Course Summary

Course: COMM285  Title: Interpersonal Communications  
Length of Course: 8  
Prerequisites: N/A  Credit Hours: 3

Description

Course Description: This course is designed to focus on communication within the workplace, personal activities, and family life in order to establish and maintain healthy interpersonal relationships. This course serves as an introduction to major theories and empirical research regarding the role of interpersonal communication as it relates to personal, contextual, and cultural variables in the development of various types of relationships.

Course Scope:

This introductory course is designed to provide students with a solid knowledge of communicating in personal and business relationships. It serves as a self-assessment of the student's own communication style in interpersonal.

Objectives

The successful student will fulfill the following learning objectives:

- Identify the components of interpersonal communications
- Assess emotions experienced during personal relationships
- Review power plays in personal relationships
- Explore how a personal relationship can become addictive or destructive
- Examine interpersonal communication within the workplace

Outline

Week 1:

Learning Objective(s)
Explore the building blocks of personal relationships
Examine the research methods involved with personal relationships

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read:
Chapter 1 – The building blocks of relationships Chapter 2 – Research methods

In *Confusing Love with Obsession*, read:
Chapter 1 - When being in love means being in control Chapter 2 – Too Much of a good thing

Assignment(s)
Quiz #1
Discussion Forum #1

**Week 2:**

Learning Objective(s)
Assess the role of attraction in relationships
Assess the role of social cognition on personal relationships

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 3: Attraction
Chapter 4: Social Cognition

In *Confusing Love with Obsession*, read: Chapter 3: Sometimes money does buy you love Chapter 4: I hate you but do you love me?

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**

Assignment(s)
Quiz #2
Discussion Forum #2

**Week 3:**

Learning Objective(s)
Examine communication styles
Assess interdependency in personal relationships

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 5: Communication
Chapter 6: Interdependency

In *Confusing Love with Obsession*, read:

Chapter 5: Living a secret life- Confusing Love with sex

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**

Exploring Nonverbal Communication. (n.d.).

[http://nonverbal.ucsc.edu/](http://nonverbal.ucsc.edu/)

Assignment(s)
Quiz #3
Discussion Forum #3

**Week 4:**

Learning Objective(s)

Review the role of friendships in interpersonal relationships

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 7: Friendships

In *Confusing Love with Obsession*, read: Chapter 6: The tools of control

Assignment(s)

MIDTERM EXAM

Discussion Forum #4

**Week 5:**

Learning Objective(s)

Love

Sexuality

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 8: Love

Chapter 9: Sexuality

In *Confusing Love with Obsession*, read: Chapter 7 – The obsessive love wheel Chapter 8 – Finding You – A path to recovery

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**


(one of the few times you will see a college course directing you to Wikipedia)
Assignment(s)  
Quiz #4  
Discussion Forum #5  

Week 6:  

Learning Objective(s)  
Explore the stresses and strains in personal relationships  
Examine Conflict in relationships  

Readings  
In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 10: Stresses and Strains Chapter 11: Conflict  

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**  

Assignment(s)  
REACTION PAPER to secondary text- “Confusing Love with Obsession”  

Discussion Forum #6  

Week 7:  

Learning Objective(s)  
Assess Dissolution and loss of relationships  
Examine the role of power in relationships  
Review how violence can manifest in some relationships  

Readings  
In *Intimate Relationships*, read: Chapter 12: Power and Violence  
Chapter 13: Dissolution and loss of relationships  

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**  

Assignment(s)  
RESEARCH PAPER  

Discussion Forum #7  

Week 8:  

Learning Objective(s)
Examine the steps involved in maintaining and repairing relationships

Readings

In *Intimate Relationships*, read:

Chapter 14: Maintaining and Repairing Relationships

**SUPPLEMENTAL READING:**


Assignment(s)

FINAL EXAM

Discussion Forum #8

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**Evaluation**

**Grading:**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade %</th>
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<td>Week 4: Midterm Exam</td>
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**Materials**
Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Students will follow APA format as the citation and reference style for courses in the COMMUNICATION program area.
- Please note that no formal citation style is graded on forum assignments in the School of Arts & Humanities—only attribution of sources (please see details regarding forum communication below).

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS (only when accessed through the APUS online library). Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

School of Arts & Humanities Late Policy

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution.

Work posted or submitted after the assignment due date will be reduced by 10% of the potential total score possible for each day late up to a total of five days, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments. Beginning on the sixth day late through the end of the course, late work, including forum posts/replies, quizzes, and assignments, will be accepted with a grade reduction of 50%
of the potential total score earned.

Turn It In

Assignments are automatically submitted to Turnitin.com within the course to verify originality and detect potential plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Turnitin.com will analyze an assignment submission and report a similarity score. Your assignment submission is automatically processed through the assignments area of the course when you submit your work.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com or Scribd. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- All assignments in COMMUNICATION courses must be submitted in standard formats such as Microsoft Word, attached in the assignment area unless otherwise specified.
- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc). See the assignment instructions for details.
- It is your responsibility to ensure all submitted work can be accessed and opened by the instructor. Assignments should not be sent to the instructor through “Messages” or E-mail but must be submitted through the Assignments area directly.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of a particular group or class.

Communicating in Forum discussions

- All initial forum discussion posts are due on Thursdays by 11:55 p.m. ET throughout the course.
- All peer responses are due on Sundays by 11:55 p.m. ET throughout the course.
- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting day/time after which the instructor will grade and provide feedback, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- “Substantive” means comments that contribute something new and important to the discussion. A message that simply says “I agree” is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a follow-up question to a point made, a response to a question, an example or illustration of a key point, an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting viewpoints, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.
- You must post a response to the weekly forum prompt and post the required number of replies to other students during the week due. Please refer to the grading rubric and/or weekly forum instructions for specific expectations on the number of replies and word count requirements.
- Late posts to a forum will be subject to the School late policy and may not be accepted without instructor approval.

Quizzes and Exams

- Quizzes and exams may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. If included in a course, each quiz/exam is generally accessible only once. Once a quiz/exam is accessed, you may
not be able to access it again if you disconnect. Therefore, allocate adequate time to complete your quiz and ensure you have a solid internet connection. Weekly quizzes must be submitted by Sunday 11:55 p.m. ET of the assigned week. Late quizzes or exams may be accepted and subject to the School late policy. Please contact your instructor to discuss as needed.

University Policies

Student Handbook

- Drop/Withdrawal policy
- Extension Requests
- Academic Probation
- Appeals
- Disability Accommodations

The mission of American Public University System is to provide high quality higher education with emphasis on educating the nation’s military and public service communities by offering respected, relevant, accessible, affordable, and student-focused online programs that prepare students for service and leadership in a diverse, global society.

**STUDENT WARNING:** This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.