Bemidji State University

COMM 3130: Family Communication

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 0
Lab Hours/Week: 0
OJT Hours/Week: *.*
Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None
MnTC Goals: None

This course examines how communication functions to develop, maintain, enrich, or challenge family relationships. Topics covered include the meaning of narratives and stories, family roles and rules, decision-making, conflict resolution, exploration of family types, cultural implications of family functioning, societal influences on family functioning, and examining communication changes throughout the family life cycle. Overall, this course is designed to develop understanding of, and ability to, analyze communication within families through theory, research, and experiential application of concepts. [Core Curriculum Goal Area 7]

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/27/2018 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Approaches for Improving Family Communication
2. Communication Across Diverse Family Forms
3. Communication Patterns and Family Functions
4. Communication and Family Conflict
5. Communication and Family Developmental Stresses
6. Couple and Family Typologies
7. Cultural Influences in Family Communication
8. Disclosure and Nonverbal Affection
9. Family Communication and Unpredictable Stress
10. Family Communication and Well-Being
11. Family Stages and Life-Course Issues
12. Family communication processes
13. Intimacy and Barriers to Intimacy
15. Relational Cultures and Communication Patterns that Influence Family Meanings
16. Relational Maintenance
17. Sexuality and Family Communication
18. Societal Implications of Communication on Diverse Family Types
19. Theories for Examining Family Communication
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)
   1. conduct in-depth family communication history interviews in an ethical, culturally sensitive, and respectful manner.
   2. engage in discussions and write about family communication that interprets and challenges stereotypes, cultural issues, policy implications, and social injustices throughout family life development.
   3. identify family types and describe how communication interactions and issues differ among diverse and marginalized families.
   4. analyze class concepts and conduct research about their family-of-origin as related to communication patterns and experiences.
   5. construct a communication statement (personal or other-oriented) of social responsibility and involvement with family and community elders.
   6. utilize course concepts and family communication theories to analyze societal issues that affect diverse families.
   7. explain and apply communication theories and issues related to family development and family interactions through written work and oral presentations.
   8. describe the role of communication and how it affects family functioning throughout the lifespan of a family.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies
   None

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted