

Health Communication – Spring 2018
Dr. Kandi Walker- Department of Communication
Office: Strickler 305

Office Hours: by appointment

kandi.walker@louisville.edu

Class Information Documents available on Blackboard

Course Purpose:

The primary purpose of this course is to investigate the phenomena of communication, theoretically and practically, as it occurs in health care contexts. Additionally, the notion of what constitutes a health communication context will be discussed. We will also consider how private and public messages both within and without institutions of health affect health care decisions. Finally, an underlying purpose of this course is to provide opportunities for each of you to develop cognitive and behavioral skills essential to providing and obtaining quality health care.

This course is also designated as a “WR” course. Courses designated as “WR” require students to write at least 2400 words in response to several writing assignments. Additionally, the course must include a discipline-based research component as a significant part of at least one of the graded writing assignments. All assignments in this course (with the exception of the group presentation) will require writing.

Objectives of this Course:

The overall goal of this course is to develop an understanding of how speech communication functions to facilitate or inhibit the delivery of health care in a variety of contexts. The specific goals are:

- A. To become exposed to communication, medical, nursing, sociological and psychological literature related to health communication
- B. To develop an understanding of how communication functions in the health setting to improve the delivery of health care
- C. To become aware of potential communication problems existing between various health care providers and to explore how these interaction patterns might affect patient care
- D. To understand the role of interpersonal communication outside the clinical setting as it relates to the healing process and preventative health care
- E. To analyze and interpret health communication scholarship
- F. To apply health communication concepts to original research

Texts:

du Pre, A. (2017, 5th Ed). *Communicating about health: Current issues and perspectives*. New York: Oxford. (DP for short)

Wit. HBO studios starring Emma Thompson. – You can rent this movie or purchase it. It is available at Amazon.com but order it early. You can share a movie with other students. I do have a couple of copies if you want to borrow one.

Recommended Text (not required):

APA (6th Edition) or you may want to find ‘cheat sheets’ of APA such as <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Title IX/Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program ([852-2663](#)), Counseling Center ([852-6585](#)), and Campus Health Services ([852-6479](#)). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students ([852-5787](#)) or University of Louisville Police ([852-6111](#)).

Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University’s Title IX officer. For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide (<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

Special Needs:

Students with special learning needs are encouraged to discuss accommodations needs with me early in the semester. Student may be asked to contact the Disability Resource Center to determine academic accommodations (852-6938).

Attendance:

We will have several in-class exercises and discussions; therefore, your presence is necessary for class. I expect you to contribute to this class. In addition, your contributions to the class will increase the understanding and retention of the class material for you and your classmates. If you are not present for a quiz or in-class exercise you CAN NOT make up those points.

Participation:

There will be many class exercises and quizzes given in class throughout the semester. If you are not in class you can not receive credit. You must be present to earn the points.

Announcements and Class Information:

You are responsible for any announcements given in class concerning changes in due dates, schedule, and/or supplemental readings. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining the notes from a classmate in order to be familiar with information covered that day.

Assignment Due Dates:

All papers and exams must be completed and turned in on the date assigned. If you fail to turn in a paper on time you will lose a letter grade for each day it is late. Papers that are more than five days late will not be accepted and the student will receive a grade of ZERO for that assignment. If you fail to come to class on an exam day, you will receive a ZERO for that assignment, unless an alternate due date has PREVIOUSLY been approved.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a minimum of a ZERO for the assignment.

Plagiarism includes the following:

1. Copying someone else's work and claiming it as your own
2. Paraphrasing someone else's work and claiming it as your own
3. Collaborating excessively with someone and claiming the work solely as your own

Cell Phones and Beepers:

Turn your cell phones and beepers off when you enter the class room unless you have prior approval from me. These interruptions are distracting to your fellow classmates and professor. In honor of my late colleague Ken Hardy, if your phone rings you will be asked to stand and sing, "I'm a Little Tea Pot" or a song decided by the class

Course Requirements and Grading:

Expert for the Day: See handout

Ted Talk: See handout

Participation, Quizzes, and Homework: Over the course of the semester you will have homework assignments. They will consist of writing responses to statements, reactions, or questions. These responses will demonstrate your analytical/critical thinking, synthesizing, and writing abilities. Regardless of the specific issue, you are to focus your writing and ideas on communication theories and concepts. In addition, I will periodically give quizzes during the class. They may be surprise quizzes or announced quizzes. You must be present to earn these points.

Illness Narrative: This assignment will allow you to share and analyze an illness narrative. You will choose someone's illness narrative and analyze his/her story. More details will be given in class.

Health Film Clubs: You will do this assignment in groups of 4 people. You will read, analyze, and discuss one academic based film. See handout for more information

Final Paper: This assignment entails writing a concise, well-articulated argument (in APA format). You will also present your findings to the class at the end of the semester. See handout for details.

Grading Scale:

Wit handout	25 pts
Illness narrative and presentation	50 pts
Class discussion, assignments, & quizzes	200 pts
Expert for the day paper & presentation	25 pts
Ted Talks paper and presentation	15 pts
Film club report and presentation	60 pts
Final project and presentation	<u>125 pts</u>
-	Total: 500 pts

All items in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor with or without prior notification or written confirmation

Grading Scale:

100- 97 – A+	89-87 – B+	79-77 - C+	69-67 – D+	Below 60 = F
96 – 93 – A	86-84 – B	76-74 – C	66-64 - D	
92-90 – A-	83-80 – B-	73-70 – C-	63-60 – D-	

****Contesting Grades - I am willing to go over any assignment or exam with you to discuss any of your concerns. I ask that you abide by three guidelines, all of which make it easier for us to concentrate on your concerns. 1) Wait 24 hours after an assignment/test has been returned to contact me. 2) Please write down your concerns and your backing for these concerns. 3) Please approach me only during office hours or during an appointment that we've scheduled.

Please know discussing your grade in class violates your privacy and doesn't provide an environment where I can adequately focus on your concerns.

Tentative Schedule

Tue, Jan 9	Introduction to course and each other What is Health Communication?
Thur, Jan 11	What is Health Communication? Current Trends in Health Communication Research Read Chapter 1 (DP) Sign up for student presentations and Ted Talks
Fri, Jan 12	Last day to drop/add
Tue, Jan 16	Overview of Different Types of Current Health Care Cultural Conceptions of Health and Illness: Prayer and Placebos Read Chapter 2 and 7 (DP) Student Presentation
Thur, Jan 18	Different Types of Current Health Care Cultural Conceptions of Health and Illness Read Chapter 6 (DP) Student Presentation Discuss Illness Narratives Discuss Final Papers
Tue, Jan 23	Different Types of Current Health Care Cultural Conceptions of Health and Illness Read Chapter 6 (DP) Student Presentation
Thur, Jan 25	Stigma and AIDS (reviewing medical models: biomedical and biopsychosocial) Student Presentation
Tue, Jan 30	Catch Up/In class work day (paper pair/share) Work On: Illness Narratives, Final Papers, Film Clubs
Thur, Feb 1	Patient Communication Read Chapter 4 (DP) Student Presentation *last day to apply for your degree (if you are a graduating senior)
Tue, Feb 6	Patient Communication Read Chapter 4 Student Presentation

Thur, Feb 8	Physician-Patient and Caregiver Perspective Read Chapters 3, 5 (DP) Student Presentation Research Paper Discussion
Tue, Feb 13	Physician-Patient and Caregiver Perspective Read Chapters 3, 5 (DP) Student Presentation Final illness narrative questions
Thur, Feb 15	Research Work Day – no class (good time to finish the illness narrative paper, watch Wit, and/or work on final papers)
Tue, Feb 20	Illness Narrative Presentations
Thur, Feb 22	Illness Narrative Presentations Catch Up/Writing work day/Final paper work day
Tue, Feb 27	Social Support Death and Dying Read Chapter 8 (DP) Student Presentation Reminder – Wit due next class period
Thur, Mar 1	Death and Dying Discuss Wit Read Chapter 8 (DP) Student Presentation Film Clubs if time allows
Tue, Mar 6	Managing Health and Relationships Discuss Research Paper Student Presentation Time with Film Clubs
Wed, Mar 7	last day to withdraw
Thur, Mar 8	Health & Images Read Chapter 11 (DP) Student Presentation Time with Film Clubs
Tue, Mar 13	Spring Break
Thur, Mar 15	Spring Break

Tue, Mar 20	Health & Images and Comm & Tobacco Read Chapter 11 (DP) Student Presentation Time with Film Clubs
Thur, Mar 22	Film Club Presentations
Tue, Mar 27	Film Club Presentations Work on Final Papers
Thur, Mar 29	Health Campaigns & Linking Complexities Read Chapter 13, 14 (DP/YGMS) Student Presentation Discuss Final Papers
Tue, Apr 3	Catch Up Discuss Final Papers Writing Workshop
Thur, Apr 5	No Class – SSCA conference Work on Final Papers
Tue, Apr 10	Writing Workshop Final Paper Presentations
Thur, Apr 12	Final Paper Presentations
Tue, Apr 17	Final Paper Presentations
Thur, Apr 19	Final Paper Presentations All papers due (post final papers to Blackboard)

Tue, Apr 24	My Birthday – I love birthdays!
Tues, May 2	Final exams over and grades are turned in. We can now be Facebook friends (how else will you know where to bring me a car when you are wildly successful or send my family a condolence card when I die?)