

## SP 381 – Interpersonal Relations

Fall 2003

Instructor: Dr. Michelle A. Mazur

Class Meeting: TR 12:00-1:15

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### OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to acquaint you with the major theories, concepts, principles, and research findings in interpersonal communication. We will examine how we perceive ourselves and others, how we use information we gather about ourselves and others to guide our interaction, how our interactions are influenced by social roles and expectations, and the essential role of communication in the development, maintenance, and dissolution of human relationships.

#### After completing this course:

1. To have a better understanding of the factors affecting communication in relationships.
2. To increase appreciate the impact of communication in our relational lives.
3. To critically examine interpersonal communication events, drawing on theories of communication and essential concepts in the literature.
4. To evaluate your own interpersonal communication skills
5. To develop and demonstrate competency in interpersonal communication.

### TEXTS

Knapp, M. L. & Vangelisti, A. L. (2000). *Interpersonal communication and human relationships* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Needham Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

### CLASS FORMAT

Class periods will consist of lectures, discussions, and in-class analyses of relational communication episodes and discussions of out of class homework activities. As an advanced seminar for majors, the course format is intended to maximize opportunities for the exchange of ideas and critical analysis. Active participation in class discussions is therefore expected. Assigned readings should be completed PRIOR TO EACH CLASS SESSION. In most cases, the readings are designed to parallel the week's lecture content. However, you are responsible for readings not covered in class.

## CLASS POLICIES

**Appointments and Office Hours:** Appointments are a privilege. Do not abuse it. You must come prepared with materials and questions to ask prior to meeting with the instructor. Otherwise, it wastes the instructor's time and other student's time. Plan early for appointments. Last minute appointments may NOT be accommodated.

**Attendance and Other Course Policies:** Although attendance is not formally mandated, it is expected for at least three reasons. First, missing class lecture will put you at a serious disadvantage for the exams since some of the course material you will be tested on is not found in the textbooks. Second, you may not make up missed assignments or class activities if you are absent (unless prior arrangements are made or extraordinary circumstances occur). Third, you'll miss out on the educational experience and we'll miss out on your contribution to the class! If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate.

Course 'handouts' such as study guides, assignments, and miscellaneous reminders will be distributed via the course web site. If you choose to not obtain access to the web site, it is your responsibility to ask a classmate to print out any course materials for you. Where final averaged grades are borderline (i.e., less than half of a percentage point from the next grade), participation in class discussions and overall cooperation will be taken into account.

**Written Requirements:** In general, all work turned in for credit must be typewritten, use double-spacing throughout, use a standard font type and size, and contain one inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom of each page. All work that does not conform to these requirements will be considered late. Students should avoid language that is sexist, racist, and ageist in their writing and speaking.

**Written Assignment:** All written assignments should be sent to me ([mmazur@hawaii.edu](mailto:mmazur@hawaii.edu)) via electronic mail. Attach the assignment as a Microsoft Word document. Title the attached document with your LAST NAME (e.g., Mazur.doc). Assignments are due via email BEFORE the beginning of the class period in which they are due. Activities not turned in (emailed) at this time will be given ZERO credit. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Exceptions may be made for MAJOR medical and MAJOR personal problems when the instructor has been given notification at the first possible opportunity. Excused absences must be documented (e.g., doctor's note on official stationery) and turned in on the first day of your return to class. All missed work due to an excused absence must be turned in within one week of your return to class.

**Academic Integrity:** The mission of a university can only be accomplished in an environment where academic integrity is valued. The Code of Student Conduct states that academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe, and I will do all I can to see that violations are severely punished. **If anyone is determined to have cheated, plagiarized, or misrepresented work in this class, the best he or she can hope for is failure in the course. I will additionally recommend to the Department Head or hearing committees that the person be suspended or expelled from the University.** Papers submitted for credit in other classes may NOT be submitted for credit in this course. You are expected to have full knowledge of the University's Student Conduct Code.

A copy of the code may be obtained at the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Services Center, Room 409.

**Miscellaneous:** Before coming to class, please turn **OFF** all pagers and cellular phones. Cell phones or pagers that ring during class will cause the owner to lose 2 points off their final grade for every infraction. The ringing of cell phones in class is your instructor's biggest pet peeve. Expect this rule to be strictly enforced.

Your instructor's second biggest pet peeve is people who come to class late. It is your responsibility to show up for class on time and ready to learn. Do everything in your power to arrive to class on time.

## GRADING SYSTEM

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Midterm and Final Examinations:** Both exams will cover lecture and reading material from the course. Exam questions will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in items. The final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled final exam period and will cover lecture and reading material from the second half of the term.

**Assignments:** The writing assignments involve an analysis of relational development in the film "*When Harry Met Sally*" and an analysis of one of your own interpersonal relationships.

**Class Participation:** Since this is an upper-division seminar, you will be expected to be prepared each class period (i.e., have read and thoroughly 'digested' the readings prior to class) and be willing to contribute meaningfully to class discussion. There will also be activities conducted inside and outside of the classroom. The total number of points earned for activities and participation will be determined once all activities and assignments are completed.

**Research Participation:** UH is designated as a Research 1 institution and the mandate of our faculty is to generate new knowledge as well as teach the knowledge generated by others. Hence, participation in research projects is an integral aspect of this process. Your cooperation allows us to investigate a variety of communicative phenomena and, in turn, share our findings with you, our colleagues, and the outside community. This is a very serious and exciting obligation. We hope you conscientiously take part in this opportunity.

## POINT SYSTEM

Each graded assignment earns points, not letter grades. However, your final grade will be a letter grade. This grade will be awarded as follows:

**A** = 1000 - 900   **B** = 899 - 800   **C** = 799 - 700   **D** = 699 - 600   **F** = 599 - 0

		<b>POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>POINTS EARNED</b>
<b>I.</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</b>	200	_____
<b>II.</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b>	200	_____
<b>III.</b>	<b>WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS</b>	450	_____
	<b>A.</b> Key(s) to a Successful Relationship (200)		
	<b>B.</b> Relationship Analysis (250)		
<b>IV.</b>	<b>RESEARCH PARTICIPATION</b>	10	_____
<b>IV.</b>	<b>CLASS PARTICIPATION</b>	40	_____
			_____
	<b>GRAND TOTAL POINTS</b>	1000	_____

**Tentative Schedule for SP 381** (Please note that sometimes it is necessary to make changes in the schedule in terms of material to be covered. Changes will be announced in class).

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter Readings
#1	8/26	Welcome and Course Overview	
	8/28	Definitions of IPC	1
#2	9/2 & 9/4	Conceptualizing Relationships & Relationship Development	2
#3	9/9 & 9/11	The Self & Interpersonal Needs	3
#4	9/16 & 9/18	Cultural & Gender Differences	4
#5	9/23 & 9/25	<b>No Class on 9/23;</b> Nonverbal Communication	5
#6	9/30 & 10/2	Communication Rules & Norms	6
#7	10/7 & 10/9	<b>Review &amp; Midterm Exam</b>	
#8	10/14 & 10/16	Theories of IPC	
#9	10/21 & 10/23	Emotions: Liking & Loving	7
#10	10/28 & 10/30	Self-Disclosure & Privacy	8
#11	11/4 & 11/6	Intimacy & Commitment	9
#12	11/11 & 11/13	<b>No Class Tuesday: Veteran's Day</b> Terminating Relationships	10
#13	11/18 & 11/20	Destructive Patterns	11
#14	11/25	More on Destructive Patterns	
	11/27	<b>Holiday: Thanksgiving</b>	
#15	12/2 & 12/4	Effective Communication	12
#16	12/9 & 12/11	Conclusion and Final Examination Review	

**Final Examination: Tuesday, December 16 12:00 – 2:00**