Welcome to Interpersonal Communication. This course examines how we perceive self and others, how we use information we gather about self and others to guide our interactions, and the essential role of communication in the development and maintenance of human relationships. Our goal is to better understand some of the factors affecting communication in relationships and to appreciate the impact of communication on our relational lives. In this course, we will work to develop a theoretical understanding of human communication processes and to improve interpersonal communication skills.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are:
(1) to enable you to critically examine interpersonal communication events, drawing on theories of communication and essential concepts in the literature.
(2) to help you evaluate your own interpersonal communication skills and to provide you with opportunities to develop and demonstrate competency in interpersonal communication.
(3) to prepare you to work with communication research and literature as needed in upper-division communication classes.

*Reminder about COMM courses: Students seeking to pursue COMM as a major are reminded that they must complete the 1000-level courses and apply to be admitted to the major. Students who choose to take 2500 before admission to the major should know that this class does not increase their chances of admission, and if they are not admitted to the major this course will count as elective credit.

General policies (These are important – please read them!):
1. All class members are expected to constructively engage in class discussions and to display respect for one another.
2. Please turn OFF and put away your cell phone & I-pod (note: “Vibrate” is not the same as “OFF”).
3. Come prepared (read before coming to class) and be ON TIME.
4. It is important to check your CU email and the CU Learn website on a regular basis. If you choose not to use your CU email address, I am not responsible for whether you receive class emails and assignments. See me for a brief tutorial if you are not comfortable using CU Learn.
5. Email and visiting office hours are the best way to reach me.

Required Text & Readings
Articles: The readings listed below are available on CU Learn. You can read and print them from campus or your home computer (they are .pdf files).
(Required Readings, continued)

- You will be reading a minimum of 5 additional academic articles in conjunction with your final project. These will vary depending on your selection of paper topic.

Course Structure

The class will involve both lecture and activity-based learning. Because we want to develop both a theoretical and practical understanding of interpersonal communication, we will need to analyze and practice what we are learning. To do this successfully, you will need to complete the assigned reading before class and come to class prepared to work with the ideas presented in the reading.

Course Assignments

Midterm Exam (100 pts.). The midterm exam will cover the reading and activities from the first half of the semester. The format of the exam will be explained in class and can include multiple choice, short answer, essay questions, case studies, etc.

Final Exam (100 pts.). The final exam will cover the reading and activities from the second half of the semester. The format of the exam will be explained in class and can include multiple choice, short answer, essay questions, case studies, etc.

Semester Project (115 pts. total)

The semester project involves a research report about turning points, or changes across time, in one of three types of relationships (parent-child, roommate, or cross-sex friendships). Using data we collect from students enrolled in COMM 2500, you will examine literature on one of these types of relationships and then analyze the turning point data provided. Further information on this project will be provided in class. You must submit the segments of the project on the assigned dates to earn credit for each segment. Further information about each segment and due dates for each will be provided in class.

> Results of Database Search & Summary (10 pts.) You will conduct a search in on-line databases for research on one of three paper topics about turning points and relational processes. You will turn in APA citations and the article abstracts for 5 articles found in the search. Details to follow.

> Outline of Literature Review (15 pts.) You will submit a full-sentence outline of the information you plan to include in your review of literature after you have gathered and read a minimum of five academic articles related to your topic. This outline provides the foundation for your final project and will allow me to give you feedback about your organization and usage of the literature.

> Draft of Findings and Methods sections (15 pts.). You will provide a draft of the both the methods and findings sections of your paper to allow me to provide you feedback about how to improve your analysis. Details to follow.

> Final Paper (75 pts.). The final paper is a research report based on the data produced in class. It will include all components of a research report including discussion of literature, method, findings, and discussion. This may be completed either alone or with a partner, with required page lengths of 8-10 pages for individuals and 10-12 pages for co-authored papers. FINAL PROJECT DUE TUES, DEC 8.

Discussion Questions for Additional Readings: (25 pts) You will be required to complete and turn in discussion questions for the additional articles we read in class. I will provide the DQs on CULearn. These are due on the date we discuss the reading in class; no DQs will be accepted late for credit. DQs are required to be TYPED.
Participation (50 points total)

Attendance & Class involvement: (35 pts.)

Absences: It is important that you attend class. Throughout the semester, you have two “freebie” absences that may be used for any reason. After two absences, missing class will result in losing 2 points in your participation grade for each absence.

Speaking Up: While I recognize that not everyone is comfortable speaking up in class, please try to be involved in class discussions. This can include answering questions, offering comments, providing examples to support the topic we are discussing, responding to other students, etc. Each member of this class brings a unique perspective to the topic, and the class is benefits by your contributions. At the end of the semester, I will make an overall assessment of your class involvement. Please be aware that this is a safe place for discussion, and disrespecting others’ contributions to the discussion will not be tolerated.

Small Assignments: At times I will assign short assignments in conjunction with the topics we are addressing in class. Instructions will be given at the time of assignment.

Artifacts: (15 pts.) The topics in this class are ubiquitous in our everyday lives. In order for all of us to be attentive to where we come into contact with classroom material, each of you will provide me with two “artifacts” throughout the semester that relate to a topic we have discussed in class. An artifact can be anything ranging from song lyrics to an article in People to an editorial or a movie clip. Please turn in the artifact (or in the case of a movie clip—an explanation) and a one page explanation about how this relates to topics discussed in class. Basically, take the concepts we’ve talked about in class and apply to something you see/hear/experience in your own life. Each person will complete one artifact before the midterm and one after. You will sign up for which weeks to turn them in.

Course Grades

Grade assignment will be as follows: 93% and above=A; 90%-92%=A-; 87%-89%=B+; 83%-86%=B; 80%-77%=B-; 77%-79%=C+; 73%-76%=C; 70%-72%=C-; 67%-69%=D+; 63%-66%=D; 60%-62%=D-; 59% or below=F

Course Policies

Participation/Attendance: Active participation in this course is the best way to build your skills and master the material, but you cannot participate if you do not attend. The participation grade will be based on the quality and quantity of your comments and contributions to class discussions.

Late Work: Except in cases of true emergencies (such as hospitalization), late work will be subject to a penalty of 10% per day for each calendar day it is late, but will NOT be accepted after 3 days. NOTE: Discussion Questions will NOT be accepted after the in-class discussion, as the point is to discuss them as a class.

Missed Exams: If you miss an exam due to extenuating circumstances, you will be expected to complete a make-up exam (which will be different from the original exam) at a time determined by me. You will be expected to provide adequate documentation for your absence.
University Policies

Classroom Behavior Policy: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, Willard 322, http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

Honor Code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/.

Observance of Religious Holidays and Absences from Classes or Examinations: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled examinations, assignments, or required attendance. In this class, I will make every effort to accommodate all students who have such conflicts with scheduled examinations, assignments, or attending class, provided students notify me well in advance of the scheduled conflict.

Sexual Harassment: The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises to create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combinations of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at: http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/.
Course Schedule - Spring 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>General Topics</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Jan 11, 13, 15</td>
<td>Introduction to course; Communication &amp; Competence</td>
<td>Chapter 1&lt;br&gt;◦Friday: Frey et al., Interpreting Communication Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2: Jan 18, 20, 22 NO CLASS MONDAY</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Week 3: Jan 25, 27, 29</td>
<td>Verbal &amp; Nonverbal Communication</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; 4&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: Read project packet&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: Lyman &amp; Scott DQ Due</td>
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<td>Week 4: Feb 1, 3, 5 *Monday: meet in computer lab</td>
<td>Relational Competence&lt;br&gt;*Begin Work on Semester Project</td>
<td>Chapter 5;&lt;br&gt;◦Mon: Baxter &amp; Bullis, Turning Points &amp; project Qs due&lt;br Blasio: Vangelisti DQ due&lt;br&gt;◦Friday: Hardcopy of Data DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: Feb 8, 10, 12 *Friday: meet in computer lab</td>
<td>Role Competence, Controlling &amp; Abusive Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 7&lt;br&gt;◦Friday: what paper topic?&lt;br&gt;◦Friday: Search Databases for articles</td>
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<td>Week 6: Feb 15, 17, 19</td>
<td>Self Competence</td>
<td>Chapter 8&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: DB search/abstracts DUE&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: What is a Lit Review?</td>
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<td>Week 7: Feb 22, 24, 26</td>
<td>Midterm Review on Monday; Midterm on Wednesday and Friday</td>
<td>◦Wednesday: Last day for 1st artifact</td>
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<td>Week 8: Mar 1, 3, 5</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
<td>Chapter 11&lt;br&gt;◦Wed: article about judge in Louisiana</td>
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<td>Week 9: Mar 8, 10, 12 (NO CLASS MONDAY, the 8th)</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
<td>◦Monday: Siegert &amp; Stamp DQ due&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: read &amp; bring project packet&lt;br&gt;◦Friday: Lit Review DUE</td>
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<td>Week 10: Mar 15, 17, 19</td>
<td>Intimate Relationships</td>
<td>◦Monday: in-class “data session”&lt;br&gt;◦Wed: Wood DQ Due&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: Coming out in middle school NY Times article</td>
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<td>Week 11: Mar 22, 24, 26 SPRING BREAK</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS</td>
<td>Take a Breather</td>
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<td>Week 12: Mar 29, 31, Apr 2</td>
<td>Family Interaction Patterns</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13: Apr 5, 7, 9</td>
<td>Family Interaction Patterns</td>
<td>◦Monday: Methods &amp; Findings sections DUE&lt;br&gt;◦Wednesday: Suter DQ due</td>
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<td>Week 14: Apr 12, 14, 16</td>
<td>Cultural &amp; Historical Competence</td>
<td>Chapter 13&lt;br&gt;LAST week for 2nd artifact&lt;br&gt;Friday: Bring anything have for final project paper</td>
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<td>Week 15: Apr 19, 21, 23</td>
<td>Cultural &amp; Historical Competence</td>
<td>Chapter 13&lt;br&gt;LAST week for 2nd artifact&lt;br&gt;Friday: Bring anything have for final project paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16: Apr 26, 28, 30</td>
<td>Cultural &amp; Historical Competence&lt;br&gt;Wrap-up; Prepare for final exam</td>
<td>◦Mon: Final Project Papers DUE&lt;br&gt;◦Fri: Final Exam Review</td>
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**Final Exam Date, SEC 00 (10:00 am class): Saturday, May 1, 1:30 – 4:00 PM**
**Final Exam Date, SEC 00 (11:00 am class): Monday, May 3, 4:30 – 7:00 PM**

**I reserve the right to adjust this schedule as the needs of the class dictate.**