

SPCM4500: Advanced Interpersonal Communication Seminar

Professor J. Monahan

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Office: Terrell Hall 125.

Office Hours: before or after class daily or email me for an appointment

**Objective**

This class focuses on communication in close relationships. By the end of the term you should have a solid foundation in interpersonal communication theory as applied to romantic and family relationships.

**Text**

Guerrero, L. K., Anderson, P. A., & Afifi, W. A. (2001). *Close encounters: communicating in relationships*. Boston: McGraw Hill

**Grading**

I have four evaluated components for this class. Points total 200.

*1. In-class assignments (10% of final cumulative grade)*

Ten in-class assignments will be offered throughout the semester at my discretion. These tasks are assigned and turned in during the class hour the activity is relevant for. Thus,

- (a) You **must** attend class the day an in-class activity is presented to receive credit,
- (b) You **must** be present during the hour the activity is presented.

Otherwise, you receive a 0 for the activity. You cannot make up in-class assignments under any circumstance (really).

*2. Course Participation (10% of final grade)*

Course participation is attendance + your contribution to class discussion.

This class will introduce you to new or more structured ways of understanding communication patterns in personal relationships that you have already likely experienced; therefore, it is expected that you will be an active contributor in all class discussions. As such, your participation will be graded on a daily basis. Understand that in MayMester, missing 1 class period is equivalent to missing 1 week of class. As this course is short in duration, any absence results in a loss of some participation credit. Quality of participation will be graded using as following:

Participation	Quantity		
		Low	High
	Low	D	C
Quality	High	B	A

Since participation is worth 10% of your grade, I take it very seriously. One should not expect to get an A in participation unless you participate *relatively often* (please do not raise your hand every

time as that keeps others from participating) and what you share is relevant to the topic and *reflects* the readings. I encourage you to ask many questions, offer relevant (that is on-topic examples), challenge my (and others) view points and offer your own interpretations of the readings and discussion.

3. *Quizzes (40% of your cumulative grade)*

Four quizzes will be given on Fridays. Each quiz will contain multiple choice questions and *possibly* some short answer questions. Quizzes will cover readings and lecture materials addressed Monday through Thursday of the same week, and the previous Friday (for quizzes 2-4). Note, I rarely lecture from readings so if you are to pass the quizzes you will need to have done the readings and taken notes in lecture.

If you miss a quiz, it cannot be made-up. Each quiz will be worth 20 points (4 quizzes X 20 points each = 80 points total).

4. *Essay Final Exam (40% of your cumulative grade)*

The final exam will consist of 4 essay questions that address issues relevant to course content. You will select 2 to write about during the final exam. Answers that receive an “A” will have to be substantive answers using theory properly. It is expected that *each* question will be answered in 5-7 pages (handwritten). (90 points total).

<u>Summary of Evaluation</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percent of Final Grade</u>
In class assignments	20	10%
Participation	20	10%
Quizzes	80	40%
Final	<u>80</u>	<u>40%</u>
	200	100%

Tentative Syllabus (It is subject to change!)

May 12 (Tues)	Welcome to class Family influences on Close Relationships Troubled Families 1
May 13 (Wed)	Family Influences on Close Relationships Troubled Families 2 Troubled Families 3
May 14 (Thurs)	The Self Chapter 2
May 15 (Friday)	Quiz 1 Communicating Attraction, Chapter 3
May 18 (Mon)	Uncertainty Reduction Theory pages 66-84 in Ch 4 Expectancy Violation Theory pages 85-89 in Ch 4 Unwanted Repetitive Patterns

May 19 (Tues)	Self Disclosure	90-105 in Ch 5
May 20 (Wed)	Love Styles 115-130 Attachment Styles 130 -138	
May 21 (Thurs)	Interdependence and Equity, Ch 10	
May 22 (Fri)	Quiz 2 Relational Maintenance 188-204 in Ch 9	
May 25 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)	Memorial Day Holiday	
May 26 <sup>th</sup> (Tues)	Relational Dialectics (Ch 9 pages 205-210) Relational Power 233-240; 245-247	
May 27 <sup>th</sup> (Wed)	Privacy & Taboo Topics Ch 12	
May 28 <sup>th</sup> (Thurs)	Conflict in close relationships Ch 14 pages 317-329	
May 29 <sup>th</sup> (Fri)	Quiz #3 Infidelity, Jealousy and other Relational Transgressions Ch 13	
June 1 <sup>st</sup> (Mon)	Relational Breakdown Ch. 15 (330-343)	
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> (Tues)	Intercultural Relationships	Ting-Toomey, 356-370
June 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Wed)	<b>Final Exam</b>	