# COMM 3130: Family Communication

## A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3  
Lecture Hours/Week: *.*  
Lab Hours/Week: *.*  
OJT Hours/Week: *.*  
Prerequisites: None  
Corequisites: None  
MnTC Goals: Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course examines how communication functions to develop, maintain, enrich, or limit 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. Liberal Education 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. explain and apply communication theories and issues relating to family development and their application to family interactions.
2. conduct in-depth family communication history interviews in an ethical, culturally sensitive, and respectful manner.
3. describe the role of communication and how it affects family functioning throughout the lifespan of a family.
4. engage in discussions and write about family communication that interprets and challenges stereotypes, cultural issues, policy implications, and social injustices throughout family life development.
5. identify family types and describe how communication interactions and issues differ among diverse and marginalized families.
6. analyze class concepts and research with regard to your personal perceptions regarding family communication patterns and experiences.
7. construct a communication statement (personal or other-oriented) of social responsibility and involvement with family and community elders.
8. utilize course concepts and family communication theories to analyze societal issues that affect diverse families.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
4. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted