

SYLLABUS FOR COMM 320—ADVANCED INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION
Spring 2011

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:45-3:00
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*Please feel free to make an appointment if my office hours conflict with your schedule!
I have two offices, one of which has no phone; therefore, the best way to reach me is by email.*

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Galvin, K. M., & Cooper, P. J. (2010). *Making connections: Readings in Relational Communication* (5th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press

Please order via Amazon.com if not available in bookstore:

Braithwaite, D. O., & Wood, J. T. (2000). *Case studies in interpersonal communication: Processes and problems*. Wadsworth. ISBN: 0-534-56538-7

Additional readings will be posted on WebCT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be interesting (I think) and fun (I hope)! We will delve into various types of relationships in order to identify why some relationships work, why some don't, and how the type of relationship influences and is influenced by communication in the relationship. In other words, this course is about your life and how you can work to make your life better and happier by communicating in ways that are more effective and more appropriate, given the specific situation in which you find yourself! Conscientious study and participation over the course of the semester should allow you to obtain the following learning outcomes:

1. a better understanding of what it means to be "in relationship" with another;
2. an understanding of Relational Dialectics, Uncertainty Management Theory, Social Penetration Theory, Social Exchange Theory, Face Management, and Communication Theory, along with other theories of interpersonal relationships and interpersonal communication;
3. the ability to apply course theories to "real-life" situations through case studies and practice;
4. an ability to find and decipher scholarly literature on relationships and communication;
5. a better understanding of the research process as it applies to interpersonal Communication; and
6. the ability to lead discussion in a public setting.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

One exam	200 points	A = 926-1000 points (A- = 900-925)
Case Study Prep	200 points	B+ = 876-899 points
Case Study Leadership	150 points	B = 826-875 points
5 Quizzes (drop one)	200 points	B- = 800-825
Research Report	100 points	C+ = 776-799 points
Contributions to Learning	150 points	C = 726-775 points (C- + 700-725)
		D = 600-699 points
		F = fewer than 600 points

Exams. The final exam will assess your understanding as well as your ability to apply the information covered in the course, including case studies, lectures, texts, and readings. The exam will contain a mixture of forced choice (e.g., matching, multiple choice), and open-ended (e.g., essay, short answer) questions.

Case Study Preparation. You will submit a folder containing your research, questions, and outline for the case study you are presenting.

Case Study Leadership. Either individually or with a partner, you will be asked to lead us through discussion of a case in the Braithwaite and Wood text. You will be assigned a case and will be expected to prepare thoroughly by gathering additional information and generating discussion questions for the case.

Quizzes. There will be five unannounced quizzes, each worth 50 points. I will drop the lowest score. If you are absent on a quiz day, regardless of the reason, you will receive a zero on that quiz. Because I drop the lowest quiz grade, there will be absolutely **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES GIVEN!**

Contributions to Learning. This class is designed as an experiential learning experience. Your actions will influence and be influenced by the actions of the other students. In order to benefit fully from your tuition dollars, you need to be in class, be prepared for class, and take an active role while you are here. This grade assesses your preparation and participation in the role plays, case study discussions, and in-class activities, as well as homework assignments.

OTHER COURSE POLICIES

1. **Academic Integrity.** All work in this course should be the individual work of the student who submits it, unless I have indicated otherwise. Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the student honor code (see attached summary). Penalties will range from a zero on the assignment to course failure and notification of administrative authorities. All violations of the student Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Board for review.

2. **Special Accommodations.** If, due to some disabling condition, you require special arrangements in order to meet some course requirements, please let me know by January 19, so that we can make any adjustments that may be necessary. You need to present appropriate verification so that proper accommodations can be made. The Center for Disability Services (943-1431) coordinates these accommodations.

3. **Class Attendance.** Our class comprises a learning system. As with any system, each component in the system (each of us) contributes to the optimal functioning of our learning system. If one component of the system fails to perform effectively (e.g., isn't there to share the experience s/he had when visiting another country), the whole system suffers. As such, we each have the responsibility to do our part to help optimize learning. Much of our class time will be devoted to activities. If you are not present, you cannot contribute. Attendance will be taken daily. Each person will be allowed two free absences (which is a full week of class). For each additional absence, your final grade will be reduced 5%. There is no such thing as an "excused absence," so you should save your free absences in case you are ill or have some other emergency.

NOTE: If you miss 6 classes for any reason, I will drop you from the course.

5. **Make-Up Work.** There will be no late case study presentations, late homework or make-up quizzes. Failure to present your case on the assigned date will result in a '0'. If you are absent on a due date, you should submit work early or send it with a friend. If you miss notes, please arrange to get them from another student.

6. **Classroom Courtesy.** Our aim this semester is to create a safe environment where each student feels welcome to explore issues important to him or her. Therefore, the golden rule applies--You should treat

others as you would like to be treated. Focus on descriptions of behavior and ideas, not evaluations of people! Don't say, "You're so stupid to think that!" Rather, explain why you don't agree!

7. Electronic Devices. Electronic devices are potential distractions to the learning of your colleagues. Please turn them off before coming into the classroom. Your cell phone should be stowed out of view at all times. You may not answer or check your phones or other electronic devices during class. You are not allowed to surf the web during this class. Exceptions to this electronic devices policy are by individual instructor permission only. First Offense: loss of day's participation points
Second Offense: loss of 50 points from course total
Third Offense: I will drop you from the course

College of Charleston Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions are related more to a misunderstanding will be handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others' exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the *Student Handbook* at

<http://studentaffairs.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/index.php>