

## TOPNET COURSE SYLLABUS



# Interpersonal Communication COMM 348

Dr. Ellen W. Bonaguro



### **Interpersonal Communication**

COMM 348

Online Course

Spring 2018

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Students that have taken this interpersonal communication class have commented that they had never examined or analyzed communication within relationships before this course. They also shared that this course altered their understanding of why people behave differently in relationships. Students use the information gleaned in this course (from concepts, theories, and research findings) to understand their own relationships and to also improve their own communication behavior. With your full cooperation, I believe you will feel the same way at the end of this course. We will examine the complexity of everyday interactions and how they impact the quality of our lives. Interpersonal communication is one of the most important disciplines in the study of the field of communication. You will discover this for yourself as you read our text, supplemental readings from interpersonal communication researchers, engage in class activities/discussions, and complete assignments that will help you develop your understanding of the importance of interpersonal communication in a variety of different contexts.

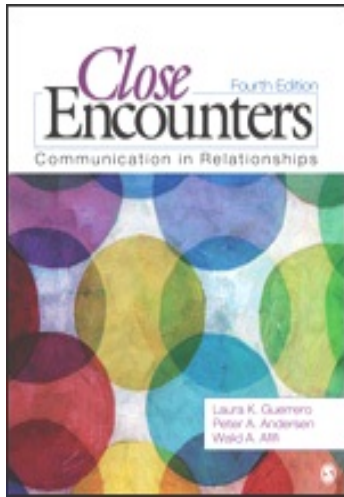
### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- Know, understand, and be able to articulate the definition, realm, and scope of interpersonal communication and relational communication.
- Explore the origins of the study of interpersonal communication.
- Demonstrate competence and an ability to assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of interpersonal strategies used in various interpersonal relationships.
- Comprehend effective ways to listen and manage conflict.
- Make connections between what you learn in the course and what you experience in your own relationships.

- Demonstrate an increased awareness of interpersonal communication theories and how they influence communication behaviors.
- Be introduced to and practice analyzing interpersonal research.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Guerrero, L., Andersen, P., & Afifi, W. (2014). *Close encounters: Communication in relationships* (4<sup>th</sup> ed). Los Angeles: SAGE



“Taking a relational approach to the study of interpersonal communication, this best-selling text helps students better understand their relationships with romantic partners, friends, and family members. The authors offer research-based insights and content illustrated with engaging scenarios to show how state-of-the-art research and theory can be applied to specific issues within relationships—with a focus on issues that are central to describing and understanding close relationships.

While maintaining the spotlight on communication, the authors also emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of the study of personal relationships by including research from such disciplines as social psychology and family studies.

The book covers issues relevant to developing, maintaining, repairing, and ending relationships. Both the “bright” and “dark” sides of interpersonal communication within relationships are explored.”

<http://www.sagepub.com/books/Book237471>

Other supplemental readings available on Blackboard (BB)

**FORMAT:** This course combines assigned readings, learning modules, class discussion boards, activities, exams, and papers to examine the important role communication plays in interpersonal relationships. It is necessary for you to complete all assignments. Original work is used for every assignment.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**REQUIRED BLACKBOARD SITE:** Go to the WKU homepage and click on the Blackboard link. Log on using your WKU ID and password. Then click on COM 348. Course assignments, PowerPoint presentations, assignments, announcements, class discussion boards and grades will be available through this website.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** If you are experiencing technical difficulties with Blackboard, immediately call the WKU IT Help Desk (270-745-7000). You can also visit <http://www.wku.edu/helpdesk> for assistance. I am unable to solve Blackboard issues as

the program is monitored by Information Technology, and they are the best source of help regarding technical difficulties.

**REQUIRED SKILLS FOR ONLINE COURSE:** In order to be successful in this class you need to be able to have regular access to a computer that can handle all the functions in Blackboard. You must be able to navigate all the features in Blackboard in order to access your work and complete your assignments. Know how to create, send, open, close, and save files and attachments with Microsoft applications. We will use all BB features in this course.

**PARTICIPATION POLICY-**Successful online learning requires active participation and to “attend to” the course requirements in a timely manner. Participation is defined as signing in to the COMM 348 Blackboard site, completing readings and other assignments. Your participation is tracked on Blackboard. Expect substantive participation in this course.

**ONLINE CIVILITY-**Our online classroom climate must be comfortable and respectful for all of us. In this class it is especially important that we show respect to one another. Stories about experiences related to this topic may be personal in nature and we need to be sensitive and confidential with this information. Respond in a professional manner in all your online interactions (including E-mail). Please avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom community.

**COMMUNICATION-**this is a very important part of our class. Not only are we studying about communication we are relying on it as a means for you to be successful in completing an online course. E-mail (**sent only from your WKU E-Mail address**) is **the best way to contact me** and it is important to put COMM 348 in the subject header, write your message using correct grammar and spelling, and sign the email with your name. Please don't send me long e-mails. Send me your name, a phone number that I can reach you at, and a short message by e-mail. I will always try to get back to you as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours during weekdays.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Do your own work. In this course we will use an electronic plagiarism detection tool (SafeAssign) available through Assignments in Blackboard. Any student found guilty of plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, purchasing papers, or any other assignments will immediately receive a failing grade for the course (not a withdrawal), and will be reported for disciplinary action. Please read the *WKU Student Handbook*. (<http://www.wku.edu/handbook/>). Make sure that all assignments and tests are your work and done independently from other students. Never use material that has been graded for a previous assignment in this course or any other course.

**TITLE IX MISCONDUCT/ASSUALT STATEMENT:** Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at

<https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and

Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at

[https://wku.edu/policies/hr\\_policies/2040\\_discrimination\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf).

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, 270-745-5429 or 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

**ADA ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT-:** In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

**ASSIGNMENTS:** All assignments are due on the date specified in the tentative course outline. There is NO make-up work in this course. Please review the course schedule and note when work is due so that you don't miss assignments or exams. Written work must be in a standard Microsoft Word format including 12 point font, double spacing, and 1 inch margins at the top, bottom, right, and left sides. Please review APA style for all your writing assignments. Many resources for APA formatting are available in our Blackboard site.

**STUDENT ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE:** Please take advantage of all the additional academic support available to you at WKU. Use The Writing Center (Cherry Hall 123, 745-5719) <http://www.wku.edu/english/writingcenter/writingcenter.php> and have a tutor help you with your writing assignments. For help on APA Formatting visit: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> our text also uses APA style. There is also a handout, APA Shortcuts available on BB for you under the info tab.

**COURSE ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING (points)**

Four Short Papers @ 25 points each	100
Discussion Boards (DB) 4 @ 15	60
Interpersonal Communication Self-Analysis	100
Minitests (10 @ 10 points)	100
Four Exams @ 50 points each	200
Total:	560

<b>GRADING SCALE</b>
A= 504 - 560
B= 448 - 503
C= 392 - 447
D= 336 - 391
F= 335 and below

**2018**