

Composing Relationships & Competent Communicator

Lecture Slides

COMPOSING RELATIONSHIPS 1ST DAY OF CLASS

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

COMPETENT COMMUNICATOR
JANUARY 15TH

Benefits from Learning and Using a More Cooperative Style

- Get more done, have more fun
- More respect
- More influence
- More comfortable with conflict
- More peace of mind
- More satisfying closeness with others
- A healthier life

not in textbook

Why learning to effectively communicate is challenging

- Cooperation between people is complex and mentally demanding
- Ways of communicating are deeply woven into our personalities
- Self-observation; participant observer

not in textbook