Communication in Everyday Life

Composing Relationships
by Wood and Duck
pages 1-11

Not in your textbook

The Stage of Everyday Interaction

• **Front stage** - when performing for an audience

• **Back stage** - out of sight of that audience

• **Scene 1 - front stage**
  – Susan (student) and Lecturer Bulger (audience)

• **Scene 2 - back stage**
  – Susan with fellow student at lunch
"Goffman showed that, like actors on a stage, people use routine behaviors (performances) to shape others' impressions of identities, actions, relationships, and situations."

Frames and Human Interaction

- Frame - "is how we define a situation or encounter"
  - we use these frames to interpret various situations
  - are cultural
• “How are you doing?”
  – walking across campus
  – on the phone with a friend who attends another college

Ordinary Activities and Relationships

Mary Catherine Bateson argues
• “more than momentous behaviors and events, it is primarily the small, routine actions that construct meaning, assert identities, affirm or challenge the identities that others assert for themselves, define what a relationship is and what guides it.”
• routine interactions provide relationship foundations
Routine Interactions – Everyday Talk

• **Regulates Interactions**
  – include or exclude others

• **Positive and Negative Effects**
  – intimacy and self-validation
  – dark side

• Please sign attendance sheet – it is up front
  – I will enforce 24 hour drop rule if you have not signed