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| DFST 3313-001: Interpersonal RelationshipsSpring 2015 |

Instructor

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday- 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, Wednesday- 11:00 am-1:00 pm, and by appointment.

**Class Meeting Time:** Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 – 10:50 am

**Class Meeting Place:** Curry 203

**Required Textbook:**

Knapp, M. L., Vangelisti, A. L., & Caughlin, J. P. (2013). *Interpersonal communication and human relationships* (7th ed.). Boston: Pearson Education Inc.

**Course Description**

The study of interpersonal relationships in a variety of contexts, such as parent-child relationships, romantic relationships and peer relationships.

**Course Objective**

The overall objective of the course is to develop students’ understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of issues which influences relationships and individual well-being as they appear in social interactions and setting. After completing this course, students will be able to:

* Recognize stabilizing and destabilizing behavior patterns related to relationship longevity and health.
* Identify sources of stress and support in relationships.
* Explain and discuss how aspects of individual development influence personal interactions.
* Compare and contrast the effectives and utility of different strategies for developing and maintaining healthy interpersonal relationships.
* Describe how social contexts influence interpersonal relationships.
* Evaluate information about relationships and families present in popular culture and media sources as well as the implications for relationship development, expectations, and functioning.

**Course Requirements**

1. Students are expected to attend class as scheduled. If you think you will need to miss a lot of classes or you are just not interested in attending class, it is suggested that you drop this class as soon as possible. Material for the exams will be both from the material in the book as well as any material covered in class.
2. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and participate in class. In addition to the readings listed in the syllabus, there will be additional readings assigned that will be posted on Blackboard at https://ecampus.unt.edu. If you do not regularly check Blackboard, you will miss important information such as handouts and announcements. Many of these additional resources are not required, but simply ***recommended*** in order to help you better understand the concepts and topics discussed in class. Some of these resources are required readings (see the notes below the course schedule on page 4).
3. **In-Class Assignments:** During the semester, 10 short written assignments will be completed during class. These assignments will not be announced in advance and you must be in class to complete them;no make-up opportunities will be available. In-class assignments will be worth **10%** of your final grade.
4. **Outside Activities:** Throughout the semester, 5 activities (out of 8) outside the classroom will be completed. You may complete more than 5 but only your top 5 grades will count towards your final grade. These activities will require you to reflect on your interactions and beliefs about a variety of relationships. The instructions for each assignment will be posted on Blackboard. These activities are due at multiple dates during the semester. Individual grades from each completed activity will be added together (20 points for each activity) and that total is worth **20%** of your final grade. No late papers will be accepted.
5. **Relationship Interviews:** Choose two individuals (one within the family, one outside of the family) to interview that you share a close relationship with. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The relationship interviews are due on **Thursday, March 26th**. The relationship interviews are worth **20%** of your final grade and no late papers will be accepted.
6. **Movie Analysis:** Students will select and review two films which primarily focus on a specific type of relationship, such as parent-child, romantic, peer, etc. Then, using one theory presented in class, students will analyze how the relationships in each film are depicted. More information and a grading rubric will be posted on Blackboard. The movie analysis is due on **Thursday, April 30th.** The movie analysis is worth **20%** of your final grade and no late papers will be accepted.
7. Two tests will be given throughout the semester (see the dates on the schedule). Each exam will be worth **15%** of your final grade. Tests may include a variety of question types including all or some of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and short answer/essay. Legitimate reasons for missing an exam include medical, judicial, or serious personal events that truly do not allow you to take the exam. If you miss an exam, you will be asked to provide documentation to support the reason for your absence. The makeup exam may be different from the exam given in class and may include different question types (including essay questions). **The final exam is on Thursday, May 14th from 8:00 – 10:00 am.** Make-ups for the final exam will only be given in case of emergency and with prior notice.

Success in this course on all the aforementioned requirements is your choice! If you choose to be successful, I will be happy to help you. If you do not choose to be successful, I will honor your choice. Every student has the potential to succeed in this class.

**Course Evaluation**

In short, final grades will be based on the following:

In-Class Assignments 10%

Outside Activities 20%

Relationship Interviews 20%

Movie Analysis 20%

Midterm 15%

## Final Exam 15%

Total 100%

The following grading scale will be used:

90-100% A  
80-89% B

70-79% C

60-69% D

Below 59% F

**Academic Integrity and Professional Conduct**

It is expected that students will conform to the University of North Texas Code of Student Conduct and Discipline as outlined in the undergraduate catalog and online through the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities. This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. All transgressions will be treated most seriously and in accordance with the recommendations of the policy as published.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. This includes displaying respect for peers and faculty, accepting personal responsibility for coming to class, maintaining class notes, and completing given assignments.

**Special Circumstances**

The Department of Educational Psychology cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodations to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 5-4 of the Rehabilitation Act. Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation because of a disability (learning disability, attention deficit disorder, psychological, physical, etc.), please provide the request in writing to the instructor on or before the 6th day of class.

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| DFST 3313-001: Interpersonal Relationships (Topics and dates are subject to change) | | | |
| **Date** | **Topic** | **Reading** | **Assignment due** |
| January 20 | Introduction to the Course | Syllabus |  |
| January 22 | Understanding Relationships | \*Erber & Erber (2011; Ch. 1) |  |
| January 27 | Theories and Intimate Relationships | Chapter 1 |  |
| January 29 | Communication | \*Duck (2007; p. 40-47) | Activity |
| February 3 | Attachment |  |  |
| February 5 | Peer Relationships/Friendships | \*Miller & Perlman (2009; Ch. 7) |  |
| February 10 | Familial Relationships |  |  |
| February 12 | Familial Relationships |  | Activity |
| February 17 | Romantic Relationships | Chapter 7 |  |
| February 19 | Romantic Relationships | + Hendrick (2004; Ch. 4) |  |
| February 24 | Interpersonal Needs | Chapter 3 |  |
| February 26 | Coming Together | Chapter 2 | Activity |
| March 3 | Coming Apart |  |  |
| March 5 | **Midterm** |  | **Midterm** |
| March 10 | Beyond “Basic” Relationships |  |  |
| March 12 | Beyond “Basic” Relationships |  | Activity |
| March 17, 19 | **Spring Break** |  |  |
| March 24 | Genesis and Foundations of Dialogue | Chapters 5 & 7 |  |
| March 26 | Interaction Rituals | Chapter 6 | **Relationship Interviews** |
| March 31 | Interaction Rituals |  |  |
| April 2 | Power and Control | +Miller & Perlman (2009; Ch. 12) | Activity |
| April 7 | Power and Control |  |  |
| April 9 | **No Class** |  |  |
| April 14 | Maintaining Relationships | Chapter 8 |  |
| April 16 | Maintaining Relationships | Chapter 9 |  |
| April 21 | Relationships in Movies |  |  |
| April 23 | Conflict Across Relationships | \*Erber & Erber (2011; Ch. 13) | Activity |
| April 28 | Conflict Across Relationships |  |  |
| April 30 | Repairing Relationships | + Miller & Perlman (2009; Ch. 14) | **Movie Analysis** |
| May 5 | The Dissolution of Relationships | Chapter 10  + Erber & Erber (2011; p. 262-268) |  |
| May 7 | Building Better Relationships | Chapter 12 |  |
| May 14 | **Final Exam from 8:00 – 10:00 am** |  | **Final Exam** |

\* Additional *required* readings will be posted on Blackboard (under the “Additional Resources” folder; all listed chapters from the course textbook are required).

+ Recommended readings (not required).

**Syllabus Addendum**

The following are important tips/guidelines/requirements that will ensure your success in this class:

1. DO read the syllabus and the assignment guidelines carefully. I do my best to lay everything out for you all in those documents. If you read and follow them carefully, you will successfully complete all the major requirements for the course. Everything you ever needed to know about the class (i.e., course schedule, my office hours, my office location) is provided in the syllabus.
2. If you ever have any questions about anything in the assignment guidelines or other course documents, ASK! I want to help you do well in this class and providing clarification to you all is one way for me to do that.
3. DO check your UNT email. I will send class emails to your UNT account so you either need to access that email account regularly or forward your email to another account that you use. You will miss extremely important information if you do not check the emails I send.
4. At the end of the semester, do NOT ask me to change your grade. That would be unethical and unfair to every student that has earned his/her given grade.
5. Deadlines are deadlines for a reason. I will NOT accept late papers and your paper will be considered late the first minute after class is scheduled to end. For example, if class ends at 12:00 pm, that means that if you try to give me your paper at 12:15 pm, I will NOT accept it. I must have your paper in my hands by the end of class when the specific assignment is due.
6. Do NOT email me your paper. I only accept paper copies brought to me *in class*. If there is an extenuating circumstance, I will consider accepting an electronic copy of your paper. However, whether or not I accept your paper that way is completely up to my discretion and do not simply assume that I will accept it. You need to explain the situation and ask me first.
7. When I return your papers in class, DO pick them up. I will provide feedback on why you received that specific grade. Make sure to look at that feedback before asking me what you did wrong. If I deducted points, I will tell you where and why on the rubric. Use that feedback to make improvements on future papers so that you do not get points counted off again for a similar mistake.
8. When completing a paper, please follow the structure I provide for you in the specific assignment guidelines (if one is provided). This ensures that you are covering the correct material in the correct way.
9. DO NOT TALK IN CLASS. We can all hear you. Even if you think you’re whispering and we cannot hear you, we can.
10. A cold is not a medical emergency. Other minor illnesses like that are NOT medical emergencies and therefore, you will not be granted an excused absence if you miss class for that reason. If you have a true medical emergency, I need documentation of that in order to provide you with an excused absence.