

Family Communication

COM4930 | 3 credits

Instructor: Diana Nagy | dnagy@ufl.edu | 352.273.1870 | 412 Rolfs Hall

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 6th Period, (12:50-1:40 p.m.), Thursday 5th period (11:45-12:35 p.m.), and by appointment.

Class meets: MWF 7th (1:55 – 2:45 PM) – Rolfs 314

Course website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>

Semester Schedule: The weekly schedule can be found by checking the calendar on the class website. A schedule listing university holidays, drop deadline and other important dates is given below:

- January 10, Friday- Drop/Add ends at 11:59 pm.
- January 20, Monday -- Martin Luther King, Jr's Birthday Observed -- No Classes
- January 24, Friday - Deadline for S-U option - 5:00 pm
- March 1-March 8, Sat.-Sat. - UF's Spring Break -- No Classes
- April 11, Friday - Last Day to drop by petition - 5:00 pm
- April 24-25, Thurs.-Fri. -- Examination Reading Days -- No Classes

Course description: COM4930 — Family Communication is a three-credit course.

You only need walk down the "Self-Help" aisle at your favorite bookstore to see the scope of information available on relationships, dating, marriage and families. Every street corner psychologist has his or her own take on what makes for good relationships. As an individual, you have been involved in many relationships, starting with your primary relationship with your own family, moving on through grade school friendships, high school, and beyond. You intuitively know what works and what doesn't work, but how do you make sense of what you know, and the nearly constant barrage of relationship information out there?

This family communication course attempts to provide students with an understanding of how communication functions to develop, maintain, enrich, or limit family relationships. It is based on the assumptions that:

1. There are many ways to be a family.
2. Communication serves to constitute as well as reflect family relationships.
3. Communication is the process by which family members create and share their meanings with each other.
4. Families are part of multigenerational communication patterns.
5. Families serve as their members' first communication classroom.
6. Families reflect ethnic communication patterns.
7. Well-functioning families work at managing their communication patterns because developing and maintaining relationships takes effort.

This course may be different from many you have taken in college. This is primarily because you are actively and daily engaged in the subject matter of this communication course. You have already had much experience, and you will likely want to share those experiences with the rest of the class. In addition, you may also bring to this class some preconceived expectations of this class. Discussion will be encouraged.

Course Texts

1. *Family Communication: Cohesion and Change*, (8th edition). Galvin, K.M., Bylund, C. L., & Brommel, B.J., (2012), Boston: Pearson. **Required.**
2. *Annual Editions: The Family 2013/2014*, Patricia Hrusa Williams, Ed. (2013), McGraw-Hill. **Required.**
3. *Concise Rules of APA Style*, (Most current edition) Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association. **Required.**

You are responsible for having access to this text no later than Friday January 10th, 2014, in order to complete assignments and quizzes.

Course requirements

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.), access to the Internet, and MS Word (or other word processing software that is compatible with MS Word).

Course Objectives

- As a student, you can expect to increase the range of options available to you in family communication. In the personal effectiveness approach, this is referred to as the development of the communication repertoire. The more options you have, the more likely you are to make effective choices.
- You can also expect to increase your ability to analyze communication situations. Enhanced personal effectiveness is dependent upon understanding situations and what is needed for successful interaction in those situations.
- As odd as it may sound, you can also expect to be able to make more reasoned and reasonable choices regarding family communication.
- Last, in addition to learning new information, you can expect to acquire new and/or improved communication skills

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: 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,

computers, and audio devices be turned off prior to entering the classroom, unless it is required for class work that day. **If you are surfing or texting, your phone or computer may be taken away for the remainder of the class period. Please eat your lunch and make your bathroom stops prior to arriving in class.**

More than three unexcused absences of any kind will result in a grade penalty of 20 points of your final grade for each absence. Two tardies equal one unexcused absence. Leaving class early is the equivalent of a tardy.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments or make-ups will not be permitted without a University-approved absence.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: Unless otherwise indicated, assignments should be submitted through the course website by 1:55 PM on the due date. Do not wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment because of the possibility of technical difficulties.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The course will be part lecture, part class discussion format. Students will complete chapter readings, article readings, study guides, and will be prepared for in-class discussion. There will be online quizzes that will be due 24 hours before class. There are article presentations and activities that will require everyone's participation. There will be a major research paper, which will be broken down into various components, each with separate due dates. Finally you'll do a poster presentation of your research.

READINGS: Students are responsible for all the assigned readings. Each set of readings will be accompanied by a study guide that must be completed prior to class discussion. See the course calendar for reading due dates.

COURSE GRADING

Chapter Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)	10 percent
Article Discussions and Quizzes (lowest grade dropped)	10 percent
Study Guides/In-class Activities	10 percent
Paper Proposal	10 percent
Annotated Bibliography	10 percent
Research Paper First Draft	10 percent
Research Poster Presentation	10 percent
Research Paper Final Copy	20 percent
Attendance	10 percent

Final Grades

Grading Scale (for letter 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

E1*

There will be no curving of final grades.

* Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class

For more information on grades and grading policies, please visit:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

UF POLICIES

ACCOMMODATIONS: University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Undergraduate Catalog (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Please become familiar with the policies of the Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>) as all violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Research misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, will result in an automatic failing grade for the assignment.

NETIQUETTE: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. All members are expected to follow these guidelines: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Sakai, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> such as:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

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.

The syllabus and weekly schedule can be found on e-Learning (Sakai).

The weekly schedule and syllabus are subject to change.

Revised: 1/5/2014