

Cluster	Subject Title	Instructor	Credit	Semester
A-P	Interpersonal Relationships and Communication skills in Multicultural Contexts	Ying-Fen Wang, Ph.D.	2	Summer 2016
<b>Subject Description</b>				
<p>In this course, students will be encouraged to explore their own interpersonal style and read literature on theories of interpersonal relationships, especially attachment theory. Some class time will be devoted to discussion of cultural influences on interpersonal relationships. Students will also be instructed to role play and practice interpersonal communication skills that are useful in facilitating a healthy interpersonal relationship. Through reading, discussing, role-playing, and listening to the instructor's lectures, students are expected to form a solid understanding on impacts of important human relationships on the development and mental health of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.</p>				
<b>Objective</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop an understanding of the theories interpersonal relationships and communication.</li> <li>2. Be aware of your own interpersonal style and the influences of this style on your relationships.</li> <li>3. Acquire skills in facilitating a healthy interpersonal relationship.</li> <li>4. Understand impacts of human relationships on the mental health of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds.</li> </ol>				
<b>Learning Method</b>				
<p>Reading, listening to lectures, participating in experiential activities, discussion, and role-playing, conducting a group presentation, and writing a final paper</p>				
<b>Content</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to goals and requirements of this course; self assessment of your own interpersonal styles</li> <li>2. Introduction to the attachment theory</li> <li>3. Explore the relation between interpersonal relationships and personality</li> <li>4. Interpersonal relationships and interpersonal behaviors Assess the quality of interpersonal relationships important to you</li> <li>5. Interpersonal relationships in your cultural context</li> <li>6. <b>Guest Speaker:</b> A special interpersonal relationship – Counseling relationship in school settings (TBA)</li> <li>7. Interpersonal relationship in action: Role play communication skills that facilitate a healthy relationship</li> <li>8. Self-reflection: Where will you go with your interpersonal relationships from here? Group presentations on interpersonal relationships in multicultural contexts</li> </ol>				

Requirement

1. **Readings.** Students are expected to have completed the readings by the beginning of the class to which they are assigned.
2. **Attendance and participation.** Students are required to attend the class and encouraged to participate in class discussion and activities as much as possible.
3. **In-class Assignments.** Several in-class assignments will be distributed in class. Students are expected to complete them and turn them in at the end of the class or at the time required by the instructor.
4. **Group oral presentation.** Students are expected to collect information/literature regarding interpersonal relationships in their own culture, analyze them using theories/concepts learned in this course, and then conduct an oral presentation in class.
5. **Final report.** Students are required to write a final paper regarding interpersonal relationships in their own culture. Specific details on this paper will be explained at the first class.

Evaluation

Attendance and participation (15%), in-class assignments (25%), group oral presentations (30%), final report (30%)

Textbook and Reference

- Trenbolm, S., & Jensen, A. (2013). *Interpersonal communication* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Publisher: Oxford University Press.
- Verderber, K. S., Verderber, R. F., Sellnow, D. D. (2013). *Communication!* (14<sup>th</sup> ed.). Publisher: Wadsworth Publishing
- Canary, D. J., & Marianne Dainton, M. (2003). *Maintaining Relationships through Communication: Relational, Contextual, and Cultural Variations*. Publisher: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates
- Zandvliet, D., de Brok, P., Mainhard, T., & van Tartwijk, J. (2014). *Interpersonal Relationships in Education*. Publisher: Sense publishers.