

## **COMM 438 Intimate Communication Spring, 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kathy Werking

**Phone:** 859-265-0445 (not before 8 a.m. nor after 6 p.m.)

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### **In this course you will learn to...**

1. Understand your Enneagram type and apply that understanding to your personal relationships
2. Understand a systems perspective on the family.
3. Communicate more competently in your personal relationships.
4. Gather and analyze data about personal relationships.
5. Apply communication theories to intimate relationship dynamics.
6. Understand your communication style in personal relationships.
7. Understand the connection between vulnerability, shame, and the quality of your personal relationships.

### **Writing Requirements:**

This course requires you to write several essays, reports on your text-based activities, and a final research report based on qualitative data you have gathered. At minimum, you will be submitting 45-50 pages of work during the course. All assignments will be submitted using APA style formatting. You should pay attention to writing mechanics and to the content of your work. I will provide feedback designed to improve your writing abilities.

### **Texts:**

Riso, D. & Hudson, R. (1999) **The wisdom of the enneagram.** New York: Bantam. ISBN: 0-553-37820-1

Gottman, J.M. & DeClaire, J. (2001). **The relationship cure: A 5-step guide for building better connections with family, friends, and lovers.** New York: Random House. ISBN: 0-609-60809-6

Covey, S.R. (1997). **The 7 habits of highly effective families.** New York: Golden Books. ISBN: 0-307-44008-7

Brown, Brene (2012). **Daring Greatly: How the courage to be vulnerable transforms the way we live, love, parent, and lead.** New York: Penguin Books. ISBN: 978-1-101-59499-5

## Course Description

Taking a class on intimate communication on-line may seem like an oxymoron, but the course is filled with activities that you will complete on your own and then apply to your daily relationships with friends, family, and lovers.

**Discussion Board:** (280 points) Student participation in regular discussions is the heart of any online class. Discussions can and should be engaging, interesting, sophisticated, and challenging; however, your contributions will determine whether class discussions are of good quality or mediocre quality. Earn up to 20 points/week by posting to the appropriate Discussion Forum. Your first post is due no later than **Wednesday by 11:59 p.m.** and your second and third substantial messages are due **by 11:59 p.m. Sunday.** Substantial means you address the topic under discussion and comment on what others have posted. Posting your second and third posts means you post two messages at least 24 hours apart. Think of the discussion boards as conversations—be sure you relate what you say to what others have said. Integrate course concepts into your messages. Read the course text prior to posting. Each first post must be at least 150 words in length or about 6-10 lines of text. Your posts to your peers should be at least 100 words in length. Your posts will be graded on their content and on the professionalism of your writing (this includes spelling, grammar, etc.). This discussion will be accessed through Blackboard, via the Discussion Board.

Discussion Forum Issue	Points Deducted
Multiple Grammar, Spelling, and/or Punctuation Errors	3-5
Lack of Appropriate Paragraphs	3
Length of Posts Do Not Meet Minimum Requirements	3-5
First Post Is Late	3
First Post is Missing	10
1 Post To Peers is Missing	5
2 Posts To Peers is Missing	10
First Post Does Not Answer All of My Prompts	5-10
Quality of Responses is Poor	5-10
2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Posts are Late	3

**Blog Comments:** (120 points) I've created a blog that will address issues of relational communication. I will create 2 blog postings each week. You are to post one comment per week on the blog by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday.** Each post is worth 10 points and so must be thoughtful and thorough. The blog link is found in the Tools area of Bb. Each comment should be 100 words minimum.

**Reflection Papers (3):** (150 points) You will write a 5-6 page essay at the end of each of our texts. I will post the assignment specifics via Bb at least one week prior to the due date. All essays must be formatted in APA style.

**Book Club:** (180 points). You will participate in a 9 week book club with your peers. You will read and discuss **Daring Greatly**. Details about this assignment will be posted during the first week of the semester. Much like the discussion forums, you will be posting 3 times per week. Your first post is due by Wednesday, 11:59 p.m.; your second and third posts are due by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. Each post must be at least 150 words in length. Your posts will be graded on their content and on the professionalism of your writing (this includes spelling, grammar, etc.).

**Summary Activities:** (100 points). As you read the texts, you will be submitting 5 short papers (1-2 pages, double-spaced). Your work should summarize the activity's results and provide perspective on what you learned by engaging in the activity. The specific due dates and assignments are listed in your syllabus weekly schedule.

**Research Paper:** (150 points). You will be interviewing people about their relationships in order to apply the course concepts and to learn more about relational life in its different forms. This paper (12-15 pages) constitutes an important part of your class grade and serves as a "final" in that it should tie course concepts together. In addition, the project will provide an opportunity to learn how to conduct research in personal relationships. Specifics will be posted in Bb.

Research Proposal: 10 points  
Interview Guide: 40 points  
Research Report: 100 points

### **Course Structure**

I will act as a facilitator of this class: compiling readings, posting assignments, evaluating your work, and answering questions. In an on-line environment you must take responsibility for your own learning. However, please view me as a resource and ask for assistance if needed.

This course will work very well for individuals who are motivated to log on daily, read independently, and make themselves available for group discussions. For those folks, the results of taking this course will be heightened competency, a feeling of satisfaction for a job well done, and another skill set to list on your resume.

We will start the course by taking a look at a system for learning about yourself and others, the Enneagram. One of our authors, Stephen Covey, observes that in order to become effective in your personal relationships, you must know your strengths and weaknesses. Our readings will then take us through an inventory of the way we try to make connections with others and the steps to building a healthy and effective family unit. The course materials apply to many different types of personal relationships,

regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or racial/ethnic backgrounds. I encourage you to really dive into the readings and the activities—you will be pleased at the insight gleaned and the improvements in your personal relationships! Sharing the information with important others in your life is very helpful too.

I hope you find this course to be informative, useful, and enjoyable!

### **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and SKILLS:**

This course requires that you have DAILY access to a computer with up-to-date software and technology that allows you to easily send and receive emails and view streamed video. Ideally, you should have access to high-speed internet as well. Blackboard functions better with Firefox as your browser.

### **Students enrolled in this course must also be able to:**

1. Successfully submit assignments to Bb.
2. **Quickly** learn to use Bb technology. If you have technical issues, contact Bb Help Desk immediately.
3. Participate in online discussion boards and blogs, as assigned by your instructor
4. KEEP back-up copies of EVERYTHING on your hard drive in the event that your instructor would ask you to resubmit a document or submit a document in hard-copy format. **This includes sent e-mails as well.** TECHNOLOGY DOES FAIL US FROM TIME TO TIME.
5. This is a WR course, so I will be evaluating your use of APA style, grammar, spelling, punctuation, paragraphing, organization of thoughts, as well as the content of all written assignments.

### **Graded Activities**

1. Reflection Papers (3)	150 points
2. Summaries of Activities from Texts (5)	100 points
3. Research Paper	150 points
4. Discussion Board Participation	260 points
5. Blog Postings	120 points
6. Book Club	180 points

**Total**                      **960 points**

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=Below 60%

## Course Policies

1. I do not accept late work unless contacted prior to the due date with a valid reason (sickness, family emergency, etc.). *Please note that, due to their conversational nature, discussion forums and book club discussions cannot be made up.*
2. An instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for that assignment.
3. All assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on the due date. All submitted work must be double-spaced and in APA style.
4. Your name needs to appear on all attachments and e-mails. Do not expect that I will recognize you by your e-mail address. **Also, include the course number and the nature of your e-mail (submission, question, etc.) in the subject heading of your e-mail.**
5. If a grade is not posted on Blackboard, you need to contact me NO LATER than 2 weeks after the assignment has been turned in. After the 2 week period, the grade will not be posted. Blogs will be graded every 2-3 weeks throughout the semester.
6. If you submit the incorrect file to Blackboard, I will not accept second submissions. Make sure you clearly label your file when creating it so you can ensure the proper one gets submitted. Canvas will not open files created in Pages.
7. I expect your contributions to this class will reflect that it is a senior level class. This means you will integrate your readings into your posts and essays, essays and research reports will be submitted in proper APA formatting, and writing will be technically sound (punctuation, paragraphing, grammar, and spelling).

Netiquette: The foundation of effective communication is being “other-oriented.” It is important that everyone has mutual respect for one another in interactions related to this course. Online discussions and emails should be free of racist, sexist, or other unethical language that might make your instructor and others in the online learning community uncomfortable. Refrain from using online discussion boards for anything other than course-related exchanges. **Netiquette should also be extended to your instructor!**

Students who have a disability or condition that may impair their ability to complete assignments or otherwise satisfy course criteria are encouraged to meet with instructor to identify, discuss and document any feasible instructional modifications or accommodations. Please inform instructor about circumstances no later than the second week of the semester or as soon as possible after a disability or condition is diagnosed, whichever occurs earliest. For information and auxiliary assistance, contact: The Disabilities Resource Center, Robbins Hall, Rm. 210, 852-6938, <http://www.louisville.edu/student/dev/drc>

## Weekly Schedule—Readings and Graded Activities Due Dates

Week	Topic	Reading
01/08	Introduction	Do Introductions in Discussion Groups
01/15	Enneagram/ <u>Book Club Begins</u>	R&H pp. 1-68
01/22	Enneagram Cont.	pp. 69-87
01/29	Enneagram Cont.	Types 1-5 (pp. 88-134)
02/05	Enneagram Cont.	Types 6-9 (pp. 135-207)
<b>Enneagram Paper (50 points) Due: 02/18 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
02/12	Relationship Cure	Chaps. 1 & 2
<b>Activity Summary #1 (20 points), pp. 57-62, Due: 02/18 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
02/19	Relationship Cure	Chaps. 3 & 4
<b>Activity Summary #2 (20 points), pp. 101-120, Due: 02/25 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
02/26	Relationship Cure	Chaps. 5 & 6
<b>Activity Summary #3 (20 points), pp. 156-157 Due: 03/04 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
03/05	Relationship Cure	Chaps. 7, 8, & 9
<b>Activity Summary #4 (20 points), pp. 227-228, Due: 3/11 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
<b>Relationship Cure Paper (50 points) Due: 3/25 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
03/19	7 Habits/ <u>Book Club Ends</u>	Habits 1 & 2, pp. 1-111
<b>Activity Summary #5 (20 points) Due: 3/25 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
<b><u>Research Proposal Due: 3/25 by 11:59 p.m.</u></b>		
3/26	7 Habits	Habits 3, 4 & 5, pp. 113-246
4/02	7 Habits	Habits 6 & 7, pp. 247-312
<b><u>Interview Guide Due: 4/08 by 11:59 p.m.</u></b>		
4/09	7 Habits	Conclusion, pp. 313-364
<b>7 Habits Paper (50 points) Due: 04/15 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		
4/16	Last Discussion Forum	
<b>Research Paper (100 points) Due: 4/27 by 11:59 p.m.</b>		