

Aging and Interpersonal Communication - COM 4930

Professor Diana Nagy

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 7th period (1:55-2:45); and by appointment.

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This course will cover various aspects of interpersonal communication and successful aging, such as attitudes and ageism, relational considerations, mass media use, media portrayals of elderly people, work, leisure, and retirement, aging and the family (marital relationships, lifestyle changes, parents, grandparents, and siblings), friendship, barriers to conversation, health communication and death and dying.

Course Prerequisite: COM 1000, Introduction to Communication Studies; or SPC 2300, Introduction to Interpersonal Communication; or permission of instructor.

Required Texts:

Communication and Aging, Nussbaum, J.F., Pecchioni, L.L., Robinson, J.D., and Thompson, T.L., (2000), Mahwah, New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Annual Editions: Aging (13/14), Cox, H., Ed., McGraw-Hill.

These texts are available at most bookstores serving the UF Community. **You are responsible for having access to these texts by Monday, September 1, 2014 in order to complete assignments and quizzes.** There will be NO extensions on quizzes or assignments if you do not have your text by this date.

Also Required: Internet Access and your Gatorlink Email Address *that you should check on a regular basis.* (For any questions on this policy, please see the *Computer Requirements* as discussed under the *General Requirements* in the University catalog or *UF Computer and Software Requirements* on the web.)

Course Assignments: The course will be part lecture, part class discussion format. There will be article presentations, chapter quizzes, in-class learning activities and an interview project with an elder community partner. The final product of the interview project will be to produce a *Thank You* gift for your community partner. There are no exams and no term papers. Details regarding individual assignments will be discussed in class, and will be posted on the class website that is located at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>.

Readings: Students are responsible for the entire text book as well as other assigned readings from Annual Editions. See the course calendar for reading due dates.

Attendance and Participation: Students are responsible for signing roll sheets in order to receive credit for attending class meetings. A student learns from listening, participating, discussing and observing. Therefore attendance is expected for all class meeting days. To encourage uninterrupted participation in class, it is expected that cell phones and audio devices be turned off prior to entering the classroom. **Do not text in class! This may result in your phone being taken away for the remainder of the class period. Also do not use your laptop during class. There is no need for a computer in this class.** More than three unexcused absences of any kind may result in a grade penalty of 20 points of your final grade for each absence. Excessive tardiness will negatively affect your grade.

In-Class Behavior: Eating and drinking are prohibited in class (except for water or similar beverages). Avoid stepping out of the class momentarily. You are expected to be professional and actively engaged in the discussions, activities, and presentations throughout the class.

Grades

Current Events (4 at 25 points each)	10%
Article Presentation	10%
Chapter Quizzes (14)	14%
In-class learning activities	10%
Reflections of Preliminary Interviews (3 at 50 pts each)	15%
Final Interview Project	30%
Participation/Attendance	11%

Final Grades

93-100 %	A
90-92 %	A-
87-89 %	B+
83-86 %	B
80-82 %	B-
77-79 %	C+
73-76 %	C
70-72 %	C-
67-69 %	D+
63-66 %	D
60-62 %	D-
> 60 %	E

There will be no curving of final grades.

Additional Information

Plagiarism: All submitted work during the course, written or oral, will be the student's personal, original work, with credit being given to sources used. If a student violates this understanding, evaluations of work must be affected accordingly and if necessary, adjudication will be processed by procedures approved by the University of Florida Honor Court.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Any questions regarding the planning, administering and teaching of COM 4930 should be discussed with me individually. As needed, questions can be discussed further with Kellie W. Roberts, Director, Dial Center for Written & Oral Communication.