

The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication Syllabus

Fall 2012

COM 5390.01 3 Credit Hours

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Required Course Text

Spitzberg, B. H. & Cupach, W. R. (2007). The dark side of interpersonal communication. (2nd ed.). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to a rich and complex view of interpersonal communication theories and to explore the implication of communication concepts in our everyday interactions. Spitzberg and Cupach provide a detailed discussion of the positive and negative implications of a variety of interpersonal concepts. As a result of class discussions and independent study you should have a better understanding of how these theories operate and their importance. Additionally, this course will introduce you to how social science research is conducted. You will learn how to select and refine a topic, find relevant research, write an abstract and literature review.

Course Policies

1. **Attendance.** Although this is an on-line class, attendance is still important. You need to participate in the weekly discussions. Being an active participant is very important.
2. **Late Examinations.** If you miss an examination and have a legitimate reason for doing so,

you must make it up within a reasonable time (normally 1 week or less). All arrangements for missing an examination must be made prior to the time the examination is scheduled. If such arrangements are not made, then no make-up examination will be given and you will receive a zero for that examination.

3. NO late assignments will be accepted. No late presentations will be allowed. You are responsible for turning in assignments on time. Keep up with the course activities and due dates to ensure you do not miss a deadline. ALL assignments must be typed.

4. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work” (Dictionary.com). All work must be the original composition of each student. Although you must use outside sources, you must cite them appropriately. Plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment. Assignments will be checked for plagiarism by *any and all means available*, including electronic checking services (i.e. Turnitin.com). The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

5. **Americans with Disabilities Act.** If you are a qualified student with a disability seeking accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to self-identify with the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students at 294-1720.

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

6. Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

7. IDEA System. Students are asked to complete an IDEA evaluation of the course and the instructor at the end of the semester. Participation is voluntary.

8. Class conduct. Free discussion, inquiry, and expression are encouraged in this class. Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of students to benefit from the instruction is not acceptable.

Students are expected to read and abide by all rules and policies in the SHSU Student Handbook.

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Section 5.2.22 defines

classroom disturbances.

Assignments and Requirements

Graded Item	Number	Points per Item	Total Points	% of Grade
Presenter of Discussion	1 or 2*	60	60	15%
Discussion Boards	12	10	120	30%
Final Exam	1	100	100	25%
Term Paper	1	120	120	30%
			400	100%

*(*The number of points for presentations and discussion boards may vary based on the number of students)*

The week you are a presenter you will receive a discussion board grade for your interaction and a presenter grade for the quality of the materials that you create.

Instructor=s Notes

My office is in the Communication building room 212. If there is something you do not understand or need help with please come see me. I encourage you to make an appointment even if it is during office hours because I may step out of my office for a few minutes. You can reach me via email (FBB@shsu.edu) and we can also talk on the phone.

My office hours are tentatively scheduled as:

W: 9:00-11:30

TTH By appointment [9:30-12:30 in class]

I am in my office much more than the posted office hours if you need to see me at another time please make an appointment.

Continuation of enrollment in this course indicates acceptance of the terms and requirements of this syllabus.