

PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND ROUTING FORM

Proposal Title: COMM 320 – Family Communication

Initiating Unit or Individual: Communication area, Dept. of Humanities

Contact Person's Name: Dr. Lon Green e-mail: GreenL@Ferris.edu phone: x2781

Date or Semester of Proposal Implementation: _____

- Group I - A – New degree/major or major, or redirection of a current offering
- Group I - B – New minors or concentrations
- Group II - A – Minor curriculum clean-up and course changes
- XX** Group II - B – New Course
- Group III - Certificates
- Group IV – Off-Campus Programs

Group/Individual	Signature	Date	Vote/Action *
Program or Academic Unit Faculty	<i>Sandy Alspach</i>	9/27/06	<u>7</u> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Department Faculty	<i>Sandy Alspach</i>	9/27/06	<u>4</u> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Department Head	<i>Grant Frida</i>	9/27/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
College Curriculum Committee	<i>Sandy Alspach</i>	10/26/06	<u>5</u> Support Support with Concerns <u>0</u> Not Support
Dean	<i>Matthew G. Di...</i>	20-10-06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
University Curriculum Committee	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/9/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Senate	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/10/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Support with Concerns Not Support
Academic Affairs	<i>[Signature]</i>	11/15/06	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support Support with Concerns Not Support

*Support with Concerns or Not Support must include a list of concerns.

**Vote counts are to be shown for faculty group actions. "X" for administrative actions.

To be completed by Academic Affairs		
President (Date Approved)	Board of Trustees (Date Approved)	President's Council (Date Approved)

REC'D NOV 18 2006

1. Proposal Summary

This is a proposal to add to the regular curriculum a course previously taught successfully as an experimental course. The course focuses on the study of families from a communication perspective; that is, how families create, maintain, and reinforce patterns of interaction through daily communication, activities, story-telling, and other patterned and non-patterned forms of communication behavior in the family. An important goal of the course is to help the student understand how, through communication, we develop, maintain, enhance, or disrupt family relationships.

The course will also provide students with a basic understanding of the theories and practices of family communication by providing a framework for discussing the sociological and psychological aspects of family communication and relating them to daily life, with an emphasis on communication theory and practice. To do so, it will introduce the student to the frameworks of communication as it relates to the family unit and issues such as family intimacy, roles, power, decision-making processes, rule structures, family stressors and conflicts. In addition, the course will expose students to a variety of relational and family forms in contemporary society and will review the complexities, challenges, and rewards of family communication.

The course is not intended to be therapeutic. Students will not be expected or encouraged to discuss or reveal their own family conflicts and challenges, nor will students' personal experiences be discussed or managed during the course. While skills for improving family communication will be an integral part of the course, they will only be introduced and practiced after the necessary theoretical foundation is established.

2. Summary of All Course Action Required*

a. Newly Created Courses to FSU:

Prefix	Number	Title
COMM	320	Family Communication

b. Courses to be Deleted From FSU Catalog:

Prefix	Number	Title
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c. Existing Course(s) to be Modified:

Prefix	Number	Title
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d. Addition of existing FSU courses to program

Prefix	Number	Title
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e. Removal of existing FSU courses from program

Prefix	Number	Title
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*Contact Senate Secretary or UCC Chair if spaces for additional courses are needed.

NEW COURSE INFORMATION FORM*See Sample: Limit to One Page.***Course Identification:**

Prefix:	Number	Title
COMM	320	Family Communication

Course Description:

This course reflects current trends in the theory and practice of understanding the frameworks of communication as it relates to the family unit. Communication in the various forms of relational and family structures will be reviewed and compared, and the complexities, challenges, and rewards of communication in the family will be examined. The course will analyze theoretical frameworks such as family systems theory, social construction theory, and dialectical theory as they apply to the development and continuation of the family unit.

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, the student will be able to

1. Identify and describe key constructs, concepts and theories within the study of family communication.
2. Demonstrate understanding of the impact of systems and dialectical theory on relational development and family structure.
3. Demonstrate understanding of and describe various forms of family structure, their history and cultural connections.
4. Demonstrate understanding of family communication from multiple theoretical perspectives
5. Identify communication functioning within the development process as the family moves from creation of the spousal/relationship/parental unit to the more complex nuclear family with connections to a larger family society, community, and culture.
6. Explore families as unique 'meaning-making' communication systems

Course Outline including Time Allocation:

Proposed schedule:

(This schedule would be consistent with the text chosen for the course: 'Understanding family communication,' by J. Yerby, N. Buerkel-Rothfuss, & P. Bochner (Allyn & Bacon, 2004)

CREATE A NEW COURSE

Course Date Entry Form

FORM F
Create Course
rev. 2/14/05

I. ACTION TO BE TAKEN: CREATE A NEW COURSE

Notes

1. Complete each item in section I and section II.
2. : If this course is to be used as a prerequisite for other university courses, Form Fs that reflect the prerequisite change must be submitted for those courses as well.

Term Effective: a. Semester Spring b. Year 2007 See instructions.

II. PROPOSED FOR NEW COURSE: Complete all sections of this part through Prerequisites. See instructions in manual for further clarification.

a. Course Prefix COMM b. Number 320 c. Enter Contact Hours or check Independent Study (X).
LECTure hr/week LAB hr/week INDEpendent Study
Practicum: hr/semester Seminar: hr/week

d. Full Course Title: Family Communication

e. Abbreviated Course Title: Family Communication. (Abbreviate only if necessary. Use Arabic numerals. Limit to 26 characters and spaces.)

f. Semester(s) Offered: Spring g. Max. Section Enrollment : 28

Credit Hours: Check (x) type and enter maximum and minimum hours in boxes.

h. Type: Variable Fixed i. Maximum Credit Hours 3 j. Minimum Credit Hours 3

k. Grade Method: Check (x) Normal Grading Credit/No Credit only (Pass/Fail)

m. May Be Repeated for Added Credit: Check (x) Yes No

n. Levels: Check (x) Undergraduate Graduate Professional

o. Does proposed new course replace an equivalent course? Check (x) Yes No

p. Equivalent course: Prefix Number See instructions on Replacement courses.

q. CATALOG DESCRIPTION – Limit to 75 words – PLEASE BE CONCISE.

The course examines current trends in theory/practice of understanding communication frameworks related to the family unit. Various forms of relational and family communication structures will be studied, and the complexities, challenges, and rewards of communication in the family will be examined. Several theoretical frameworks will be analyzed as they apply to the development and continuation of the family unit.

r. Prerequisites: (if no prerequisites, write "None") Limited to 60 spaces. COMM 105, 121, 200, 201 or

221.

UCC Chair Signature/Date:

[Signature] 11, 9, 06

Academic Affairs Approval Signature/Date:

[Signature] 11, 9, 06

To be completed by Academic Affairs Office: - Standard & Measures Coding and General Education Code

Basic Skill (BS) General Education (GE) Occupational Education (OC) G.E. Codes

Office of the Registrar use ONLY

Date Received: _____ Date Completed: _____ Entered: SIS [125 ___ 1D4 ___ 12R ___, 131 ___]