**COM 115 Study Guide Assignment4: Friendship**

The purpose of this study guide is to help you correctly answer the short answer questions and master the material.

**Remember:**

1) Answer each prompt with complete sentences.

2) Use specific examples based on the scenarios rather than personal experience(s).

3.) Refer to pages 305-312 and 323-331 in your text for guidance.

**Question 1**: You are involved in the same hobby as your college friend. As a young adult in an intercultural friendship, what would you do to maintain that friendship?

*Possible key concepts for discussion:*

Cultural similarities

Cultural differences

Prior intercultural experiences

Affinity-seeking strategies

Uncertainty reduction theory

Relationship maintenance strategies: positivity, assurance, openness, social network. sharing tasks

Relationship talk

*I think I would go with openness and positivity. Openness to open up to talk about how I got into the hobby and what I like most about it to try to break the ice and positivity to try to make it engaging and comfortable for the both of us to further learn more from each other. For example, a couple of months ago one of our new students in the program of Web-Development resulted to also be interested in game development and design. I consider her my college friend because since then we have discussed and learnt together a lot about it. We have had several cultural differences but in the long run we have maintained our friendship in the status-quo since we have been able to communicate through and overcome them by strategically being open about discussing our opinions* *in the topics and giving it a positive attitude even when we have faced each other’s criticism.*

**Question 2:** You are at work, in a professional setting. As an adult, you have a same sex friendship with a co-worker. How will you approach maintaining that friendship

*Possible key concepts for discussion:*

Cultural similarities

Cultural differences

Prior intercultural experiences

Affinity-seeking strategies

Uncertainty reduction theory

Relationship maintenance strategies: positivity, assurance, openness, social network. sharing tasks

Relationship talk

*I always like to be in good terms with the people that surround me. Specifically, at work and in the professional setting, I would go with positivity, assurance at almost all cases. In work both the mood and efficiency with which tasks are addressed makes big differences and finding balance on these two is something I like to emphasize on. Because of that I would most likely try to maintain the status-quo with my co-workers in the balance where we can trust and be dependable towards each other while respecting each other’s private lives outside of work. However, since we will be spending so much time working together I really believe positivity is not only a bonus but to some extent can be a necessity because it can help to keep both of us engaged and responsive towards working on tasks together. You never know when your co-worker might have not been able to rest well and might be un-engaged on the task and a bit positivity, understanding and support is sometimes all they need. Upon writing this answer I realized that another key factor will be task sharing, because when working together it is essential that we work to each other’s weaknesses and strengths and compromise to make the best out of both worlds.*

**Question 3:** In late adulthood, you are on a community group. How will you approach maintaining that friendship with a colleague?

*Possible key concepts for discussion:*

Cultural similarities

Cultural differences

Prior intercultural experiences

Affinity-seeking strategies

Uncertainty reduction theory

Relationship maintenance strategies: positivity, assurance, openness, social network. sharing tasks

Relationship talk

Because it mentions “in late adulthood” I’m feeling like it is someone I have met after having met them previously many years ago back in college.

This is probably a relationship I would want to escalate since it might have de-escalated after several years, or to keep it in the status-quo depending on who the person was. For both cases though I would probably go with relationship talk. The “wow, is been such a long time!” type of line where we can both look back at what our relationship used to be and dig out those memories we shared together years ago. Furthermore, a bit of openness to catch up again with each other because after a few years there’s probably a lot of things to catch up on and positivity to guide us through reviving the mood from back when we first met.