

## COURSE SYLLABUS

COM 486  
**Family Communication**  
Three Credit Hours  
Fall, 2009  
Online

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A study of the contemporary family and the role of communication in the family. *Prerequisite:* COM 286, Interpersonal Communication.

Textbook: LePoire, B. A. (2006). *Family Communication*. Sage Publications.

### Course Calendar

Week of	Topic	Readings in Text
08/24-08/28	Families, Communication, and Family Communication	Chapter 1
08/31-09/04	(Continuation of Chapter 1)	
09/07-09/11	Family Forms	Chapter 2
09/14-09/18	(Continuation of Chapter 2)	
09/21-09/25	Theoretical Approaches	Chapter 3
09/28-10/02	(Continuation of Chapter 3)	
10/05-10/09	Forming the Family: Two become One	Chapter 4
10/12-10/16	(Continuation of Chapter 4)	
10/19-10/23	Adding Children	Chapter 5
10/26-10/30	Nurturing and Controlling Communication with Children	Chapter 6
11/02-11/06	Nurturing Marital Communication	Chapter 7
11/09-11/13	(Continuation of Chapter 7)	
11/16-11/20	Conflict and Violence in the Family	Chapter 8
11/23-11/27	Dealing with Undesirable Behavior	Chapter 9
11/30-12/04	(Continuation of Chapter 9)	
12/07-12/11	Family Communication: A Summary	Chapter 10

### Course Objectives:

- To develop the student's advanced research skills.
- To develop the student's research reporting skills.
- To develop the student's concept of family.
- To develop the student's understanding of cultural variation in the nature of families.

- To develop the student's family communication skills.
- To develop the student's ability to assess the dynamics of family interactions.

#### Student Responsibilities:

1. Blackboard assignments are posted for each of the sixteen weeks of the class. **\*\*You must do ALL of them to pass the course.\*\*** This means that regardless of the number of points you collect, failure to complete even one assignment is to fail the course. Each of the assignments will have a deadline, although it may not be the end of the week. Even so, do not put the assignments off until the last minute, since you will find it impossible to keep up if you do.

#### Class Assignments:

1. In addition to reading the textbook as assigned doing the weekly assignments, you will be required to prepare a **paper on any issue having to do with communication in the family.**
2. A one-page summary proposal for the paper, including an initial bibliography, is due on **Monday, October 12, 2007.**
3. The paper should be 10-15 pages in length (double-spaced) and should include a list of references. It should be word-processed according to the guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.
4. **NB:** Failure to cite the sources in your list of references within the text of the paper is plagiarism.
5. The paper is due on **Friday, December 4, 2009.**
6. You will submit this paper electronically through the *turnitin* function of Blackboard.
7. More information on the paper assignment will be forthcoming.

#### Grading System:

1. The weekly assignments carry different values, which are indicated along with each.
2. The **paper** is worth 100 points.
3. There are no quizzes or tests in this course.
4. The grading scale is as follows: 90-100% A; 80-89% B; 70-79% C; 60-69% D; 59% or below F.

#### Graduate Students:

This course may be taken for graduate credit by graduate students. Graduate students enrolled in the course will be expected to meet **additional** requirements as follows:

1. Demonstrate an extensive familiarity with the research literature in family communication by submitting a comprehensive annotated bibliography on a subarea of the field (e.g., child-parent communication, intergenerational communication).
2. For the assigned paper in the class, submit work that is 20-25 pages in length and which thereby demonstrates a more comprehensive account of the chosen topic.

3. The grading scale for graduate students is as follows: 95-100% A; 87-94% B; 80-86% C; 74-79% D; 73% or below F.