

CMST 5110: Advanced Interpersonal Communication

MWF: 8:30-9:20am; Bldg.: Old Main, Rm. 326

Instructor: Kristin K. Andersen

Email: kristin.andersen@usu.edu

Office: Eccles Conference Center (ECC) 108H

Office Hours: MW 9:30-11am; MW 2:30-4:30 by appointment

****Allow at least a 24-hour window for a response to your email (not including weekends).***

A. Course Title

CMST 5110: Advanced Interpersonal Communication

B. Course Description

This course focuses on studies and advanced theories in contemporary interpersonal communication. Students will explore multiple research perspectives and articles that apply both qualitative and quantitative methods. There is an emphasis on critically consuming social scientific research on interpersonal communication theory, particularly in understanding relationship processes and how communication can improve or deteriorate personal relationships, alter social rewards, and lead to more competent communication.

C. Course Objectives

This course provides a broad overview of interpersonal communication, incorporating academic and theoretical perspectives and practical application. Objectives include:

1. Learning principles, generalizations, or theories of interpersonal communication (particularly in class activities, group work, written work, and in exams).
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view (e.g., learning about the role of identity, perception, and culture in communication).
4. Learning about the dimensions of personal relationships and how communicators develop, maintain, and terminate close relationships.
5. Completing research assignments (e.g., paper), which will involve computer-based research and paper preparation.

D. Required Textbook and Instructional Materials

Guerrero, L. K., Andersen, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2017). *Close Encounters: Communication in Relationships*, Fifth Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

E. Email Etiquette

Treat emails as professional communication. Begin emails with “Dear Ms. A, ...” or “Ms. Andersen”, have a dedicated body, and end with your signature. Emails will only be answered if they follow professional standards.

F. Technology Policy & Distractions

The use of technology is disruptive to class, so please do not use technology during class time. If you are being disruptive (in any form, e.g., talking), expect any or all of the following:

- To be “called out” in class.
- Asked to leave class and be marked absent for the day.
- Forfeit all points for that class (i.e. attendance, participation).
- **If you are being disruptive during a presentation**, all of the above applies AND the student’s presentation grade will be negatively affected at the instructor’s discretion.

G. University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy.

As stated by Utah State University:

“When you accepted admission to Utah State University, you agreed to the following honor pledge: ‘I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity.’ This pledge means that a commitment to honesty will be fundamental to the decisions you make...” (Utah State University, 2018).

You can go to the following site for more information on what constitutes academic dishonesty: <http://catalog.usu.edu/content.php?catoid=12&navoid=3140>. “Not knowing” is not an excuse.

H. Attendance Policy

You are allowed **three (3) absences** in this class without penalty and where no excuse is required (see make-up policy for excused absences). **There will be an 8-point reduction in your final grade for every absence after three (3).** You should use your absences wisely.

I. Syllabus Statement

The syllabus is a general plan for the course, but deviations may be necessary. Any changes are at the instructor’s discretion and will be announced by email or during lecture. Thus, I strongly advise regular class attendance and email check-ins to ensure you don’t miss announcements.

J. Topical Outline

The following outline gives you a general sense of what topics are covered in this class:

1. Fundamentals of Relational Communication
2. Communicating Identity
3. Drawing People Together
4. Relationship Changes & Turbulence
5. Revealing and Hiding through Communication
6. Closeness and Intimacy
7. Love and Coming Together
8. Relational Commitment & Maintenance
9. Conflict and Coping with Stress
10. Hurt and Betrayal
11. Healing and Forgiveness
12. Ending Relationships

K. Schedule of Principal Course Assignments

This schedule is approximate and may change at the discretion of the instructor.

Spring 2019 Calendar			
Week/Day/Date		Topics	Readings
Week 1, Mon.	1/7	Course Introduction	
	1/9	Fund. of Relational Comm.	Ch. 1
	1/11	Fund. of Relational Comm.	JE #1
Week 2, Mon.	1/14	Communicating Identity	Ch. 2
	1/16	Communicating Identity	
	1/18	Communicating Identity	JE #2
Week 3, Mon.	1/21	REV. DR. MLK JR. DAY	NO CLASS
	1/23	Drawing People Together	Ch. 3
	1/25	Drawing People Together	JE #3
Week 4, Mon.	1/28	Making Sense of Our World	Ch. 4
	1/30	Making Sense of Our World	
	2/1	Making Sense of Our World	JE #4
Week 5, Mon.	2/4	Changing Relationships	Ch. 5
	2/6	Changing Relationships	
	2/8	Changing Relationships	JE #5
Week 6, Mon.	2/11	Revealing & Hiding Ourselves	Ch. 6
	2/13	Revealing & Hiding Ourselves	
	2/15	Revealing & Hiding Ourselves	JE #6
Week 7, Mon.	2/18	PRESIDENT'S DAY	NO CLASS
	2/20	Communicating Closeness	Ch. 7
	2/22	Communicating Closeness	JE #7
Week 8, Mon.	2/25	Midterm Exam	
	2/27	Making a Love Connection	Ch. 8
	3/1	Making a Love Connection	
Week 9, Mon.	3/4	Making a Love Connection	JE #8, <i>Paper Assigned</i>
	3/6	Staying Close	Ch. 10
	3/8	<i>Paper Work Day</i>	
Week 10	SPRING BREAK: March 11-15		

Week 11, Mon.	3/18	Staying Close	
	3/20	Staying Close	JE #9
	3/22	Conflict & Coping	Ch. 11
Week 12, Mon.	3/25	Conflict & Coping	
	3/27	Influencing One Another	Ch. 12
	3/29	Influencing One Another	JE #10
Week 13, Mon.	4/1	Hurting Others	Ch. 13
	4/3	Hurting Others	
	4/5	Hurting Others	JE #11
Week 14, Mon.	4/8	<i>Paper Work Day</i>	
	4/10	Healing the Hurt	Ch. 14
	4/12	Healing the Hurt	JE #12
4/17-4/23: NO TEST WEEK			
Week 15, Mon.	4/15	<i>Paper Work Day</i>	
	4/17	Ending Relationships	Ch. 15
	4/19	Ending Relationships	
Week 16, Mon.	4/22	Course Wrap-Up	
	4/23	Last Day of Classes	
	4/24	Interim Day	
FINALS WEEK: 4/25-5/1			
Week 16	MWF 8:30am Final Exam Time: Monday, April 29th from 7:30am – 9:20pm		

****Final Grades entered by May 7th at 5pm.**

L. Grading Policy

There are a total of 800 points in this class. I will do my best to keep grades up to date. Please keep a record of your grades (e.g., tests, papers, attendance) until you have received your final grade for the semester. Use the formula below to assess your work and grade.

Formula: Your grade % = (all the points you have earned) / (maximum points possible)

	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%
A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 60-66%
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	F = 0-59%

M. Specific Course Requirements for Grading Purposes

Your course will be based on an 800-point scale and will be determined by the following:

1. **Participation (100 points)**
 - a. **Students are expected to actively participate in class.** Participation (relevant to subject matter) will be assessed every class period and will count toward the final grade. **CLASS ATTENDANCE is not the same as PARTICIPATION.**
2. **Exams (300 points)**
 - a. This course has two exams. Each exam is worth 150 points and may contain multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and/or short answer essay questions.
 - b. **NOTE: Make-up exams are rarely given and offered usually in cases of unavoidable conflicts or extreme emergencies – see policy below.**
3. **Journal Entries (200 points)**
 - a. Journaling: You will keep a journal on one romantic relationship – if you are not currently in one then you can discuss a past relationship. If you do not think you have a romantic relationship to discuss, please come and speak with me and we will choose another relationship for you to analyze/discuss. *You will write every journal entry with this person in mind.*
 - b. **Note:** There are 12 journal entries, but you only need to complete 10 (everyone must complete JE #1 and #2). Entries are due on Canvas by 5pm on the due date. **I will not accept late work.**
 - c. Example Topics:
 - i. *Do you or your partner have more power in your relationship? How can you tell? What effect does this have?*
 - ii. *What initially attracted you to your partner? Based on your relationship, which old adage do you think is truer: Do birds of a feather flock together or do opposites attract?*
 - iii. *In what ways do you intentionally maintain your relationship with your partner?*
4. **Final Paper (200 points)**
 - a. The paper is due at the beginning of the class period. **You must submit a hard copy of your paper. The essay will result in 10% deduction per day if late.**

N. 24-Hour/2-Week Rule for Grade-related Discussions & Appeals

- a. **24-Hour Rule (Voicing Concerns/Appealing the Grade):** I require that you wait at minimum 24 hours after receiving your assignment grade before addressing your concerns. I will not respond to any inquiries submitted before that time. *Please be thoughtful of any grade, instructor feedback, and how you voice your concerns.*
- b. **2-Week Rule (Taking Action):** You are encouraged to take action if you believe an assignment was graded inaccurately. Students should inquiries *within two weeks* after the assignment is returned in to the student and should cite class material to argue their case. *Grade appeals will NOT be considered after the two (2) week mark.*
- c. **Grade Re-evaluation:** Be advised that a grade appeal could result in one of three outcomes: (1) grade is upheld; (2) grade is lowered; or (3) grade is raised.

O. Late & Make-Up Policy**1. Late Policy**

- a. If you are late to an exam/quiz, you will not have extra time to finish.
- b. After the first person to finish the exam has left, I will not accept any latecomers.
- c. Being over 10 minutes late to a class or leaving 10 minutes early constitutes an absence for that class period.

2. Make-Up Policy

- a. Make-ups (e.g., exams, quizzes) are rarely given and never for personal reasons (e.g., work, family events, airline ticket reservations, vacation plans, etc.).
- b. Make-ups are allowed for the following reasons with proper documentation:
 - a. Absence due to a University-sanctioned activity as an official representative of Utah State University where prior notice has been provided to the instructor.
 - b. Absence due to observance of a religious holiday. *NOTE: Documentation needs to be submitted within the first two weeks of the semester to be valid.*
 - c. Absence due to an emergency that has been documented by a University official (e.g., advisor, Student Affairs) or serious illness verified by your physician. *NOTE: Physician documentation needs to explicitly state that you cannot attend class.*

P. Reasonable Accommodation Policy

Students with learning disabilities who may require accommodations should contact The Disability Resource Center (<https://www.usu.edu/drc/>). Accommodations will be determined on a case-by-case basis according to each student's individual needs and documentation. Please come speak with me if you have any accommodations that you require so we can work out a plan for the semester. If needs change throughout the semester, please bring documentation (for verification of DRC knowledge) and we will create or alter plans accordingly.

Q. Copyright

All materials from this course (e.g., notes, quizzes, activities, papers, exams) are copyrighted material and not to be duplicated, reproduced, or posted to any website (e.g., Koofers).

R. Emergency Preparedness

In case of emergency, call 911 immediately. If the fire alarm sounds, we will exit the building and reassemble at an instructor-designated location so I can make sure everyone has exited the building safely. Do not use the elevators and notify others as you leave. If you have special circumstances that I need to know about in case of an emergency, please speak to me during the first week of class. If you have concerns about other emergencies (e.g., earthquake, tornado, Godzilla walking through downtown Logan), speak to me and also check the Department of Public Safety website at: <https://dps.usu.edu/emergency/>. Additionally, you may check here for Public Safety: <https://dps.usu.edu/emergency/preparedness-tips>.