

# COM 310: Relational Communication

SLN #14774

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Spring 2017

T/Th 10:30 – 11:45 AM

STAUF A315

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3 Credit Hours

**\*\*Syllabus subject to change\*\***

## Office Hours

**Instructor:** Ms. Bailey Oliver

**Email:** Bailey.M.Oliver@asu.edu

**Office:** STAUF 345

**Office Hours:**

Tuesdays & Thursdays - from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

Or by appointment made via email

## Course Objectives

This course examines major theoretical perspectives and concepts relevant to interpersonal communication in close personal relationships. Using a mostly lecture format, this class focuses on the development and testing of interpersonal communication theory through empirical research. Given this focus, previous coursework in interpersonal communication, statistics, and/or research methods (although not required) would assist in understanding course material.

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

1. Define relational communication and differentiate it from other related terms.
2. Discuss, differentiate, and apply the major theories of relational communication.
3. Identify various approaches to defining and studying love.
4. Discuss the various ways of maintaining a relationship and why they are important.
5. Discuss the causes and effects of interpersonal conflict.
6. Discuss the need to balance self-disclosure and communicative privacy.
7. Discuss the cognitive and relational aspects of relational dissolution.

## Required Texts

Guerrero, L. K., Andersen, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2014). *Close encounters: Communication in relationships* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Los Angeles, CA: Sage Publications.

ISBN: 9781452217109

## Exams and Assignments

Grades will be calculated based on the following assignments. There are 500 total possible points for this course with the following grade breakdown:

Exams:	225 points	45%
Relational Exploration Project:	100 points	20%
Journal Article Review Paper:	100 points	20%
Advice Article BUHTD:	50 points	10%
Attendance/Participation:	25 points	5%
	<i>Total: 500 points</i>	<i>100%</i>

## **Exams**

### **3 exams @ 75 points each: 225 points total.**

Exams are based on chapter content, lecture, and other class materials. Generally, exams are constructed with multiple choice questions and short essays or brief applications. Study guides will be provided, but be warned they are more of an outline of topics instead of answered questions. *No exams will be accumulative.*

## **Relational Exploration Project & Presentation**

### **100 points.**

In teams, you will choose a specific area of relational communication of interest to your group. After gathering research and deciding on an innovative presentation style, your team will communicate your new and vibrant knowledge to the class. A specific theory (or theories) should be explained in detail within the presentation as they relate to that area of study. This presentation should be thought provoking and **creative**. You will be evaluated both as a group and on your individual participation to the overall project/presentation. Further instruction on this assignment will be provided closer to the due date.

## **Relational Communication Journal Article Review**

### **100 points.**

After selecting a current journal article of interest that focuses on Relational Communication, you will write a review of the article. \*Articles must be approved by the instructor before proceeding on any work\*. Articles must come from scholarly journals and must be published 2012 to the present. We are interested in the most current relational communication research. Include the article with your final review paper. APA format (Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1 inch margins); however, you may use the first person pronoun (I). Further instruction on this assignment will be provided closer to the due date.

## **Advice Article- Breaking Up is Hard to Do**

### **50 points.**

This is the coolest assignment! You will create an advice article to help those who have currently gone through a breakup. Think of the audience you wish to target. (Ex. tips for female readers of Cosmopolitan; article for male readers of GQ; 'Dear Reader' question and answer sections of a newspaper; Blog for an LGBTQ page; etc.) Be as creative as possible, but remember you are helping those who have just ended a romantic relationship. Other examples in the past have included articles that breakdown lyrics to a song about heartbreak. (Ex. Choose a song with lyrics about breaking up or the process of disengaging. Use the lyrics to explain the dos and don'ts of dealing with a breakup). Further instruction on this assignment will be provided closer to the due date.

## Participation/Attendance

### 25 points.

This grade is determined based upon your attendance and participation in in-class activities and discussions. Missing more than 3 days (excused or unexcused) will result in the deduction of points from this grade. Absences or failure to participate in in-class activities will also further decrease your participation/attendance grade. *Attending* class does not guarantee you are *participating* in class.

## Grading Policy

Generally, in the course, 'excellent' work earns "A" grades, 'good' work earns "B" grades, 'average' work earns "C" grades, 'below average' work earns "D" grades, and 'unacceptable' work earns an "F" or "0" grade. [More specific guidelines as to what counts as 'excellent' and 'good' will be explicated in class or presented to you on a handout before each assignment.]

**Due to course policy, I cannot offer extra credit.**

A+	= 480-500 points
A	= 465-479 points
A-	= 450-464 points
B+	= 440-449 points
B	= 415-439 points
B-	= 400-414 points
C+	= 390-399 points
C	= 350-389 points
D	= 300-349 points
E	= 0-299.0 points

## Course Policies

### Participation:

We will be engaging in a number of in-class activities for which participation is REQUIRED. Your participation in this class includes every assignment from in-class discussions, to written reflections and in class activities. Your participation grade will reflect each of these areas. Students who are not present or who are tardy for those activities will not receive credit for the activities.

### Attendance:

Every student is allowed a total of 3 absences -excused or unexcused. Excessive absences (3+) will negatively affect your overall Attendance/Participation grade. An excused absence (note from physician, attorney, police, judge, religious holidays, official schedules for university sponsored events, an obituary/funeral program, etc.) **DOES NOT negate the absence** and will only be necessary if the student has missed an assignment due date. **Tardies of 15 minutes or more will count as an (1) absence.**

For an absence to be excused you will need to provide the instructor with appropriate documentation. If you are going to miss class for religious holidays or university-sponsored events, please notify me at least two weeks in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made. Students who have some prior conflict with a due date have the responsibility of discussing the conflict and making alternative arrangements **in advance** with their instructor.

### **Makeup Polices:**

Written work must be turned in using **Safe Assignment** (within our Blackboard section) before class on the day they are due or they will not be graded. Please note that papers are due at the beginning of class, no exceptions. All written assignments must be typed in double-spaced 12 pt. font with 1-inch margins all the way around, your name in header of the page, and page numbers on every page. All assignments must be stapled.

Papers will not be accepted late for full credit. Assignments may be turned in at the following class for half credit (50% less credit). Papers will not be accepted after two class periods from the original due date. **I do not accept papers via email**, so please do not ask. All papers must be typed and include a name and date for grading.

### **Academic Integrity**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication strongly believe in academic integrity; thus, instructors in the College and School do not tolerate cheating and plagiarism. Instructors who find compelling evidence of academic dishonesty will actively pursue one or more of the following actions: assigning a grade of XE ("failure through academic dishonesty") to the student, advocating the suspension or expulsion of the student from the College, and/or referring the student to Student Judicial Affairs. If a student who is charged with academic dishonesty is found to be in violation, then one or more of these disciplinary actions will be taken. For further information, please read the Student Academic Integrity policy and the code of conduct for the Hugh Downs School of Human Communication at: <http://hdshc.asu.edu/acadintpol.html>.

**STUDENT CONDUCT:** I want to build a classroom climate that is comfortable for all. In a communication class, it is *especially* important that we (1) display respect for all members of the classroom – including the instructor and students, (2) pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities; (3) avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., having private conversations, reading the newspaper, surfing the internet, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc.); and (4) avoid racist, sexist, homophobic or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom. This is *not* an exhaustive list of behaviors; rather, it represent examples of the types of things that can have a dramatic impact on the class environment. Your final grade may be reduced by 1% *each time* you engage in these sorts of behaviors. Further, students who are verbally or physically aggressive towards the instructor, the TAs, or another student before, during, or after class will have their grade lowered by 25% *each time* they engage in this sort of behavior (and, students engaging in such behaviors will be permanently removed from the class and the proper authorities notified).

Students are required to adhere to the behavior standards listed in the Arizona Board of Regents Policy Manual Chapter V – Campus and Student Affairs: Code of Conduct ([http://www.abor.asu.edu/1\\_the\\_Regents/policymanual/chap5/index.html](http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_Regents/policymanual/chap5/index.html)), and the ACD 125: Computer, Internet, and Electronics Communications (<http://asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd125.html>).

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from a course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process under USI 201-10 (<http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/usi/usi201-10.html>). As noted in this document, "An instructor may withdraw a student from a course with a mark of "W" or "E" when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process. Disruptive classroom behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor." In cases where disruptive behavior does not warrant removal from class, at the instructor's discretion a student's final grade will be lowered by 25% instead.

## Disability Resource Center

If you are registered with the disability resource center, please notify me and have them contact me so that I may make accommodations as needed. This paperwork is required at the start of the semester and not after the fact. Please get me DRC requirements as soon as you can.

## Class Rules

- All students will be professional and considerate of others and act in an appropriate and mature manner.
- Emails will be composed using proper language and grammar, and will include a proper greeting. **Failure to do so will result in the deletion of the email without a response.**
- Emails sent after 5 PM will not be responded to until after 8 AM the following morning.
- No tobacco use will be tolerated during class times and cigarette breaks will not be permitted.
- The use of cell phones, laptops, iPads, and other electronic devices are prohibited unless you are ODS approved. Each time a student is caught using such device, a point will be deducted from the next upcoming assignment.
- Questions about grading will be asked during office hours or through email, not during class time.

## Tentative Course Calendar

*Please note, the assigned chapters must be read BEFORE the corresponding class meeting.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Tuesday, Jan 10	Syllabus & Class Overview		
Thursday, Jan 12	Defining principles	Chap 1	
Tuesday, Jan 17	The Self	Chap 2	
Thursday, Jan 19		Chap 2	
Tuesday, Jan 24	Attraction	Chap 3	
Thursday, Jan 26		Chap 3	
Tuesday, Jan 31	Uncertainty Reduction & Expectancy Violations; Paper Info, Research, & Reading Journal Articles	Chap 4	
Thursday, Feb 2	Relationship Stages & Turning Points	Chap 5	
Tuesday, Feb 7	Dialectics	Chap 5	
Thursday, Feb 9	APA Style Review- SG distributed		
Tuesday, Feb 14			<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-5</b>
Thursday, Feb 16	Self-disclosure & Privacy	Chap 6	Journal Article Approved Due Date
Tuesday, Feb 21		Chap 6	
Thursday, Feb 23	Affection & Immediacy, Social Support	Chap 7	<b>Journal Article Paper due in class</b>
Tuesday, Feb 28	Love & Attachment	Chap 8	
Thursday, March 2		Chap 8	
Tuesday, March 7			<b>Spring Break - NO CLASS</b>
Thursday, March 9			<b>Spring Break - NO CLASS</b>
Tuesday, March 14	Sex Communication	Chap 9	
Thursday, March 16	Relational Maintenance; Review- SG distributed	Chap 10	
Tuesday, March 21			<b>Exam 2: Chapters 6-10</b>
Thursday, March 23	Conflict & Four Horsemen	Chap 11	
Tuesday, March 28		Chap 11	
Thursday, March 30	Transgression, Deception, Jealousy	Chap 13	

Tuesday, April 4	Apologies & Forgiveness	Chap 14	Proposals for Group Project Due Date
Thursday, April 6			<b>Individual Research Meetings for Groups</b>
Tuesday, April 11			<b>Group Presentations</b>
Thursday, April 13			<b>Group Presentations</b>
Tuesday, April 18	Terminating Relationships	Chap 15	Peer Critiques for Group Project Due Date
Thursday, April 20		Chap 15	
Tuesday, April 25			<b>BUHTD Advice Article due in class</b>
Thursday, April 27	Review- SG distributed		
<b>FINAL DATE Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:50 to 11:40 AM</b>			<b>Exam 3: Chapters 11; 13-15</b>

*Remove the bottom half of this paper and return to me. Keep the above syllabus with you throughout the course.*

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**I understand this class deals with relationships and requires me to look inside myself and reflect on my own personal relationships. I will abide by the assignment requirements above and will not infringe on another person's emotional or physical wellbeing as it pertains to this course. Further, I understand and agree to the Participation/Attendance Grade requirements, and will abide by the Class Rules:**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_