COMM 3120
Family Communication
Summer 2018

Instructor: Ashley Elrick
Email: Ashley.Elrick@utah.edu
(or Canvas Mail)
Office: LNCO 2960
Hours: by appointment only

Class Meetings: N/A- Online

Course Description

This course takes a systems approach to the study of communication in families. Topics include family relationships, communication patterns, family rules, interpersonal bonds, and contextual influences.

Course Objectives

I have listed below my objectives for this course; however, I view this as a starting point for the class assignments and online discussion. I encourage students to add their own objectives to this list.

1. Students will gain an understanding of the various ways of, and complications involved in, defining what a family is.
2. Students will be exposed to major theories of family communication processes and be able to identify contributions of these major theories to the understanding of communication in families.
3. Students will apply course concepts to popular culture media, such as movies, magazine articles, popular books, and television shows and be able to critically analyze connections between theory, research, and media depictions of family.

Required Text


Course Components

1. Readings – Students are expected to demonstrate that they have read the assigned material through quiz/exams, discussions and papers. Each weeks Module will have an introduction to the week with an outline of required readings and assignments.

2. Discussion Posts – Each chapter will have a corresponding discussion board. You will need to post for the discussion prompt as well as respond to at least 2 other posts (three total posts required per question). Full details on the expectations and grading are provided in the course overview and in the discussion board section.
3. **Chapter Quizzes** – Each module/chapter will include a quiz. These will be multiple-choice and true/false questions covering the chapter readings.

4. **Examinations** – There will be two equally-weighted unit examinations. These will be multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer tests covering readings, discussions, and assignments. No study guide will be provided for the exams.

5. **Movie Analyses Papers** - Families are a popular subject in movies, and many movies have explored topics we will cover in this class, including non-traditional family structures, family crises, sibling relationships, aging, and health. Two 5-6 page (double spaced plus references) movie analysis papers will be written in this course. The first movie analysis will be of a movie chosen by the instructor. The second analysis will be of a movie of each student’s choice. This will NOT be a movie review; rather, this assignment will be your opportunity to merge theory and research with popular culture by applying scholarly theory and research to the film content. A separate assignment page on Canvas describes the details for this assignment.

6. **Grading** – Grades will be assigned using a point system. The maximum points available for each course component are listed below. I do not grade on a curve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Component</th>
<th>Points Available</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Posts (12)</td>
<td>15 points each (180 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Quizzes (12)</td>
<td>10 points each (120 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examinations (2)</td>
<td>100 points each (200 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Analyses (2)</td>
<td>50 points each (100 points)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE** 600 POINTS

The final grades will be assigned as follows (based on your points earned above; Canvas calculates this):

- **A** = 93 – 100%
- **A-** = 90 – 92%
- **B+** = 87 – 89%
- **B** = 83 – 86%
- **B-** = 80 – 82%
- **C+** = 77 – 79%
- **C** = 73 – 76%
- **C-** = 70 – 72%
- **D+** = 67 - 69%
- **D** = 63 – 66%
- **D-** = 60 - 62%

**Class Expectations**

1. **Academic Integrity** – All work turned in for this course must be original. Do not submit work that has already been turned in for another course or for a previous semester of COMM 3120. The Department of Communication encourages honest scholarship and follows the University guidelines for academic integrity. [http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html](http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html) University Code: [http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html).
SECTION V: STUDENT ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Section V. A. … students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating.

Section V. B. A student who engages in academic misconduct may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate.

Turnitin will be utilized for all assignments as a plagiarism detection service. Guidelines on how to cite sources and create a reference page are available on the Canvas course. If you have questions about proper citation or plagiarize, please contact the instructor.

2. Completion of Assignments/Examinations – Students are expected to turn in assignments on Sunday at 11:59pm on Canvas. Late assignments will not be accepted and will automatically receive a zero. Make-up examinations will not be given as you have several days available to take the exam.

You are responsible for submitting the assignments on time. It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in this course. Equipment failure is not an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments.

3. Respectful Interaction – All class participants, including the instructor, are expected to interact in a respectful manner during interactions. Discussion threads, e-mails, and other sources of communication are all considered to be equivalent to classrooms and student behavior within those environments shall conform to the Student Code.

Specifically: posting photos or comments that would be off-topic in a class are still off-topic in an online posting, off-color language and photos are never appropriate, using angry or abusive language is not acceptable, or any other inappropriate use of online etiquette (e.g., all caps, overuse of punctuation, text talk, etc.)

Students will be contacting individually if they violate these expectations.

4. Technology and Communication – Canvas will be used as the classroom of this course. You will be able to find course materials, assignment details, grades, announcements and other items on this site. All assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Please check the site at least three times a week to ensure that you are not missing important details or updates.

Email or office hours are the preferred methods of communication. Please allow 24 hours during the week and 48 hours over the weekend for email responses. Make sure to include your course and name in every email.
5. **Disability Accommodations** – The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. [http://disability.utah.edu/](http://disability.utah.edu/)

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

6. **Content Accommodation Policy** - The University recognizes that students’ sincerely-held core beliefs may make it difficult for students to fulfill some requirements of some courses or majors. It is the student’s obligation to determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with the student’s sincerely-held core beliefs. [http://admin.utah.edu/facdev/pdf/accommodations-policy-background.pdf](http://admin.utah.edu/facdev/pdf/accommodations-policy-background.pdf)

If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a content accommodation from the instructor. Though the University provides, through this policy, a process by which a student may make such a request, the policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal.

7. **Addressing Sexual Misconduct.** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

8. **Additional Items**
## COMM 3120 Family Communication
### Summer 2018 Schedule

**Modules released by Sunday evening**

**Assignments will be due by the following Sunday (last day) by 11:59pm**

**Note- Initial discussion posts are due Friday by 11:59pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Materials</th>
<th>Major Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5/14-5/20</td>
<td>Welcome, Introduction to Course&lt;br&gt;Introduction to Family Communication</td>
<td>Syllabus/ Canvas&lt;br&gt;Ch. 1</td>
<td><strong>(Quiz &amp; Discussion every week)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5/21-5/27</td>
<td>Framework for Family Communication</td>
<td>Ch. 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>5/28-6/3</td>
<td>Family Theories</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>6/4-6/10</td>
<td>Communication Patterns &amp; Creation of Family Identity</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
<td><strong>Movie Analysis #1 Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6/11-6/17</td>
<td>Communication and Family Roles and Types</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6/18-6/24</td>
<td>Relational Maintenance within Families&lt;br&gt;Midterm Exam (Wed. at 7am- Sunday at 11:59pm)</td>
<td>Ch. 5&lt;br&gt;Chapters 1-5; 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>6/25-7/1</td>
<td>Intimacy within Partnerships and Families</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7/2-7/8</td>
<td>Power, Influence, and Decision Making in Families</td>
<td>Ch. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7/9-7/15</td>
<td>Communication and Family Conflict</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
<td><strong>Movie Analysis #2 Due</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>7/16-7/22</td>
<td>Communication and Family Developmental Stresses&lt;br&gt;Family Communication and Unpredicted Stress</td>
<td>Ch. 10&lt;br&gt;Ch. 11</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>7/23-7/29</td>
<td>Family Communication and Well-Being</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>7/29-8/1</td>
<td>Final Exam (Sunday at 7am- Wed. at 11:59pm)</td>
<td>Chapters 6; 8-12</td>
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</tbody>
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**Subject to change**