COMX 414: COMMUNICATION IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
Spring 2021
MWF 12:00-12:50
CRN: 33353
Classroom: Remote at first, with SS 356 available
Zoom Meeting ID:

PROFESSOR: DR. STEVE YOSHIMURA
OFFICE: LA 347
OFFICE HOURS: Videoconference by appointment

Required Course Materials

Additional readings and videos available on Moodle.

Recommended course materials

Course Overview
Welcome to COMX 414, Communication in Personal Relationships. The purpose of this class is to help you learn about the role communication plays in the development, sustainability, and decline of close, personal relationships. The study of communication in personal relationships involves research conducted in psychology, sociology, family studies, and human communication, and much of what we discuss will involve perspectives from all of these disciplines. However, the course has a distinct focus on how interaction between couples lends itself to the process of relating. This course also fulfills the university writing requirement for communication studies majors.

In short, completing this class will give you the ability to:

• Explain how communication plays a role in the development, maintenance, and dissolution of personal relationships.
• Be conversant with the major topical areas of research in the study of communication in personal relationship contexts.
• Independently discover, interpret, and discuss scholarly research on communication in personal relationships.
• Construct a well-written scholarly essay that summarizes and analyzes research on personal relationships.
• Apply your knowledge about theory and research on human relationships to practical problems in personal relationships.

This course fulfills an elective requirement for the Human and Family Development minor. If the topic of this class interests you, you might find this minor helpful in focusing your studies, advancing your resume, or giving yourself an edge in graduate school applications. Please see me if you’d like more information.

Exams
You can choose your exam format this semester (for each exam). One option is a traditional, multiple-choice and short-answer in-person exam in the classroom (SS 356) on the dates indicated in the course calendar. The second option, if you prefer, is a 10-15 minute oral exam held by videoconference. I will announce a call for oral exam appointments at least two weeks prior to each exam. You can decide whichever format you prefer when the call for appointments come out. Anyone
who is not scheduled for an oral exam by the sign-up deadline will be expected at the in-person session. Make-up exams for missing an exam date/appointment without advance notification will not be granted this semester.

Being familiar with all the content on the study guides will be expected regardless of the exam format you choose. If you select the oral exam format, then I will randomly select a few items from the study guide for you to discuss with me for 10-15 minutes.

Assignments*

Please see the Moodle course shell for assignment instructions

Course Calendar*

G. A., & A. = Guerrero, Andersen, & Afifi textbook. Readings not in the text book can be found in the “Course Readings” section of Moodle.

* Schedule is subject to change as necessary

SECTION 1: RELATIONSHIP BEGINNINGS

Week 1
- Course introduction
- About relationship science
- On Writing: How to find, read, and write about relationship science (will use the Hess et al., 2007 reading for this discussion).

Readings:

Homework: Begin finding sources for the Problem Statement and Annotated Bibliography assignment.

Week 2
- The role of communication in relationships
- G. A., & A: Chapter 1

Week 3
- Attraction
- Strategic misrepresentation in online dating

Readings:
- G, A, & A: Chapter 3

Week 4
- Relationship initiation/ Managing uncertainty and expectancy violations
- On Writing: How to write a literature review

Reading:
- G, A, & A: Chapter 4

DUE Monday 2/1: Problem statement and annotated bibliography
SECTION 2: RELATIONSHIP MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

Week 5
- Models and theories of relationship growth and development
Reading: G, A, & A: Chapter 5

Week 6
- Exam 1 – Friday, 2/19, or by appointment.
- Relationship maintenance
Readings:
  G, A, & A, Chapter 10

Homework this week: Begin organizing, outlining, and writing your literature review

Week 7
- Love and attachment
- Communicating love
- On Writing: Developing recommendations from research
Reading: G, A, & A: Chapter 8

Week 8
- Sexual interaction
- Self-disclosure and privacy management
Readings:
  - Sexual interaction: G, A, & A Chapter 9
  - Self-disclosure - G, A, & A Chapter 6
Homework: Outline and begin writing the recommendations paper

DUE Monday, 3/1: Literature Review

Week 9
- Communicating affection
Reading: G, A, & A, Chapter 7

Week 10
- EXAM 2 – Friday 3/19, or by appointment
- Social Support
Reading: G, A, & A, Chapter 7

SECTION 3: RELATIONSHIP CHALLENGES

Week 11
- Conflict in relationships
Readings:
  - Conflict: G, A, & A Chapter 11

DUE Monday, 3/22: Recommendations

Week 12
- Deception and infidelity
- Jealousy, stalking, and violence
• Investment and accommodation – why people sometimes stay in harmful relationships

**Reading:** G, A, & A: Chapter 13

**Week 13**
• Ending relationships
• Remediation and forgiveness

**Reading:** G, A, & A chapters 14 and 15

**Week 14**
• Persuasion and interpersonal influence in personal relationships

**Reading:** G, A, & A, Chapter 12

**Due 4/12:** Revised literature review and recommendations (all one manuscript)

**Week 15: Presentations**

**Final exam**

10:10-12:10, Thursday, April 29th, or by appointment