Communicology 380
(CRN 76920)
Family Communication
Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Bill Sharkey
Office: George Hall 332
Office Hours: T & R 12:30-2pm, W 10-11:30am, and by appointment
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Speech Dept: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/communicology/

Classroom: Webster 104
Time: M, W, & F 12:30-1:20

Required Readings:
All readings found on Laulima.

Course Description: This course focuses upon communication in the family. The course will review major theories, models, concepts, and research findings in family communication and provide the vocabulary necessary to discuss family life matters in scientific terms. Also, the course will expose students to the variety of marital and family forms in contemporary society and provide an experiential understanding of the complexities, challenges, and rewards of family communication research.

Course Objectives:
1. Develop an understanding of the variety of family forms in the US
2. Develop an understanding of the theories used to study and understand family communication
3. Develop an understanding of the models used to describe various marital and family types
4. Develop an understanding of the role communication plays within the family unit
5. Develop an understanding of the dynamics of family interactions within itself and with the external environment
6. Develop an understanding of the role communication plays/ed within your own family by conducting a one-hour interview with a relative who is at least two generations removed from yourself and providing a written analysis of the experience

Attendance: You are expected to show up for class. There is no direct penalty for not attending class; however, you will be missing out on discussions and lecture material. If you miss a class, you are responsible for acquiring notes from a fellow classmate.

Participation: Although no grade will be assigned for participation, those who participate will be given the benefit of the doubt when it comes to borderline final grades (.01 to .05 percentage points). It is expected that you will have read the assigned readings by the day they are listed on your schedule. On that day, you are presumed to have enough knowledge to discuss the concepts in a coherent fashion. You are also expected to ask questions during class and help with discussions about terms, ideas, and theories that will be discussed in class. You will also be randomly called on to explain various concepts and theories and to provide examples to help us all understand family communication.
Opportunities (a.k.a., exams): The opportunities are worth a total of 75% of your grade. Three opportunities will be given. Opportunities will consist of Multiple Choice and Short-Answer Essay Questions. Opportunities are non-cumulative; however, an understanding of previous material is essential to doing well on Opportunity Two and the Final Opportunity.

Relative Interview Paper: (25%) The Relative Interview Paper is designed to offer you an opportunity to get-to-know your family’s communicative history. In this project, you are required to conduct a one-hour interview with a relative who is 2 generations removed from yourself (if none-are living or available, one generation removed can be used). The focus needs to be on communication within the family.

**REQUIREMENTS:**
1. Papers are to be typed following the American Psychological Association’s recommendations for citing books, journal articles, personal communications (i.e., lectures), etc. noted in your. See the following websites for advice:
   b. [http://psychology.about.com/od/apastyle/a/apageneral.htm](http://psychology.about.com/od/apastyle/a/apageneral.htm)
   c. [http://www.docstyles.com/apacrib.htm](http://www.docstyles.com/apacrib.htm)
2. You will be graded in the following manner:
   a. 30% Grammar, mechanics, and spelling
   b. 10% Proper citing in text of paper and Reference page
   c. 20% Organization
   d. 40% Application/Argument
3. Be sure to provide a brief overview of the interview itself and the interviewee (e.g., person being interviewed, relationship to you, day and time span of the interview, and location of the interview)
4. Be sure to apply concepts from class to your interview questions (e.g., roles, conflict management, handling of stress, language differences, rules, adaptability and cohesion, self-disclosure, secrets, story telling, and so on). To be most effective, pick two or three concepts to focus on.
5. Before interviewing the relative, be sure to create a moderate schedule of questions to ask (remember to focus on communication within the family)
6. When writing your paper, be sure to cite information from your readings and/or lecture materials (use APA requirements)
7. You may want to record (audio and/or video) the interview so you are able to use direct quotes accurately
8. Double-space all lines.
9. Staple papers together in the upper left hand corner.
10. Length requirement: 3-4 pages of actual analysis
11. You are encouraged to stop by my office to discuss your papers.

**Final Grading Divisions**

Grades will be assigned on the following basis:

- A+ = 96.5-100; A = 92.5-96.4; A- = 89.5-92.4; B+ = 86.5-89.4; B = 82.5-86.4; B- = 79.5-82.4;
- C+ = 76.5-79.4; C = 69.5-76.4; D+ = 66.5-69.4; D = 62.5-66.4; D- = 59.5-62.4; F < 59.4

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