

## **Introduction to Interpersonal Communication 315 – Fall 2016**

**Dr. Kandi Walker**

Department of Communication

Office: Strickler 310

Office Hours: By appointment

[kandi.walker@louisville.edu](mailto:kandi.walker@louisville.edu)

Class Information Available on Blackboard

### **Course Purpose:**

In this course, you will be introduced to concepts historically central to interpersonal communication research. In addition to demonstrating mastery of these concepts (via objective assessment), students will also be expected to engage in application to praxis. This is a course that examines interpersonal communication processes in a variety of contexts and relationships. We will pay particular attention to principles, issues, and problems in the context of close personal relationships. Furthermore, students are expected to gain insight into themselves as interpersonal communicators.

### **Description and Objectives:**

This course examines verbal and nonverbal elements affecting communication between individuals in family, personal relationships, peer groups, work, and social contexts. Course requires participation in activities designed to develop interpersonal communication skills. The course format involves lectures, discussions, analysis of case studies, and in class exercises. Class objectives are:

- To enhance understanding of the communication process in general, and of the interpersonal and personal communication processes in particular;
- To be able to listen, think, and write critically about issues pertinent to the study of interpersonal and personal relationships;
- To enable the students to analyze more effectively their own and others' interpersonal and personal communication behaviors
- To have a better understanding of the impact of intimate communication processes;
- To increase the array of available choices about interpersonal and personal communication behaviors;
- To familiarize with the primary research sources in interpersonal communication

### **Texts:**

Guerrero, L.K., Andersen, P.A., Afifi, W.A. (2014). *Close encounters: Communicating in relationships, 4th Edition*. Boston: Sage.

### **Attendance:**

We will be involved in a number of in-class exercises and discussions; therefore, your presence is necessary for class. In addition, your contributions to the class will increase the understanding and retention of the class material for you and your classmates. You will also have in-class activities/quizzes assignments that entail points that cannot be made up if you miss class. You must be present to earn the points.

### **Announcements and Class Information:**

You are responsible for any announcements given in class concerning changes in due dates, schedule, and/or supplemental readings. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a classmate in order to be familiar with information covered that day.

### **Special Needs:**

Students with special learning needs are encouraged to discuss accommodations needs with me early in the semester. Students may be asked to contact the Disability Resource Center to determine academic accommodations (852-6938).

### **Title IX Information:**

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to **University faculty or instructors** of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is **not confidential** under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide  
(<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

#### **Assignment Due Dates:**

All papers and exams must be completed and turned in on the date assigned. If you fail to turn in a paper on time you will lose a letter grade for each day it is late. Papers that are more than five days late will not be accepted and the student will receive a grade of zero for that assignment. If you fail to come to class on an exam day, you will receive a zero for the exam, unless an alternate due date has PREVIOUSLY been approved.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a minimum of a ZERO for the assignment. Plagiarism includes the following:

1. Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own
2. Paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it as your own
3. Collaborating excessively with another person and claiming the work as your own.

#### **Cell Phones and Beepers:**

Turn your cell phones and beepers off when you enter the classroom unless you have prior approval. These interruptions are distracting. In honor of my late colleague Ken Hardy, if your cell phone rings you will be asked to stand and sing "I'm a Little Tea Pot" or a song decided by the class.

#### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Exams: There will be three exams. The exams will allow students to learn while being held accountable for readings and class material.

Extra Credit: worth 10 points

#### **Observation Assignment**

This assignment gives you an opportunity to "people watch" for credit! The point of this assignment is to observe interactions between people in light of what we've discussed in class and what you will research, to see how well this scholarly information links up with what you notice in the "real world." Pick a location from the list below.

- a. Stay in your observation location for at least an hour (you may want to stay longer)
- b. Take detailed notes of what you observe, keeping in mind the topics related to the class that you're trying to observe. Remember, this is a relational class so you need to observe people relating, not one person on their own.
- c. As much as possible, try to be unobtrusive and not interact with anyone. It is best if you can go alone, so try to choose an area where you feel safe doing so.

After you have collected your notes, I'd like you to try to interpret them for me in a 2-3 double spaced page paper. Please discuss a) what, out of what you observed, seemed in line with what we've discussed in class, and what did not, b) the predictions you would make about the state of the relationships you were observing and their futures, and c) how having gone through the class changed the observation experience for you from previous "people watching" you've done (i.e., what did you learn?). Be sure to note what topics below you saw evidenced, and where you observed. Please attach your observation notes to the back of your paper.



**Tentative Schedule**

Tue, Aug 23	Introduction to course and each other
Thur, Aug 25	Intro to personal relationships Intro to communication, interpersonal and personal communication Read: Chapter 1
Tue, Aug 30	Social Self Read: Chapter 2
Thur, Sept 1	Perception, Identity Management, & Uncertainty Reduction Read: Chapter 2 & 4
Tue, Sept 6	Perception, Identity Management, & Uncertainty Reduction Read: Chapter 2 & 4
Thur, Sept 8	Attraction and Language Read: Chapter 3 Book Club discussion forums created this week
Tue, Sept 13	Self Disclosure Read: Chapter 6
Thur, Sept 15	Catch up/Review
Tue, Sept 20	Exam #1 (Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6)
Thur, Sept 22	Stages of Relationships Read: Chapter 5
Tue, Sept 27	Friendship, Love, Attachment, & Marriage Read: Chapters 5, 7, & 8
Thur, Sept 29	Friendship, Love, Attachment, & Marriage Read: Chapters 5, 7, & 8
Tue, Oct 4	Fall Break
Thurs, Oct 6	Review – No Class
Tue, Oct 11	Relationship Maintenance: Friendship, Dating, Marriage Read: Chapter 9 & 10
Thur, Oct 13	Relationship Maintenance: Friendship, Dating, Marriage Read: Chapter 9 & 10
Tue, Oct 18	Exam #2
Thur, Oct 20	Power Read: Chapter 12
Tue, Oct 25	Conflict Read: Chapter 11

Thur, Oct 27	Conflict Read: Chapter 11
Tue, Nov 1	The Dark Side of Relationships Read: Chapter 13
Thur, Nov 3	The Dark Side of Relationships Read: Chapter 13
Tue, Nov 8	No Class – Election Day – Go Vote!
Thur, Nov 10	Politics and Relationships Supplemental Reading
Tue, Nov 15	Healing Read: Chapter 14
Thur, Nov 17	Healing Read: Chapter 13
Tue, Nov 22	Ending Relationships Read: Chapter 15
Thur, Nov 24	Ending Relationships Read: Chapter 15
Tues, Nov 29	Catch Up/Review
Thurs, Dec 1	Exam #3 (covering chapters 11-15)
Tues, Dec 6	Optional Exam #4 (covering chapters 1-15)