

COURSE SYLLABUS

COM 4386

Family Communication

Three Credit Hours

Fall, 2011

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 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. Online 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. All references for your paper should be original research appearing in scholarly journals, such as the ones used by the author of your textbook (see the References at the back of the book).
3. The paper should be about 10 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*, 6th Ed. ***A shortcut: Refer to your**

textbook, both within each chapter for internal citations and in the References list, for examples of proper citations.

4. **NB:** Failure to cite the sources in your list of references within the text of the paper is plagiarism.

Grading System:

1. The **weekly assignments** are each worth 10 points.
2. The **paper** is worth 100 points.
3. There will be a **midterm and a final exam** each worth 100 points. Questions will be multiple-choice and true/false types.
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 about 20 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.