

Family Communication

COM4013 | 3 credits | Fall 2023

Instructor: Diana Karol Nagy | dnagy@ufl.edu | 352.273.1870 | 412 Rolfs Hall

Office Hours: Office Hours: Wednesday, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and online by appointment.

Course website: <http://elearning.ufl.edu>

Semester Schedule: The weekly schedule can be found by checking the calendar on the class website. A schedule listing university holidays, drop deadline and other important dates is found online at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/dates-deadlines/2023-2024/>

Course description: COM4013 — Family Communication is a three-credit course.

You only need walk down the "Self-Help" aisle at your favorite bookstore to see the scope of information available on relationships, dating, marriage and families. Everyone has his or her own take on what makes for good relationships. As an individual, you have been involved in many relationships, starting with your primary relationship with your own family, moving on through grade school friendships, high school, and beyond. You intuitively know what works and what doesn't work, but how do you make sense of what you know, and the nearly constant barrage of relationship information out there?

This family communication course provides students with an understanding of how communication functions to develop, maintain, enrich, or limit family relationships. It is based on the assumptions that:

1. There are many ways to be a family.
2. Communication serves to constitute as well as reflect family relationships.
3. Communication is the process by which family members create and share their meanings with each other.
4. Families are part of multigenerational communication patterns.
5. Families serve as their members' first communication classroom.
6. Families reflect ethnic communication patterns.
7. Well-functioning families work at managing their communication patterns because developing and maintaining relationships takes effort.

This course may be different from many you have taken in college. This is primarily because you are actively and daily engaged in the subject matter of this communication course. You have already had much experience, and you will likely want to share those experiences with the rest of the class. In addition, you may also bring to this class some preconceived expectations of this class. Discussion will be encouraged.

Course Texts

1. Family Communication: Cohesion and Change, (10th edition). Galvin, K.M., Bylund, C. L., & Brommel, B.J., (2012), Boston: Pearson. Required.
2. Concise Rules of APA Style, (Most current edition) Washington, D.C., American Psychological Association. *Highly Recommended*.

You are responsible for having access to this text no later than Sunday August 27, 2023, in order to complete assignments and quizzes.

Course requirements

Internet Access and your Gatorlink Email Address that you should check on a regular basis. (For any questions on this policy, please see the Computer Requirements as discussed under the General Requirements in the University catalog or UF Computer and Software Requirements on the web.),and MS Word (You may obtain this software free at: <https://it.ufl.edu/services/gatorcloud-microsoft-office-online>).

Course Objectives

- As a student, you can expect to increase the range of options available to you in family communication. In the personal effectiveness approach, this is referred to as the development of the communication repertoire. The more options you have, the more likely you are to make effective choices.
- You can also expect to increase your ability to analyze communication situations. Enhanced personal effectiveness is dependent upon understanding situations and what is needed for successful interaction in those situations.
- As odd as it may sound, you can also expect to be able to make more reasoned and reasonable choices regarding family communication.
- Last, in addition to learning new information, you can expect to acquire new and/or improved communication skills

COURSE POLICIES

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments or make-ups will not be permitted without a University-approved absence.

LATE POLICY: Assignments not turned in on the due date are considered late. There is a one week (7 calendar days) grace period to turn in late assignments for partial credit, after which, your work will not be accepted and you will receive a zero for that assignment. The penalty for late assignments turned in during the grace period is as follows:

- Minus 1 point per day for assignments up to 30 points.
- Minus 2 points per day for assignments from 31-100 points.
- Minus 3 points per day for assignments from 101 - 200 points.

This late policy does not apply to Chapter Quizzes. There is no grace period nor is there any make-up policy for Chapter Quizzes. If you miss a Chapter Quiz, you will receive a zero for that assignment. However, I will drop the lowest quiz grade when calculating final grades.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION: Unless otherwise indicated, assignments should be submitted through the course website by 11:59 PM on the due date. Do not wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment because of the possibility of technical difficulties.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Students will complete chapter readings, article readings, quizzes and watching lectures.

Additionally, there are article presentations and activities.

FINAL PAPER: There will be a research analysis paper, which will be broken down into various components, each with separate due dates. The components consist of a proposal, an annotated bibliography, a literature review, a first draft, and the final paper. You will also do an online presentation of your research. Details of each assignment will be posted on the e-Learning site.

READINGS: Students are responsible for all the assigned readings. See the course calendar on eLearning for reading due dates.

COURSE GRADING

Chapter Quizzes	10 percent
Discussions	10 percent
Journals	10 percent
Online Discussions/Assignments	10 percent
Paper Proposal	10 percent
Annotated Bibliography	10 percent
Research Paper First Draft	10 percent
Research Presentation	10 percent

Final Grades

Grading Scale (for letter grades)

93-100 %	A
90-92 %	A-
87-89 %	B+
83-86 %	B
80-82 %	B-
77-79 %	C+
73-76 %	C
70-72 %	C-
67-69 %	D+
63-66 %	D
60-62 %	D-
> 60 %	E
E1*	
There will be no curving of final grades.	
* Stopped attending or participating prior to end of class	

Grade expectations:

Assigned grades	Quality of work
A +/-	In addition to excellent quality and performance, work that earns an “A” exceeds minimum requirements and expectations.
B +/-	A grade of “B” indicates successful completion of all assignment requirements with little room for improvement. Please note that all minimum requirements must be satisfactorily completed to earn a grade of “B” or better. Writing skills and overall performance are above average.
C +/-	A grade of “C” is the most commonly earned grade on course assignments. It indicates work in good standing. All minimum requirements are met, although some might need improvement. Writing skills are average to excellent.
D +/-	Passing...but below average. The assignment’s minimum requirements are not met and/or quality of work is less than average.
E	Not passing. Minimum requirements are not met and quality of work is poor, or work displays plagiarism.

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For more information on UF's Grading Policy, please visit:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

UF POLICIES

ACCOMMODATIONS: University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE: Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Undergraduate Catalog (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>). Please become familiar with the policies of the Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code->

[student-conduct-code/](#)) as all violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. Research misconduct, such as plagiarism or cheating, will result in an automatic failing grade for the assignment.

NETIQUETTE: All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. All members are expected to follow these guidelines: <http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

Getting Help

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>

Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from LSS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> such as:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

Any questions regarding the planning, administering and teaching of COM 4013 should be discussed with me individually. As needed, questions can be discussed further with Emily R. Butler, Director, Dial Center for Written & Oral Communication.

The current syllabus and weekly schedule can be found on e-Learning.

A tentative schedule is below (subject to change):

Week	Topic	Due*
1	Introduction to Family Communication Useful Theories of Family Communication Discuss: Final Paper and Article Presentations Chapter 1	Chapter 1 Quiz
2	Activity: Nonverbal Communication and the Family Chapter 2	<i>Paper Proposal</i> Chapter 2 Quiz
3	Writing Workshop I: Annotated Bibliography General Systems Theory Activity: Interdependence and Transactional Communication Chapter 3	Chapter 3 Quiz
4	Chapter 4	Chapter 4 Quiz
5	Chapter 5	Chapter 5 Quiz
6	Chapter 6	Chapter 6 Quiz
7	Chapter 7	Chapter 7 Quiz <i>Annotated Bibliography</i>
8	Chapter 8	Chapter 8 Quiz
9	Chapter 9 The Confounding Parable of the Bridge	Chapter 9 Quiz
10	Chapter 10 Presentation Workshop	Chapter 10 Quiz <i>Research Analysis First Draft</i>
11	Chapter 11	Chapter 11 Quiz
12	Chapter 12	Chapter 12 Quiz
13	TBA	TBA
14	Individual First Draft Feedback	
15	Research Presentations	Online Presentations
16	Final Paper and Extra Credit	

* Also, due weekly: Discussion and Journal

Last Update: 8/14/2023