This course will explore how the success or failure of various communication styles, behaviors, and situations impact the development and maintenance of relationships. For instance, have you ever walked away from a conversation and wondered where it all went wrong? Have you ever tried to explain to a 3-year-old complex topics, such as death? Have you stopped to consider how your personal communication style might influence your ability to secure or succeed in a job? By taking a sociolinguistic approach to the examination of how communication influences a variety of interpersonal relationships, students will learn, understand, and reflect upon how individual experiences, personality, age, gender, and conversational style can strengthen or deteriorate these relationships. After all, it's often not what is said but how it is said.