

Charisma & Connection

Fall 2021 Syllabus
Dwinelle 247, T/Th 6:30 - 8 pm
CogSci 198, 2 Units
Receive CCN After The First Class

Course Facilitators:

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Faculty Advisor:

Professor Robert J. Glushko, Cognitive Science

Course Description:

This class delves into interpersonal relationships through the lens of the conversations that create them. We explore the secrets to meeting new people, strengthening close friendships, the nuances behind humor and flirting, the keys to conflict resolution and more, all taught by two of the best persuasive speakers in the country.

We meet twice a week for an hour and a half each (with Berkeley time) to discuss the focus of the lecture and practice the lessons we'll learn using interactive activities.

Be prepared to open up. Anticipate finding long-term friends among your class of 20 that you'll learn to admire through our emphasis on acceptance and vulnerability. By virtue of participating in this course, you will learn about your classmates in many ways - not just what they laugh at or what major they're in, but who they are as human beings. And they will learn about you, so don't be afraid to be vulnerable, be open, and change how you approach connection.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Start, maintain, and exit conversations gracefully
- 2) Meet new people in any social situation with ease
- 3) Strengthen relationships with friends and family
- 4) Speak in a manner that is liked, understood, and respected
- 5) Be confident by being yourself, not in spite of it

Main Topics:

- (1) Conversation Dynamics
- (2) Confidence through Body Language
- (3) Humor and Storytelling
- (4) eCommunication and Conflict Resolution
- (5) Student Choice Lectures

Methods of Instruction:

- (1) Lectures
- (2) Readings
- (3) Videos
- (4) Interactive Practice
- (5) Presentation
- (6) Conversation Analysis

Readings (provided in class):

- (1) *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, 80th Anniversary Edition by Dale Carnegie
- (2) *Intimate Relationships*, 7th Edition by Rowland Miller
- (3) Assorted Articles (see weekly schedule for further details)

Course Policies:

To make the class free of distractions and to ensure that every student is able to participate fully, we ask that there is no inappropriate use of cellphones, laptops, or any other electronic devices during class. We also ask that students arrive at class no later than “Berkeley Time” (10 minutes past the start time).

Methods of Evaluation:

To pass the class, ALL assignments must be turned in, and students must earn 70% or above to receive a passing grade.

- Engagement (2 Open Speeches, discussions): 35%
- Assignments (Readings, Conversation Log): 25%
- Evaluations (Midterm and Research Project): 25%
- Attendance: 15%

Attendance: The class will meet for 1.5 hours, twice a week. Attendance is mandatory. However, special circumstances can be taken into account, such as religiously affiliated conflicts and personal emergencies. Two or more unexcused absences may result in a No Pass.

Research Project: Students will be asked to complete a research project to present at the end of the semester. For the project, students are free to choose any topic within the scope of the course that was not explicitly covered in class. The project will demonstrate the student’s awareness of and engagement with the material through a medium of their choice, i.e. video, posters, demonstrations, etc. Each student is required to turn in and present their projects on the last day of class. Projects will be graded by content, creativity, and presentation.

Homework: Weekly reading is required for effective discussion and participation in class. Assignments will be turned in either at the beginning of class or through the bCourses website. Late assignments will be given ½ credit for up to one week after the due date. Any assignments turned in after the one week grace period will **NOT** be accepted. Please see the weekly schedule below for details and deadlines.

Along with weekly homework, we advise students to participate in reviewing lecture materials throughout the week in order to prepare for the midterm presentation and final project. In addition, several lectures will have video debriefs, group activities, and open discussions, and these sessions will need student preparation ahead of time.

Participation and Accommodation: Students are expected to actively participate in class. This includes participating in group discussions and activities. Completing the assigned readings and assignments on time will help students in being able to participate. Furthermore, activities in this class are inherently probing, and encourage honesty and emotional vulnerability. If you feel uncomfortable with participating in any activity, please talk to a facilitator for an alternate assignment. Students who require DSP or religious accommodations must inform the facilitators within the first week of instruction.

Weekly Schedule:

Please note that this is a **provisional** schedule; we may change the course timeline if it is deemed appropriate. In the case that changes are made, facilitators will notify students via bCourses or email. All readings and activities are omitted below for the sake of suspense.

Weeks 1-3: Info Sessions and Applications

Week 4

- Lecture: Get to Know Each Other Pt. 1
- Lecture: Get to Know Each Other Pt. 2

Week 5

- Lecture: Building on Existing Conversations
- Lecture: Deepening Relationships

Week 6

- Lecture: Building True Confidence
- Lecture: Humor and Stories

Week 7

- Lecture: Starting Conversations
- Lecture: Conversation Masterclass Capstone

Week 8

- Lecture: eCommunication
- Lecture: Student-Suggested Lecture 1

Week 9

- Lecture: Chill Social Day, “Office Hours”
- Mid-Course Eval

Week 10

- Lecture: Self-Awareness, Self-Reflection, and Self-Improvement
- Lecture: Psychology Hacks and Ethics

Week 11

- Lecture: Challenge Day
- Lecture: Trust and Vulnerability

Week 12

- Lecture: Polarization, Rejection, and Authenticity
- Lecture: Conflict Resolution *and* Final Project Topic Workshop

Week 13

- Lecture: Romance
- Lecture: Student-Suggested Lecture 2

Week 14 (Thanksgiving)

- Social
- Thanksgiving

Week 15

- Presentation: Final Projects

Week 16 (RRR Week)

- DeCal Dinner

Academic Honor Code:

“As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others.”

The hope and expectation is that you will adhere to this code.