

Cluster	Subject Title	Instructor	Credit	Semester
A	Interpersonal Relationships and Communication skills in Multicultural Contexts	Ying-Fen Wang, Ph.D.	2	Winter 2019
<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>				
Reading, listening to lectures, participating in experiential activities, discussion, and role-playing, conducting a group presentation, and writing a final paper				
<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. Assess the quality of interpersonal relationships important to you Interpersonal relationships and interaction styles</li> <li>4. Explore the relation between interpersonal relations orientation and personality</li> <li>5. Principles of Interpersonal communication in different cultural contexts; barriers to cross-cultural communication</li> <li>6. A special interpersonal relationship – Counseling relationship in school settings in Taiwan</li> <li>7. Interpersonal relationship in action: Role play communication skills that facilitate a healthy relationship Self-reflection: How to build healthy interpersonal relationships that you expect?</li> <li>8. Group presentations on interpersonal relationships/communication rules in multicultural contexts</li> </ol>				
<b>Requirement</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Readings.</b> Students are expected to have completed the required readings and readings assigned to them on the first day of class.</li> <li>2. <b>Attendance and participation.</b> Students are required to attend the class and encouraged to participate in class discussion and activities as much as possible.</li> <li>3. <b>In-class Assignments.</b> 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.</li> </ol>				

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 (25%), in-class assignments (25%), group oral presentations (25%), final report (25%)

#### Textbook and reference

(please indicate which are to be provided by instructor and which students need to find by themselves)

The first two articles are required readings, and the rest are optional. Students should be able to find most of these references, except the fourth one which will be provided by the instructor.

1. Keller, H. (2013). Attachment and culture. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 44, 175-194. DOI: 10.1177/0022022112472253 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258144317\\_Attachment\\_and\\_Culture](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/258144317_Attachment_and_Culture)
2. Yum, J. O. (1988). The impact of Confucianism on interpersonal relationships and communication patterns in East Asia. *Communication Monographs*, 55, 374-388.  
<http://japanologie.arts.kuleuven.be/bestanden/Yum,%20June%20ock%20-%20confucianism%20interpersonal.pdf>
3. Wang, C. D., & Mallinckrodt, B. S. (2006). Differences between Taiwanese and U.S. cultural beliefs about ideal adult attachment. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, 53, 192-204. doi: 10.1037/0022-0167.53.2.192  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232532870\\_Differences\\_between\\_Taiwanese\\_and\\_US\\_cultural\\_beliefs\\_about\\_ideal\\_adult\\_attachment](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232532870_Differences_between_Taiwanese_and_US_cultural_beliefs_about_ideal_adult_attachment)
4. Wang, C. D., & Song, Y. S. (2010). Adult attachment reconceptualized: A Chinese perspective. In P. Erdman, & K.-M. Ng (Eds.). *Attachment: Expanding the cultural connections*. New York, NY: Routledge.
5. Yamaguchi, S., & Ariizumi, Y. (2006). Close interpersonal relationships among Japanese: Amae as distinguished from attachment and dependence. In: U. Kim, K. S. Yang, & K. K. Hwang (Eds). *Indigenous and Cultural Psychology*. International and Cultural Psychology. Boston, MA: Springer  
[http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F0-387-28662-4\\_7](http://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007%2F0-387-28662-4_7)
6. Rothbaum, F., Pott, M., Azuma, H., Miyake, K., & Weisz, J. (2000). The Development of Close Relationships in Japan and the United States: Paths of Symbiotic Harmony and Generative Tension. *Child Development*, 71(5), 1121-1142.  
[https://www.jstor.org/stable/1131960?seq=1#page\\_scan\\_tab\\_contents](https://www.jstor.org/stable/1131960?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)
7. You, H. S., & Malley-Morrison, K. (2000). Young adult attachment styles and intimate relationships with close friends: A cross-cultural study of Koreans and Caucasian Americans. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 31, 528-534.  
<http://jcc.sagepub.com/content/31/4/528.short>
8. Lee, Y.-S., Grossman, J., & Krishnan, A. (2008). Cultural relevance of adult attachment: Rasch modeling of the revised experiences in close relationships in a Korean sample. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 68, 824-844.  
<http://epm.sagepub.com/content/early/2008/02/08/0013164407313367.abstract>

#### Pre-course reading and preparation (if any)

1. Search and summarize three journal articles describing or studying characteristics of interpersonal interactions in your country, such as family relationships (father-son, mother-daughter, mother-son, etc.), teacher-student relationships, parent-teacher relationship, etc.
2. Provide a videotape showing typical interactions or communication between two people such as mother-daughter, father-son, teacher-student, parent-teacher, etc.