

**Eastern Illinois University**  
**New/Revised Course Proposal Format**  
(Approved by CAA on 4/3/14 and CGS on 4/15/14, Effective Fall 2014)

CGS Agenda Item: 17-92  
Effective Fall 2018

**Banner/Catalog Information (Coversheet)**

1. ☐ New Course or ☒ Revision of Existing Course

2. Course prefix and number:  CMN 4765

3. Short title:  Comm in Families

4. Long title:  Communication in Families

5. Hours per week:  3  Class  0  Lab  3  Credit

6. Terms: ☐ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☒ On demand

7. Initial term: ☒ Fall ☐ Spring ☐ Summer Year:  2018

**8. Catalog course description:**

This course provides an examination of communicative structure, function, and process among family members. The family system as a whole and major sub-systems (parent-child, siblings, spouses) are explored. Emphasis is on the role of communication in the construction, maintenance, and change of family relationships throughout the family lifecycle.

**9. Course attributes:**

General education component:  N/A

☐ Cultural diversity ☐ Honors ☐ Writing centered ☐ Writing intensive ☐ Writing active

**10. Instructional delivery**

**Type of Course:**

☒ Lecture ☐ Lab ☐ Lecture/lab combined ☐ Independent study/research

☐ Internship ☐ Performance ☐ Practicum/clinical ☐ Other, specify:

**Mode(s) of Delivery:**

☒ Face to Face ☒ Online ☐ Study Abroad

☐ Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction

11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved. None

12. Equivalent course(s):  None

a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? ☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Prerequisite(s):  None

a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)?

c. Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

☐ No one ☐ Chair ☐ Instructor ☐ Advisor ☐ Other (specify)

14. Co-requisite(s): ☐ None \_\_\_\_\_

15. Enrollment restrictions

a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may take the course: ☐ All \_\_\_\_\_

b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which may not take the course: ☐ None \_\_\_\_\_

16. Repeat status: ☒ May not be repeated ☐ May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: \_\_\_\_\_

18. Grading methods: ☒ Standard ☐ CR/NC ☐ Audit ☐ ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions:

☐ Grade for course will not count in a student's grade point average.

☐ Grade for course will not count in hours toward graduation.

☐ Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit hours for course will be removed from student's hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: \_\_\_\_\_

20. Additional costs to students:

Supplemental Materials or Software ☐ None \_\_\_\_\_

Course Fee ☒ No ☐ Yes, Explain if yes \_\_\_\_\_

21. Community college transfer:

☐ A community college course may be judged equivalent.

☒ A community college may not be judged equivalent.

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will not be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.

## **Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)**

1. ☒ **X** Course is required for the major(s) of Communication Studies, Interpersonal option  
☐ Course is required for the minor(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Course is required for the certificate program(s) of \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ **X** Course is used as an elective
2. **Rationale for proposal:** CMN 4765 has not been updated since the course was first created in 1998. This revision updates the course objectives, content, assignments and adds university learning goals. It removes the previous prerequisites because they are not necessary for successful completion of this course. It also adds an online delivery option in response to increased demand for digitally-delivered courses.
3. **Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
Similarity to other courses: FSC 2800 (Family Relations) and FCS 3840 (Family Theories) are existing courses that also examine families but CMN 4765 is the only course focused on communication research and theory.  
Prerequisites: N/A  
Co-requisites: N/A  
Enrollment restrictions: N/A  
Writing active, intensive, centered: N/A
4. **General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
General education component: N/A  
Curriculum: N/A  
Instruction: N/A  
Assessment: N/A
5. **Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**  
Online or hybrid delivery justification: This course may be offered as an online course in response to increased demand for technology-delivered courses. Learning objectives will be the same as in-person offerings.  
Instruction: Course content will be delivered online in a variety of media, such as text, video, and audio as appropriate, that are hosted on the university's online learning platform. Assignments for the online sections will differ from the face-to-face sections as noted in the model syllabus. Instructors will complete OCDi certification or equivalent.  
Integrity: At the beginning of the course, students will be required to complete a module on academic integrity not present during the in-person offering.  
Assignments will be checked for originality in a variety of ways, such as:

- Written assignments will be turned in through the university's online learning platform and checked for plagiarism using digital tools as well as traditional methods.
- Quizzes and exams will be timed and require browser locks.
- Discussion posts and formal written work will be graded for substantive commentary from the students that is both accurate and novel, particularly in terms of students' insights and experiences.

Interaction: The instructor will facilitate student-faculty and student-student interaction via email, phone, video conferencing, social media, discussion boards, and/or shared online workspaces. In each module, students will be required to post to an online discussion board in response to prompts posed by the instructor as well as in response to their peers' comments. As a class, students may also be required to meet multiple times during the term in order to participate synchronously via video conferencing and shared workspaces or online chats.

## **Model Syllabus (Part II)**

Please include the following information:

### **1. CMN 4765: Communication in Families, 3 credit hours**

### **2. Catalog description**

This course provides an examination of communicative structure, function, and process among family members. The family system as a whole and major sub-systems (parent-child, siblings, spouses) are explored. Emphasis is on the role of communication in the construction, maintenance, and change of family relationships throughout the family lifecycle.

### **3. Learning objectives.**

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Explain the nature of family systems and their subsystems [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]
- Explain the internal and external functions of the family [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]
- Identify the central role communication plays in the structure and function of family relationships [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]
- Critically analyze communicative encounters between family members [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]
- Develop useful and theoretically sound explanations for familial communicative encounters [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]
- Evaluate their own family relationships and the impact communicative behaviors have on those relationships [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication]
- Implement skills necessary to engage in effective family encounters [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication]

### **4. Course materials**

Arnold, L. B. (2008). *Family Communication: Theory and Research*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.

Turner, L., & West, R. (2017). *Perspectives on Family Communication* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

## 5. Weekly outline of content

*Face-to-face:* Each week consists of 150 minutes of class contact time.

*Online:* Each week will be constructed based on the assumption of a minimum of 150 minutes online of synchronous and/or asynchronous screen time interacting with other students and for reading/module review/instruction.

Week 1: Defining Family	Arnold, Ch. 1
Week 2: Family Types & Structures	Arnold, Ch. 2
Week 3: Theoretical Frameworks	Turner & West, Ch. 2
Week 4: Examining Structure, Roles & Rules	Turner & West, Ch. 3; Arnold pp.86-89 "What Does It Mean to Be a Good Father?"
Week 5: Societal Contexts	Turner & West, Ch. 4; Arnold pp. 395-403 "Where are the Mommies?: A Content Analysis of Women's Magazines;" Turner & West pp.291-301 Government and the Family
Week 6: Communicating Intimacy	Turner & West Ch. 5; Arnold pp. 173-179 "Sex and Gender in Relational Maintenance;" Arnold pp. 180-188 "Family Communication Patterns and the Socialization of Support Skills"
Week 7: Storytelling & Meaning Making	Turner & West Ch. 6; Arnold pp. 136-146 "Storytelling as a Means to Communicate within the Family—The Orphan Stories"
Week 8: Conflict, Power, & Violence	Turner & West Ch. 7; Arnold pp. 217-227 "What Do You Do When Your Teenager Hits You?;" Arnold pp. 228-236 "Enacting Conflict as Resistance: Urban Indian Women in Hindu Arranged Marriages"
Week 9: Managing Challenging Dialogues	Turner & West Ch. 9; Arnold pp. 298-306 "Communicating About Sex as a Daughter, Parent, and Teacher"
Week 10: Sexuality and the Family	Turner & West Ch. 8; Arnold pp. 307-313 "The Social Context of Lesbian Family Identity"
Week 11: Race, Ethnicity, & Family	Arnold Ch. 7; Arnold pp. 254-261 "What Shall I Tell My Daughters that are Black; Arnold pp. 263-272 "The Mother-Daughter Tug-of-War: Ethnicity's Impact on Connection-Autonomy Dialectic;" Arnold pp.274-281 "Parenting in the Interracial Family: More Alike Than Different"
Week 12: Communicating Under Stress	Turner & West, Ch. 8; Turner & West pp.245-254 "Communication & Unpredictable Stressors"
Week 13: Family Systems & Health Challenges	Arnold pp. 323-331 "Negotiating Meanings of Illness and Disability;" Arnold pp. 344-354 "Disability in the Family: Stories Real and Imagined;" Arnold pp. 319-323 "Drug and Alcohol Use and Abuse;" Arnold pp. 335-343 "Talking with

	Your Children about Alcohol and Other Drugs: Are Parents the Antidrug?"
Week 14: Family Coping & Divorce	Arnold pp. 44-51 "Strong Families' Use of Communicative Coping in Postdivorce Families;" Arnold pp.90-98 "Dialectic Characteristics and Shadow Realities in Postmarital Relationships"
Week 15: Family History Analysis Presentations	
Week 16: Final exam	

## 6. Assignments and evaluation

For undergraduate students:

Exams (20 %)

Discussion Leader (10%)

Reflection Papers (30%)

Family History Project (data collection, analysis paper, presentation) (30%)

In-class activities or online discussion posts (10%)

For graduate students:

Exams (20 %)

Discussion Leader (10%)

Reflection Papers (20%)

Family History Project (data collection, analysis paper, presentation) (20%)

In-class activities or online discussion posts (10%)

Research Paper or Proposal (20%)

## 7. Grading scale

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F below 60%

## 8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.

	<b>Exams (20%)</b>	<b>Discussion Leader (10%)</b>	<b>Reflection Papers (30% undergrad. 20% grad.)</b>	<b>Family History Project (30% undergrad. 20% grad.)</b>	<b>In-class activities or online discussion posts (10%)</b>	<b>Graduate Research Paper/Proposal (20% grad.)</b>
Explain the nature of family systems and their subsystems [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4]	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

[graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]						
Explain the internal and external functions of the family [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Identify the central role communication plays in the structure and function of family relationships [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Critically analyze communicative encounters between family members [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Develop useful and theoretically sound						

<p>explanations for familial communicative encounters [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication, advanced scholarship]</p>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<p>Evaluate their own family relationships and the impact communicative behaviors have on those relationships [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication]</p>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<p>Implement skills necessary to engage in effective family encounters [undergraduate: CT1-6, WR1-7, SL1-7, RC1-4] [graduate: content knowledge, critical thinking, oral and written communication]</p>			<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	

**Date approved by the department or school: 10/17/17**

**Date approved by the college curriculum committee: 10/25/17**

**Date approved by the Honors Council (if this is an honors course):**

**Date approved by CAA: 11/10/17      CGS: 01/16/2018**