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 elect to take 2500 (COMM 641) prior to admission to the major should know that this course will count as elective credit within the degree if they are not admitted to the major.

Required Text & Readings
Text:

Additional Readings: The four readings listed below will be available on-line. You can read and print them from campus or your home computer (they will be pdf files).

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 as well as any additional assignments. Feel free to email with questions you may have about the material.

Course Assignments

Final Exam (200 pts.). The final exam will be cumulative and include the material from the entire semester. The format of the exam will be like the midterm.

Semester Project (115 pts. total)
The semester project involves a research report about turning points in one of three types of relationships (parent-child, roommate, or cross-sex friendships). Using data that has been collected from students enrolled in other COMM 2500 classes, you will examine literature on one of these types of relationships and then analyze the turning point data provided.

This assignment will have four sections. You will turn in the “Outline of Literature Review” and the “Draft of Analysis” during the course to receive feedback from me. At the end of the semester you will turn in all four sections as one paper. Further information on this project will be provided in the project materials.

Database Search (10 pts.) You will conduct a search in the Psych Info database for research on relational processes. You will select two articles for your project and send the titles to me to approve.

Outline of Literature Review (15 pts.) You will submit a sentence outline of the information you plan to include in your review of literature after you have gathered and read the appropriate academic literature. This outline will allow me to give you feedback about your organization and usage of the literature.

Draft of Analysis (15 pts.). You will provide a draft of the analysis you are undertaking so that I can give you feedback about how to improve your analysis.

Final Paper (75 pts.). The final paper will be a research report that will utilize academic research that you read and analysis of our data to make a claim about a relational processes. The paper should be 8-10 pages.

Chapter Questions (5 pts each = 25 pts)

Questions for Articles: (5 pts. each = 15pts. total)

Writing Assignment (10 pts.)

Participation (45 points)

Note about participation:
Obviously participation cannot be assessed in an online class the same way that it can be assessed in a face-to-face class. There is naturally no attendance or class involvement
grade, but this does not mean that participation is not important. Given that this course is about interpersonal communication, I think that it is important to have an element of interpersonal participation. With this in mind, I have created a few ways of helping you engage with the material outside of the computer. These exercises will require your participation, and will therefore be the participation component of your grade. Please read them carefully as they may be unfamiliar.

Film Analysis (10 pts. each = 20 pts)

Please note:
In unit 1 you will need to rent the film *Spanglish*.
In unit 4 you will need to rent the film *Dan in Real Life*.

Discussion Journal (25 pts.)

This assignment is design to provide some human interaction with the material that we are studying. In each unit you will have a few questions provided for you that you need to discuss with someone. You will choose a question or two, and find a friend/family member/stranger to have a conversation with about the question. Engage them in any way that you would like. Feel free to explain a concept, talk about a difficult theory, ask their opinion, or just chat about one of the things you find interesting. (I trust you will find things interesting!)

You need to write down 1 page of notes about your discussion, and you need to include the person’s name and contact information that you talked to. Enjoy this. It is supposed to be fun!

**Course Grades**

Grade assignment will be as follows: 93% and above=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-; 59% or below=F

**Point Values for Assignments are as follows:**

**Possible Points**
Final Exam 200
Semester Paper 115
Chapter Questions 25
Article Questions 15
Writing Assignment 10
Film Analysis 40
Discussion Questions 50

**Total Possible Points** = 455

**Course Policies**

*Submitting Assignments:*
Please submit all assignments through CULearn.
Please note that you should submit assignments as a unit, not as individual pieces. At the end of each unit, you will have a list of what needs to be turned in for that unit. Please turn all of the assignments in together in a unit.

**Contacting Me:**
Please contact me through CULearn. I do not want your email to get lost in the vortex of my regular email.

**Disability Accommodation:** If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (303-492-8671, [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)). Course material moves very quickly in Maymester classes, and you will need to have your accommodations in place quickly.

**Academic Integrity:** Students in this class are expected to abide by the CU Honor Code, which states that students are not to give or receive inappropriate assistance on classroom work. Cheating on exams, plagiarism, inappropriate help, and any other behavior that is deemed to violate the honor code will be reported to the university honor code council for action and will result in action deemed appropriate by the instructor, including re-submission of work with a reduced grade, a failing grade on the assignment, or a failing grade in the course.

*Cheating* is defined by the honor code as “using unauthorized materials or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise” (CU Catalog, 2003-2004, p. 42).

*Plagiarism* is defined by the honor code as “the use of another’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement. Examples of plagiarism include: failing to use quotation marks when directly quoting from a source; failing to document distinctive ideas from a source; fabricating or inventing sources; and copying information from computer-based sources, i.e., the Internet” (CU Catalog, 2003-2004, p. 42). The full text of the CU Honor Code is available at: [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/)

### Course Schedule

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| Final Project   | Cumulative Exam         | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------| | | | | |
| Final Exam      | | | | | | |
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| Final Exam | | | | | | |

| Final Exam | | | | | | |

| Cumulative Exam | | | | | | |

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