

Interpersonal Communication
Developing and Maintaining Relationships
CMST 131
Fall 2005

Dr. Robert Shuter
JH 418
288-3496

Office Hours: Monday 12:00-2:20
Wednesday 12:00-2:20
Or by appointment

Course Objectives

1. Develop the students' understanding of key interpersonal dynamics that drive relationships.
2. Develop analytical and communication skills that will enhance the students' relationships regardless of social context.

Requirements

1. Analysis of communication in a relationship using principles examined in class.
4-6 pages in length.

Due: Last Day of Class

2. Description of relationship case for examination in class.
It should include:
 - a. Brief description of characters in case.
 - b. Description of an incident that occurred in a relationship (i.e., conflict, argument.)

Due: October 5 2005

3. Mid-term and final exam
4. Group presentation: examination of a specific relationship issue (i.e., inter-role conflict, boundaries) or type of relationship (i.e., father/son, brother/brother) and presentation of findings in class in an animated, creative manner.

Book: Stewart, *Building Bridges, Not Walls* (8th edition)

Absence policy: Five absences. On the sixth absence, the student will be dropped from the class.

Weekly breakdown:

First week:

Communication Theory and Relationship Development
Readings: pp 16-45, 52-55, 75-83, 642-649, 664-681

Second and third weeks:

Relationship Development
Self-Concept and Communication
Readings: pp 170-183, 95-108, 157-166, 184-190

Fourth and fifth weeks:

Disclosure, Empathy, Trust and Metacommunication
Sensitivity Training
Readings: pp 232-240, 241-252, 191-196, 197-207, 208-229
Groups Meet

Sixth week:

Roles and Communication - Gender and Communication: Male/Female, Female/Female,
Male/Male Interactions
Readings: pp 351-362, 363-373, 374-381

Seventh to ninth weeks:

Family Communication
Interpersonal Competition
Readings: pp 442-448, 431-441, 403-414, 471-485, 486-495, 570-577, 289-299, 300-317
Defensive Communication
Conflict Management

Tenth and eleventh weeks:

Intercultural and Transracial Communication
Selected Individual Reports
Readings: pp 109-115, 559-567, 521-533

Twelfth week:

Finish case studies
Group reports