

COMM 008: Interpersonal Communication
Fall 2015
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Sierra College

TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS:

Guerrero, L. K., Andersen, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2014). *Close encounters: communication in relationships* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

(OPTIONAL) NCA MEMBERSHIP w/ Journal Access <http://www.natcom.org/join/>

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COURSE PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Relationships are central to our everyday lives and to our personal sense of identity. If you think about it, the most mundane and significant events in life involve people acting together in some kind of social and cultural relationship. The quality of our lives is shaped in important and meaningful ways; through the relationships we form with others, the cultural groups we associate, and the manner in which we present ourselves. To that end, this course has a few broad questions that you'll take ownership of and we'll come back to throughout the semester: *How do we form these relationships? How do we develop our perceptions and expectations for how people will act? Or a relationship will develop? How do we fulfill others perceptions and expectations in a relationship?* **Relationships are created, maintained and recreated through processes of human communication.*** In this course, we'll examine human relationships from a communication, media, and culture perspective in order to increase your understanding of relationships and your ability to participate competently in the relationships you form with others and in groups. Upon course completion, you should be able to:

- Recognize the theories of interpersonal communication;
- Describe the interpersonal contexts of relationships, the commonalities of relationships, strategies you would use to manage interpersonal conflict, conflict within a group, or some kind of communal engagement;
- Explain how media influences your identity, focusing on how the self is/was developed and is continually evolving;
- Apply cultural dimensions (e.g., power distance, individualism-collectivism, monochronic-polychronic time, high-context/low-context) to a personal interaction, explaining how these dimensions affected the quality and outcome of the interaction.

*OF NOTE FOR MAJORS (AND THOSE CONSIDERING THIS AMAZING DISCIPLINE): Communication's relationship to Interpersonal focuses on the conversations at the apex of how others and the manner in which we integrate others affect ones mediated (self and cultural) performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two Examinations (each exam is worth 100 points). Due to the nature of course content, you will take two course examinations. Each unit examination may consist of

multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, completion, and open-ended questions. The majority of the questions will be recall questions derived from course textbook.

10 Reading Guides (each reading guide is worth 10 points).

The required readings are meant to provide a minimum base of common knowledge for class discussion. It is expected that as participants will read extensively outside the syllabus on aspects that particularly interest them and their class reports, papers, and general discussions in the seminar will be informed by such readings.

Two Teaching Engagements (each teaching engagement is worth 50 points).

This term, you will engage us two communication inquiry-related lessons. Together we'll decide if these will involve group work or to be done on your own (there are benefits to both). Your engagement grade will be based on: your considered and critical contributions to a class discussion, the depth and breadth of the material you select, your effective use of in-class group work time, and your submitted engagement (the plan on paper will help facilitate what happens during your directed lesson.

Course Project (the course project is worth 200 points)

You will produce a work of interpersonal performance toward social justice; it is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your understanding and application of course concepts (as gleaned from discussions, readings and experiences with interpersonal communication).

A number of scholars/authors we will read utilize various interpersonal concepts, theories and/or performative metaphors to illuminate the social justice issues of relationships in media contexts. A rubric will be provided for all options:

- o If you choose the paper route, expect 15-18 pages in length.
- o If you choose the performance route, expect 10 min. presentation in length
- o If you choose the podcast route, expect a 30-45min. recorded episode.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Class	Topic	Reading/Activities
1	1	Course Introduction	Syllabus
	2	Communicating Identity:	Ch. 1 & Ch. 2
	3	The Social Self	RG1 & RG2
Identity & Self: Who am I & How am I?			
2	4	Drawing People Together:	Ch. 3
	5	Forces of Social Attraction	RG3
3	6	Making Sense of Our World:	Ch. 4
	7	Managing Uncertainty	RG4
4	8	Getting Closer:	Ch.5 & 6
	9	Initiating and Intensifying Relationships	RG5
5	10	Communicating Closeness: Affection, Immediacy, and Social Support	Ch. 7 RG6

6	11	Making a Love Connection:	Ch. 8
	12	Styles of Love & Attachment	RG7
			EXAM #1 Ch.1-8
7	13	Communicating Sexually:	Ch. 9
	14	The Closest Physical Encounter	RG8
8	15	Staying Close:	Ch. 10
		Maintaining Relationships	RG9
	16	<i>Due: Rituals of Relationship Assessment</i>	
Media and Getting Others Involved OR how I turned to Social Media for validation...			
9	17	Interdependence and Equity in	Ch. 12
	18	Relationships	RG10
10	19	Dominance and Power Plays in	Ch. 13
	20	Relationships	RG11
11	21	Getting Too Close for Comfort:	Ch. 14
		Privacy & Secrets (pt1)	RG12
			<i>Due Post-Secret Activity</i>
12	22	Getting Too Close for Comfort:	Ch. 12
	23	Privacy & Secrets (pt2)	RG13
			<i>Due Post-Secret Activity pt2</i>
13	24	Hurting others via. Relational	TBA
		Transgressions	
	25	<i>Course project presentations</i>	<i>Course project presentations</i>
14	26	<i>Course project presentations</i>	<i>Course project presentations</i>
GO AWAY! Seriously, I'm so over, whatever this is!			
	27	Ending Relationships:	Ch. 15
		Disagreement and Termination	RP 14
15	28	Your Call: Exam Prep	
	29	Your Call: Exam Prep	
16	30	EXAM #2	EXAM #2 Ch. 8-12, 15
Our time is coming to a close soon, what do you want to talk about?			
	31	What do you want to revisit?	TBA
17	32	What do you want to revisit?	TBA
	33	What do you want to revisit?	TBA