
Communication 120 Interpersonal Communication

Instructor: Catherine Puckering

Office: Kerr Hall, room 171

Email: cpuck@ucdavis.edu

REQUIRED READING

Guerrero, L. K., Andersen, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2014). *Close encounters: Communication in relationship* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

ISBN: 978-1-4522-1710-9

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to investigate the nature of interpersonal communication. Specifically, this class will explore the theory, research, and skills associated with communicating interpersonally. The recommended text takes a goals-based approach to interpersonal communication. This means that lectures and readings, in part, will focus on how individuals use communication to achieve their self-presentation, relational, and instrumental goals. In addition to exploring goals, we will also focus on the link between the quality of interpersonal communication and the quality of one's life. This course offers an in-depth exploration of a theory-driven and widely researched approach to the study of communication between people such as friends, coworkers, family members, romantic partners, classmates, etc. that assumes a personal nature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course you will:

- Understand different perspectives on interpersonal communication and the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Understand the relationship between verbal and nonverbal codes
- Be able to articulate how perception and identity-management work
- Comprehend effective ways to listen and manage conflict
- Understand the complexities of beginning, building, and ending relationships
- Gain insights into how individuals manage difficult, disruptive and problematic interactions

COURSE POLICIES

Make-up Exams: Make-up exams will be given at my discretion. Generally speaking, you can expect that I will not offer an opportunity for a make-up exam except in the case of a documented emergency or university-sanctioned events.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism, cheating, and other misconduct are serious violations of your contract as a student. I expect that you will know and follow the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University regulations. I strongly encourage you to visit the Office of Student Judicial Affairs web page addressing the definition of plagiarism and strategies for avoiding plagiarism (<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm>). Ignorance about plagiarism and cheating is NOT an acceptable excuse.

ASSIGNMENTS AND THEIR POINT VALUES

Journal	30 points
Exam 1	50 points
Exam 2	50 points
<u>Exam 3</u>	<u>50 points</u>
TOTAL	180 points

Grade Break Downs (in percentage points):

98+	= A+	87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+
93-97	= A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	63-66 = D
90-92	= A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	60-62 = D-

Test Taking Concerns: The single biggest concern expressed by students relates to taking multiple choice exams. Repeatedly, students tell me the reason for poor performance on exams is because of the inability to take multiple choice exams or because of high test anxiety. If this describes you, I STRONGLY encourage you to visit the Learning Skills Center at 2205 Dutton Hall. They offer workshops and individual training on taking exams. Additionally, they can provide instruction on note taking in lecture classes. You can find out more about their services on their website: <http://lsc.ucdavis.edu>.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is there anything I can do to change my grade?

A: No. I wish I could offer each student who asks the opportunity to write an extra paper, be my research assistant, detail my car, etc. so that everyone could get the grades they want or need. However, to maintain fairness, I do not offer extra credit opportunities for individuals outside of those I offer to the entire class.

Q: Do you round up? If I have an 82.9 is that an 82% or an 83%?

A: Yes, I do round up using standard rules of rounding. That means an 82.4 or below is rounded to an 82 and 82.5 and above is rounded to an 83.

Tentative Course Schedule for CMN 120

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic and Assigned Reading</u>
Week 1	Introduction to the class Definitions, rationale, and communication competence. Chapter 1
Week 2	Communicating identity. Chapter 2 Attraction. Chapter 3
Week 3	Relational development. Chapter 5 Exam 1 (Chs. 1,2,3,5)
Week 4	Self-disclosure. Chapter 6 Communicating closeness. Chapter 7
Week 5	Love connections. Chapter 8 Relational maintenance. Chapter 10
Week 6	Relational maintenance. Conflict. Chapter 11
Week 7	Exam 2 (Chs. 6, 7, 8, 10, 11) Influence. Chapter 12
Week 8	Relational de-escalation. Chapter 13 Relational repair. Chapter 14
Week 9	Relational repair. Ending relationships. Chapter 15
Week 10	Family communication. Journals Due Final exam review

Tentative finals week office hours: Monday, December 7, 9:30-11:30

Final Exam: Thursday, December 10, 10:30-12:30