

**SYLLABUS AND OUTLINE**  
**COMMUNICATION 735**  
**SEMINAR IN RELATIONAL COMMUNICATION**  
**Fall 2014**

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Office: Comm 203      Mobile Phone: 619-857-4233  
Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:00, Wednesday 3:00-4:00, Thursday 1:00-2:00

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>	<u>% of Grade</u>
Research Proposal	October 5	10%
Research Study	December 3	30%
Class Participation	Ongoing	5 %
Expert Presentations	Two to be arranged	20%
Peer Evaluation	Dec.17	10%
Final Exam	Dec.17	25 %

Because this is a class in relational communication, several of the assignments will be done in dyads. You must participate in **different dyads** for the two interviews and for the empirical study (if you chose to do an empirical study).

**Objectives:**

1. Articulate and describe the history of interpersonal and relational communication.
2. Conduct a complete “state of the art” or empirical study on relational communication that is of conference paper quality.
3. Present supplemental material on two units of the relational communication.
4. Describe various types of interpersonal relationships and their similarities and differences.
5. Articulate and critique major theories of relational communication.
6. Express current knowledge of the development and maintenance of close relationships.
7. Articulate the importance of human evolution as the basis of contemporary interpersonal relationships.
8. Describe the importance of infant attachment and attachment theory on childhood and adult relationships.
9. Elucidate the role of affection, immediacy, intimacy, power, and attraction on the development, maintenance, and termination of close relationships.

**Papers:**

All papers should be type written, double-spaced, employ APA style, and be stapled together. It is particularly important to accurately and meticulously footnote (in APA style) all studies, ideas, and findings in order to avoid charges of plagiarism (i.e. copying a portion of another scholar’s or student’s work and submitting it as your own).

***Plagiarism, like receiving or giving aid during an exam, will result in failure in this course.*** Please familiarize yourself with the dept. plagiarism policy at the end of this syllabus.

### **Readings:**

Two sets of readings are required for the class. Your preparation for in class presentations and your final paper should incorporate additional materials. Please do the readings **prior** to the class session.

Guerrero, L. K. , Andersen, P. A. Afifi, W. A. (2014). Close Encounters: Communication in Relationships. (4th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (GAA).

Reading Packet available at Cal Copy by mid-August. Cal Copy is on the east side of College Avenue just North of Montezuma (next to KB Books)

### **Expert Presentations:**

All presentations will be done in dyads. **Remember, you must select 2 different partners for your 2 expert presentations.**

Presentations will follow a 30-minute format. During the first part of the presentation each week, the dyad will do a 20-minute **entertaining and content-laden** introduction to the topic. This presentation may involve visual aids, skits, PowerPoint presentations, exercises, quizzes, or audio/video material but these media are not a requirement. This presentation should evoke interest in the topic, and briefly summarize **some** important findings. ***I will stop you at 20 minutes!***

- ***Go beyond*** the readings by summarizing and presenting current research. ***Do not summarize our readings for this week (we already read those).***
- Provide a one page bibliography of your top 10 recent articles on the topic.
- Please provide a copy the class with your favorite recent article on this topic.

The presentation will be followed with a ten-minute question/answer period from seminar participants that will provide a general transition into a class discussion of the topic readings. I will call on people randomly during this phase.

- Class members should keep questions short and participants should keep answers short. Long answers destroy that lively interview format. Each seminar student should prepare a question.
- All class members should do the readings and prepare questions *in writing* that can be asked following the presentation.

**For the research study you have two choices: an empirical study or a state of the art paper.**

### **The Empirical Study:**

During the first weeks of class (no later than Sept. 10) please select a **partner** with whom to conduct an empirical study in relational communication and report your choice to me. The empirical study should comprehensively investigate (including data collection) a problem of importance in relational communication. The paper may be qualitative and/or quantitative. The paper should demonstrate your ability to: a) select a

problem of importance in relational communication research, b) exhaustively review and summarize research relevant to that problem, c) incorporate any theory or theories that may help to make predictions as to the outcome of the problem, and d) derive hypothesis or questions which provide an empirical test of the problem. In short, an "A" paper should be a completed study like a convention paper or journal article. The paper is due in two segments: On Oct 1., you should submit a complete rationale for your study including research questions, problems or hypotheses, a complete review of *relevant* literature and theory, and a sketchy idea of how you might conduct the study (the methods section). This means the study is 30% finished at this time.

Here are some guidelines that may help you.

- A) Once you select your partner, get busy **immediately**.
- B) See your instructor during the first two weeks to brainstorm your topic. Remember I am available each week during office hours or via email. I am on campus every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for scheduled meetings if my office hours do not work.
- C) Select a topic that is compelling and interesting to you. At the beginning of the semester pursue your book of readings and identify articles that are interesting to you and can be extended. Do not be afraid to replicate a study. It may be the easiest way to do this assignment.
- D) As you look over the readings also look at their methods. This study may be qualitative or quantitative, and conducted in the field, lab, or by questionnaire.
- E) Give me as complete a paper as possible on October 1, if you can. That way I can give you maximum feedback for the final study. I will give you one week or less turnaround.
- F) Because most of you will be collecting data on human subjects, you need to contact and obtain approval from the University's Institutional Review Board. Failure to do so is a violation of University policy and state and federal law.
- G) Similarly, be sure to obtain approval of the instructor/course director before collecting data in an SDSU course.

### **The State of the Art:**

A "state of the art" paper is a complete, analytic, critical review of our state of knowledge in a given area of personal relationships. Here are some guidelines.

- A) This paper must be done ***individually***. You can, of course, seek advice from your instructor as well as other students and faculty.
- B) Please brainstorm your topic with your instructor.

- C) State of the art articles are ***comprehensive***. All relevant literature should be summarized. A *major weakness* would be that you failed to include relevant studies.
- D) Select a narrow topic: A topic like love, acquaintance, or intimacy could fill volumes.
- E) If a prior state-of-the-art article exists in your area, build upon it.
- F) The paper should culminate in conclusions about what we know regarding this area.
- G) On out line and complete set of reference is due on October 1.
- H) Recommendations for future research and knowledge gaps should be provided.

## Schedule of Classes and Topics

**SESSION 1: August 27: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE:  
Topic: INITIAL ENCOUNTERS:  
UNDERSTANDING THE ACQUAINTANCE  
PROCESS**

Topics: Syllabus Review  
Course Overview  
Discussion of Assignments

Content Topics: History of Relational Communication  
Key Definitions  
Relational Myths  
Relational Ideology  
Nonverbal and Verbal Communication  
Personal and Interpersonal Identity  
Generational Identity  
Interpersonal Image  
Characteristics of Relationships  
Initial Interaction  
Initiation

Readings: GAA Chapters 1 & 2

**SESSION 2: September 3 ATTRACTION, SIMILARITY, AND UNCERTAINTY:  
THE BASIS OF INITIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Content Topics: Uncertainty  
Uncertainty Reduction Theory  
Uncertainty Management  
Dimensions of Attraction  
Task Attraction  
Physical Attraction  
Social Attraction  
The Biology of Attraction

Readings: GAA: Chapters 3 & 4

2A) Afifi, W. & Matsunaga, M. (2008). Uncertainty management theories. In L. A. Baxter & D. O. Braithwaite (Eds.). *Engaging theories in Interpersonal Communication: Multiple Perspectives* (pp. 117-132). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

2B) Montoya, R. M. & Horton, R. S. (2012). A meta-analytic investigation of the processes underlying the similarity-attraction effect, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 64-94.

### **SESSION 3: Sept 10**

### **RELATIONSHIP INTENSIFICATION, DISCLOSURE, TRAJECTORIES, TURNING POINTS AND PRIVACY**

Topics: Relationship Topoi  
Cognitive Schemas  
Relational Schemas  
Relational Stages  
Relational Dialectics  
Emotions  
Trajectories  
Turning Points  
Inertia  
Proximity and Distance  
Relational Topography  
Relational Change  
Privacy Management  
Self-Disclosure  
Topic Avoidance

Readings: GAA Chapter 5 and 6.

3A) Baxter, L. A. & Braithwaite, D. O. (2008). Relational dialectics theory. In . In L. A. Baxter & D. O. Braithwaite (Eds.). *Engaging theories in Interpersonal Communication: Multiple Perspectives* (pp. 349-361). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.

### **SESSION 4: Sept. 17**

### **The Big Two: Social Evolutionary Theory and Attachment Theory: Two leading explanations for Human Relationships**

Topics: Social Evolutionary Theories  
The Biology of Relationships  
Sexual Fitness  
Group Fitness  
Attachment Theory  
Infant Attachment  
Secure Attachment  
Insecure Attachment  
Partner's attachment

Readings:

4A) Shaver, P. R. & Mikuliner, M. (2010). New directions in attachment theory and research. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27, 163-172.

4B) Simpson, J. A. & Rholes, W. S. (2010). Attachment and relationships: Milestones and Future Directions. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27, 173-180

4C) Buss, D. M. (2007). The Evolution of Human Mating. *Acta Psychologica Sinica*, 3, 502-512.

4D) Zeifman, D.M. & MA, J. E. (2013) Experimental examination of women's selection criteria for sperm donors versus life partners. *Personal Relationships*, 20, 311-327.

**SESSION 5: Sept. 24      COMMUNICATING CLOSENESS: AFFECTION,  
IMMEDIACY, AND INTIMACY**

Topics:      Affection  
                 Intimacy Behaviors  
                 Immediacy  
                 Physical Closeness  
                 Friendship  
                 Synchronically  
                 Reciprocity  
                 Cognitive- Valence Theory  
                 Self-Disclosure  
                 Accounts  
                 Person centered messages  
                 Sex Differences in Closeness

Readings: GAA Chapter 7

- 5A) Andersen, P. A., Guerrero, L.K. & Jones, S.M. Nonverbal intimacy. (2006) In V. Manusov & M. L. Patterson (Eds.) *The Sage Handbook of Nonverbal Communication*: (pp. 259-277). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- 5B) Andersen, P. A. (1998). The cognitive valence theory of intimate communication. In M. T. Palmer & G. A. Barnett (Eds.). *Progress in Communication Sciences, Volume XIV: Mutual Influence in Interpersonal Communication: Theory and Research In Cognition, Affect, and Behavior*. (pp. 39-72). Stamford, CT: Ablex.
- 5C) Floyd, K., Judd, J. & Hesse, (2008). Affection exchange theory. In L. A. Baxter & D. O. Braithwaite (Eds.). *Engaging theories in Interpersonal Communication: Multiple Perspectives* (pp. 285-293). Los Angeles, CA: Sage.
- 5D) Carton, S. T. & Horan, S. M. (2014). A diary examination of romantic and sexual partners withholding affectionate messages. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 31, 221-246.

## **SESSION 6: Oct. 1: LOVE -- RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE!!**

Topics: Love  
Commitment  
Intimacy  
Passion  
Bonding

Readings: GAA Chapter 8

6A) Graham, J. M. (2011). Measuring love in romantic relationships: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 28, 748-771.

6B) Neto, F. (2012). Perceptions of love and sex across the adult life span. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 760-775.

## **SESSION 7: Oct. 8: SEXUAL COMMUNICATION**

Topics: Types of Sexual Relationships  
Hookups  
Friends with Benefits  
Heterosexual Behavior  
Homosexual Behavior  
Lust  
Passionate Love  
Sex Differences in Sexual Communication

Readings: GAA Chapter 9

7A) Babin, E. A. (2012). An examination of the predictors of nonverbal and verbal communication of pleasure during sex and sexual satisfaction. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 270-292.

7B) Byers, E. S. (2011). Beyond the Birds and the Bees and Was It Good for You?: Thirty Years of Research on Sexual Communication. *Current Psychology*, 52, 20-28.

7C) Mongeau, P. A., Knight, K., Williams, J., Eden, J., & Shaw, C. (2013). Identifying and explicating variation among friends with benefits relationships. *Journal of Sex Research*, 50, 37-47.

7D) Ein-Dor, T. & Hirschberger, G. (2012). Sexual healing: Daily diary evidence that sex relieves stress for men and women in satisfying relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 126-139.



## **SESSION 8: Oct. 15 RELATIONAL CHALLENGES: CONFLICT and It's Management**

Topics:        Conflict  
                 Conflict Escalation  
                 Conflict Pattern  
                 Conflict Management  
                 Demand-Withdrawal  
                 Stalking  
                 Obsessive Relational Intrusion

Readings: GAA Chapters 11

8A) Afifi, T. D., Joseph, A., & Aldeis, D. (2012). The “standards of openness hypothesis”: Why women find (conflict) avoidance more dissatisfying than men. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 102-125.

8B) Schrodt, P., Witt, P. L. & Shimkowski, J. R. (2014). A meta-analytic review of the demand/withdrawal pattern of interaction and its associations with individual, relational, and communicative outcomes. *Communication Monographs*, 81, 28-58.

8C) Rholes, W. R., Kohn, J. M. & Simpson, J. A. (2014). A longitudinal study of conflict in new parents: The role of attachment. *Personal Relationships*, 21, 1-21.

8D) Spitzberg, B. H. & Cupach, W. R. (2007). The state of the art of stalking: Taking stock of the emerging literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 12, 64-86.

## **SESSION 9: October 22 POWER PLAYS, POLITICS, AND PERSUASION**

Topics:        Power  
                 Persuasion  
                 Compliance Gaining  
                 Verbal Power  
                 Nonverbal Power  
                 Family Politics  
                 Gender and Power  
                 Gender Inequities

Readings:  
GAA Chapter 12

9A) Andersen, P. A. (2008). Positions of Power: The control, power, and status. In *Nonverbal Communication: Forms and Functions*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

9B) Burgoon, J. K., Guerrero, L. K., Floyd, K. (2010). Relational Messages: Power, dominance and Influence, In *Nonverbal Communication*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.

9C) Miller-Day, M. & Jackson, A. M. (2012). The convergence communication scale: Development and evaluation of an assessment of interpersonal submission. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 1036-1057.

## **SESSION 10: October 29**

### **THE DARK SIDE OF RELATIONSHIPS, RELATIONAL TRANSGRESSIONS: JEALOUSY, INFIDELITY, DECEPTION and MORE**

Topics:        Jealousy  
                  Infidelity  
                  Extradynamic Sexual Behavior  
                  Double standards  
                  Deception

Readings:    GAA Chapter 13

10A) Guerrero, L. K. & Andersen, P. A. (1998). The dark side of jealousy and envy: Delusion, desire, desperation, and destructive communication. In B. H. Spitzberg & W. R. Cupach. *The Dark Side of Close Relationships*. (pp. 33-70). Mahwah NJ: Erlbaum.

10B) Muise, A., Christofides, E., Desmaris, S. (2014). "Creeping" of just information seeking? Gender differences in response to jealousy on facebook. *Personal Relationships*, 21, 35-50.

10C) Roggensack, K. E. & Sillars, A. (2013). Agreement and understanding about honesty and deception rules in romantic relationships. *Journal of Social and personal relationships*, 31, 178-199.

## **SESSION 11: November 5**

### **SEX DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES**

Topics:                                **Gender differences**  
   **Sex difference**  
   **Evolution of sex differences**  
   **Sexual selection strategies**  
   **Differences in Friendship and Intimacy**

11A) Andersen, P. A. (2006). The Evolution of Biological Sex Differences in Communication. In D. Canary & K. Dindia. *Sex Differences and Similarities in Communication* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp. 117-135). Mahwah, N.J., Lawrence Erlbaum.

11B) Andersen, P. A. (2008) Gender, Sex, and Nonverbal Communication. Chapter 5 in *Nonverbal Communication: Forms and Functions*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

11C) Hall, J. A. (2011), Sex differences in friendship expectations: *A meta-analysis*. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 6, 723-747.

**SESSION 12: November 12      HEALING, EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, RELATIONAL REPAIR AND RECONCILIATION**

Topics:

- Social Support
- Comforting
- Psychological Health
- Comforting
- Relational Maintenance
- Maintenance Behaviors
- Equity theory
- Investment Models

12D) Ogolsky, B. G. & Bowers, J. R. (2013). A meta-analytic review of relationship maintenance and its correlates. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 343-367

**No Class: November 26 Thanksgiving Break**

Topics: Gay and Lesbian Relationships  
Remarriage  
Blended Families  
Close Relationships in Old Age

Multicultural Relationships  
Relationships of the Homeless and Marginalized People

Readings:

13A) Kurdek, L. A. (2006). Differences between partners from gay, lesbian, and cohabitating relationships. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 68, 509-528.

13B) Scherer, C. R., Akers, E. G., and Kolbe, K. L. (2013). Bisexuals and the sex difference in jealousy hypothesis. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 1064-1071.

13C) Chichirelli, V. G. (2010). Attachment relationships in old age. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 27, 191-199.

13D) Pedersen, P. V., Andersen, P. T., & Curtis, T. (2012). Social relations and experiences of social isolation among socially marginalized people. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 839-858.

13E) Nussbaum, J. E. (2007). Life span communication and quality of life. *Journal of Communication*, 57, 1-7.

**SESSION 14: December 10**

**COMING APART: RELATIONAL  
DISENGAGEMENT AND  
TERMINATION**

Topics:      Disengagement Strategies  
                 Growing Apart  
                 De-escalation  
                 Break-ups  
                 Divorce  
                 Dissolution  
                 Unrequited love  
                 Work on Topics

Readings: GAA Chapter 15

14A) Huston, T. L. (2009). What's love got to do with it? Why some marriages success and others fail. *Personal Relationships*, 16, 301-327.

14B) Frisby, B. N., Booth-Butterfield, M., Dillow, M. R., Martin, M. M., & Weber, K. D. (2012). Face and resilience in divorce: The impact on emotions, stress, and the post-divorce relationship. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 29, 715-735.

14C) Bevan, J. L., Ang, P., & Fearn, J. B. (2014). Being unfriended on Facebook: An application of expectancy violations theory. *Computers in Human Behavior*, 33, 171-178. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 1020-1044.

14D) Dailey, R. M., Brody, N., LeFebvre L., & Crook, B. (2013). Charting changes in commitment: Trajectories in on again/off again relationships. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 30, 1020-1044.

### **SESSION 15: December 17 The Final**

Final Exam: 4:00-6:00

Peer Evaluation 4:00

## **PLAGIARISM**

*Plagiarism is one of the highest forms of academic offense. It represents several ethics violations. It is **theft** of intellectual property. In academe, a scholar's words, ideas, and creative products represent essential intellectual property, which are the primary measures of scholarly identity, status and achievement. It is **fraud**. Students should be assessed on their own ideas and abilities; not the ideas and abilities of others. It is **unfair**. It introduces bias and inequity in the assessment process, producing grades for fellow students based on disadvantaged standards and expectations. It is **corruption**. It undermines the credibility of higher education by misrepresenting the meaning of university grades and degrees to the rest of the public. Whether by ignorance, accident, or intent, theft is still theft, fraud is still fraud, inequity is still inequity, and corruption is still corruption. Therefore, the offense, no matter how minor in quantity, is still serious, and is treated as such.*

*The 2008-2009 SDSU Graduate Bulletin policy<sup>1</sup> states:*

Plagiarism is formal work publicly misrepresented as original; .... Work shall be deemed plagiarism: (1) when prior work of another has been demonstrated as the accessible source; (2) when substantial or material parts of the source have been literally or evasively appropriated (substance denoting quantity; matter denoting qualitative format or style); and (3) when the work lacks sufficient or unequivocal citation so as to indicate or imply that the work was neither a copy nor an imitation. This definition comprises oral, written, and crafted pieces. In short, if one purports to present an original piece but copies ideas word for word or by paraphrase, those ideas should be duly noted. (Lindey, 1952, *Plagiarism and Originality*)

*The 2008-2009 Graduate Bulletin continues by stating:*

San Diego State University is a publicly assisted institution legislatively empowered to certify competence and accomplishment in general and

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<sup>1</sup> San Diego State University *Graduate Bulletin*, 2008-2009, p. 35.

discrete categories of knowledge. The president and faculty of this university are therefore obligated not only to society at large but to the citizenry of the State of California to guarantee honest and substantive knowledge in those to whom they assign grades and whom they recommend for degrees. Wittingly or willfully to ignore or to allow students' ascription of others' work to themselves is to condone dishonesty, to deny the purpose of formal education, and to fail the public trust.

One of the primary objectives of higher education is to advance humanity by increasing and refining knowledge. Such an objective is therefore threatened by students who commit plagiarism, in which the evidence of the student's knowledge is not genuine. Given the gravity of the offense, students suspected or accused of disregarding, concealing, aiding, or committing plagiarism must be assured of thorough, impartial and conclusive investigation of any such accusation. Likewise, students guilty of such an offense must be liable for an appropriate penalty, even severance from the University and in some cases revocation of an advanced degree, should the demonstrated plagiarism clearly call into question a student's academic ethics, competence or accomplishments.

## THE ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY OF THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

In any case in which an instructor identifies evidence for charging a student with violation of academic conduct standards or plagiarism, the presumption will be with that instructor's determination. The instructor(s) will confer with the School Director to confirm the evidence. Once confirmed, the student will be informed and presented with the evidence. Some conditions and terms below clarify the School policy and procedure.

**Proper source attribution:** Proper attribution occurs by specifying the source of content or ideas. This is done by (a) providing quotation marks around text, when directly quoted, and (b) clearly designating the source of the text or information relied upon in an assignment.

**Intellectual contents:** Intellectual contents include all forms of 'text' produced by another person or persons. It includes: writings, course syllabi, course lectures and recordings of lectures, visual information such as models, videos, lyrics, software, etc.

**Secondary citations:** Secondary citation is not strictly a form of plagiarism, but in blatant forms, it can present similar ethical challenges. A secondary citation is citing source A, which in turn cites source B, but it is source B's ideas or content that provide the basis for the claims the student intends to make in the assignment. For example, assume that there is an article by Jones (2006) in the student's hands, in which there is a discussion or quotation of an article by Smith (1998). Assume further that what Smith seems to be saying is very important to the student's analysis. In such a situation, the student should always try to locate the original Smith source. *In general, if an idea is important enough to discuss in an assignment, it is important enough to locate and cite the original source for that idea.* There are several reasons for these policies: (a) Authors sometimes commit citation errors, which might be replicated without knowing it; (b) Authors sometimes make interpretation errors, which might be ignorantly reinforced (c) Therefore, reliability of scholarly activity is made more difficult to assure and enforce; (d) By relying on only a few sources of review, the learning process is short-circuited, and the student's own research competencies are diminished, which are integral to any liberal education; (e) By masking the actual sources of ideas, readers must second guess which sources come from which citations, making the readers' own research more difficult; (f) By masking the origin of the information, the actual source of ideas is misrepresented. Some suggestions that assist with this principle:

- When the ideas Jones discusses are clearly attributed to, or unique to, Smith, then find the Smith source and citation.
- When the ideas Jones is discussing are historically associated more with Smith than with Jones, then find the Smith source and citation.
- In contrast, Jones is sometimes merely using Smith to back up what Jones is saying and believes, and is independently qualified to claim, whether or not Smith would have also said it; in such a case, citing Jones is sufficient.
- Never simply copy a series of citations at the end of a statement by Jones, and reproduce the reference list without actually going to look up what those

references report—the only guarantee that claims are valid is for a student to read the original sources of those claims.

**Self-plagiarism:** Students often practice some form of ‘double-dipping,’ in which they write on a given topic across more than one course assignment. In general, there is nothing wrong with double-dipping *topics or sources*, but there is a problem with double-dipping *exact and redundant text*. It is common for scholars to write on the same topic across many publication outlets; this is part of developing expertise and the reputation of being a scholar on a topic. Scholars, however, are not permitted to *repeat exact text* across papers or publications except when noted and attributed, as this wastes precious intellectual space with repetition and does a disservice to the particular source of original presentation by ‘diluting’ the value of the original presentation. Any time that a writer simply ‘cuts-and-pastes’ exact text from former papers into a new paper without proper attribution, it is a form of *self-plagiarism*. Consequently, a given paper should never be turned in to multiple classes. Entire paragraphs, or even sentences, should not be repeated word-for-word across course assignments. Each new writing assignment is precisely that, a new writing assignment, requiring new composition on the student’s part.

**Specific exemplary infractions and consequences:**

- **Course failure:** Reproducing a whole paper, paragraph, or large portions of unattributed materials without proper attribution, whether represented by: (a) multiple sentences, images, or portions of images; or (b) by percentage of assignment length, will result in assignment of an “F” in the course in which the infraction occurred, and a report to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR<sup>2</sup>).
- **Assignment failure:** Reproducing a sentence or sentence fragment with no quotation marks, but with source citation, or subsets of visual images without source attribution, will *minimally* result in an “F” on the assignment, and may result in greater penalty, including a report to the CSRR, depending factors noted below.
- **Exacerbating conditions--Amount:** Evidence of infraction, even if fragmentary, is increased with a greater: (a) number of infractions; (b) distribution of infractions across an assignment; or (c) proportion of the assignment consisting of infractions.
- **Exacerbating conditions--Intent:** Evidence of foreknowledge and intent to deceive magnifies the seriousness of the offense and the grounds for official response. Plagiarism, whether ‘by accident’ or ‘by ignorance,’ still qualifies as plagiarism—it is all students’ responsibility to make sure their assignments are not committing the offense.
- **Exceptions:** Any exceptions to these policies will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and only under exceptional circumstances.

**Additional Stipulations for Graduate Students & GTAs:** If, following a review with a Communication graduate student, a faculty member and School Director determine academic dishonesty has occurred, the evidence will be submitted to the Center of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR). The report “identifies the student who was found responsible, the general nature of the offense, the action taken, and a recommendation as to whether or not additional action should be considered by the



campus judicial affairs office” (CSRR Website<sup>2</sup>). The student will be permitted to continue as a student in the Communication graduate program and as a Teaching Associate (if so assigned), until such time as CSRR due process has taken its course. If CSRR rules in favor of the student, the student’s status in the program will continue. If due process rules against the student, then the student will immediately be dropped from all classes in the Communication graduate program and any Teaching Associate position in the School will be terminated. Graduate students may voluntarily withdraw from classes and Teaching Associate duties when charges are brought forward. The School’s Director must be notified in writing. Students who voluntarily withdraw, notify the director in a timely manner, and who are subsequently found not guilty of plagiarism may be reinstated without prejudice at the start of the next semester.

**SafeAssign:** In most classes, major writing assignments will be turned in to *Turnitin.com* on Blackboard. Faculty may use additional methods to detect plagiarism.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://csrr.sdsu.edu/academics1.html>