persuasion/Review Influence Task Model
M	4/10		Mini- Exam #3
W	4/12		Presentations
M	4/17		Presentations
W	4/19		Presentations
M	4/24		Presentations/Course Wrap-up

There may be updates or changes in order to make the class a better experience for everyone. Any changes will be posted to Carmen and announced in class.

