



UT PERMIAN BASIN

COMM 4323 783

Dark Side of Communication

Spring 2025 Session 8W1

Delivery Method: Online

Instructor Information

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Office Location: Online

Office Hours: Online

Course Information

Class Location: Online

Schedule a Meeting

Please contact your instructor to set up a meeting.

Course Description

Explores the dark side of human interaction including relational transgressions interpersonal violence deception and hurtful messages.

Students are encouraged to visit the Student Success Center here on campus for assistance with written assignments. Supplemental Instructors and Lab Assistants may

be available to help you with all other course material in the Communication Lab in MB 4143. Supplemental course material may also be found in Canvas.

University policy stipulates that average work in this course merits a grade of 'C.' A grade of 'B' indicates high achievement that exceeds course requirements; a grade of 'A' indicates superior achievement that far exceeds course requirements. A grade of D or F indicates that there are major issues with the given assignment.

All assignments will be submitted through Canvas via the appropriate assignment submission "drop box." E-mailed submissions will not be accepted; late work/late postings will not be accepted. Assignments must be submitted as PDFs or Word Documents and conform to APA format.

Signed Course Agreement: After reviewing the syllabus, print, sign, scan, and upload the course agreement. The Course Agreement is located in the Week 1 folder, within Module 1.

Discussion Board Postings: Each week you will create a unique discussion board posting in response to each week's prompt, and respond to the posts of at least two peers. Your original posts, as well as your response posts, must demonstrate mastery of the assigned readings by integrating relevant material (cited in-text according to the standards of APA format). See the Discussion Board Rubric for more information.

Exam: You will take one exam which requires knowledge of all assigned readings and lectures. The exam will be open book but must be completed individually (i.e., working collaboratively on the exams is prohibited and punishable by the standards of Academic Dishonesty). The exam must be **completed** by the given deadline; the exam will not be available after the deadline. Do not begin the exam close to the time the exam period closes, as Canvas will close and automatically submit the exam at the deadline, regardless of whether you have completed it or not. You have one attempt at the exam (i.e., exam must be completed in one sitting- you cannot save and return to the exam), back-tracking on questions is prohibited, and time is limited to **two hours** (Canvas will automatically submit the exam at the close of two hours).

THE EXAM CANNOT BE REOPENED; MAKE-UP OF EXAM IS NOT ALLOWED

Final Paper: The paper will include a literature review on your given topic that describes the prevalence, characteristics, and circumstances of the experience relating to your topic, as well as a summary of research that highlights the role of communication in shaping or responding to these experiences. Eight outside sources will be integrated. This assignment should be in final, professional form upon submission, including: at least 8 **full** pages, typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins. You should also include a cover page with name, COMM 4360, and Final Paper; as well as a reference sheet in APA format. Cover sheet and references **do not** count

toward page length requirement. See the Final Paper Assignment Sheet for more information.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe and critique research relevant to the study of the dark side of communication.
2. Apply communication theories to a holistic understanding of the dark and light sides of human interaction.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the dark side metaphor and its relationship and importance to interpersonal communication theory, research, and practice.
4. Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

UTPB Bookstore

[Bookstore link](#)

This link will take you directly to the official UTPB bookstore page for this course. Please note, you are welcome to make purchases from any supplier of your choice.

Course Materials

Multiple formats of identical course materials may be contained in this list (i.e. Hardcover book, Electronic Text, etc.). You may only need one of these materials. Please follow the "bookstore link" under the material to go to the official online UTPB bookstore to ensure you are selecting the format which best suits your needs.

Title: Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

ISBN: 9780805857801

Authors: Spitzberg

Publisher: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Incorporated

Publication Date: 2007

Edition: 2nd

Required or Recommended: Required

Title: The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication

ISBN: 9781135597672

Authors: Spitzberg

Publisher: Taylor & Francis Group, LLC

Publication Date: NA

Edition: 2nd

Required or Recommended: Required

Faculty - This list reflects your selections in the Follett bookstore website.

Important Academic Dates

UTPB [Academic Calendar](#)

Graded Material

Course Activity	Percentage of Total Grade	Total Points
Signed Course Agreement	1%	15
Discussion Board 1	4%	20
Discussion Board 2	4%	20
Discussion Board 3	4%	20
Discussion Board 4	4%	20
Discussion Board 5	4%	20
Discussion Board 6	4%	20
Discussion Board 7	4%	20
Discussion Board 8	4%	20
Final Paper	20%	250
Exam	15%	75
Total Points	100%	500

Grading Scale

Grade Range	Letter Grade
450 points or above	A
400 to 449 points	B

Grade Range	Letter Grade
350 to 399 points	C
300 to 349 points	D
299 points or less	F

University Policies

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students with Disabilities: The University of Texas Permian Basin in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provides "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities. Only those students, who an Instructor has received an official Letter of Accommodation (LOA) sent by the Office of ADA for Students, will be provided ADA academic accommodations.

ADA Officer for Students: Amber Lucero, Director of Student Emergency and Accessibility Services

Address: 4901 E. University, Odessa, TX 79762

Student Activity Center (SAC) Room #200D

Voice Telephone: 432-552-4602

Email: ada@utpb.edu

For the accessibility and privacy statements of external tools used within courses, go to [Accessibility and Privacy Statements](#).

Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy

The University of Texas Permian Basin (the University) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and Clery Act. Sexual Misconduct, Retaliation, and other conduct prohibited under this Policy will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University will promptly discipline any individuals or organizations within its control who violate this Policy. The University encourages you to promptly report incidents that could

constitute violations of this Policy to the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Sexual Harassment/Sexual Misconduct Policy can be found [here](#).

You may report incidents of sexual misconduct to any University employee. They are obligated to report any incident to the Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Coordinator.

You may also contact:

- The UTPB Police Department at 432-552-2786
- The Title IX Coordinator at 432-552-2697 or TitleIXCoordinator@UTPB.edu.
- The Dean of Students at 432-552-2600
- Reports can also be made via the University Complaint Portal: [UTPB Complaint Management](#)

A **confidential reporting option is available**. Please contact UTPB's Counseling Center at 432-552-3365 or 432-552-2367 or stop by MB 1150.

Scholastic Dishonesty

"Scholastic Dishonesty" is any form of cheating or plagiarism that violates the Student Code of Conduct. Scholastic dishonesty or academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two [2] courses without the prior permission of the instructor, and providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment), or the attempt to commit such an act. The Student Code of Conduct provides students fair notice of conduct considered unacceptable at The University of Texas Permian Basin and which may be the basis for disciplinary action. This policy provides the procedures to be following when student disciplinary action may need to be implemented and outlines the appeals process. The Student Code of Conduct is available online at: <https://www.utpb.edu/life-at-utpb/student-services/dean-of-students/student-code-of-conduct>

Student Success at UTPB

UT Permian Basin offers numerous services to help you reach your academic goals. Available both in the Success Center on the 2nd Floor of the Mesa Building (<https://www.utpb.edu/academics/advising-and-support/student-success-center/index>), and online, UTPB Student Success offers the following services to all students:

- O.W .L. (Online Writing Lab) - Submit essays that need to be revised by one of our tutors to owl@utpb.edu.

- Tutoring – For both online and in person tutoring, please use EAB to create an appointment. (Utpb.campus.eab.com) Sign in using UTPB credentials.
- SI/PLTL Sessions - If available for your class, will be communicated to you by the mentor assigned to your class section and students can communicate to their SI or PL through Canvas.
- Peer Mentoring - Incoming freshmen can be paired with a peer mentor who will help you navigate your first year on campus.
- SSC Computer Lab - Come take advantage of the state-of-the-art computers available at the Student Success Center.

Please email success@utpb.edu for more information.

Student Support Services

For more information on academic, technical, and support services for UTPB students, please see the [Online Student Services](#).

Course Modalities

Both the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) provide standard definitions for basic course types/modalities that have informed the following adopted course definitions.

Online Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs online/virtually (asynchronously) when students and faculty are not in the same place. A fully online course is one in which mandatory in-person meetings occur no more than 15% of the planned instructional time.

Remote Courses are ones in which students, while not required to physically come to campus to attend in-person classes, are required to “attend” virtually/remotely (synchronously) during scheduled days and times, with students expected to log in and participate in the lecture via video conferences.

Hybrid Courses are courses in which the majority (more than 50% but less than 85%) of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are not in the same place. This form of instruction offers a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning.

HyFlex Courses are those which, like hybrid courses, offer a mix of on-campus/in-person and remote/online/electronic learning. These courses, however, do not require student authentication since at least 50% of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place.

Face-to-Face/In-Person Courses are those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students are in the same place with an instructor(s).

End-of-Course Evaluation & Instructor Evaluation

Every student is encouraged to complete an end of course evaluation survey provided by UTPB. During the last two weeks of class, there will be an announcement in Canvas, an email, and a button in your course navigation that will take you to any available surveys.

The survey is anonymous and your responses are confidential. Your feedback is critical to us and to your instructor as we strive to improve our offerings, and our support of you, the students.

Disclaimer & Rights

Information contained in this syllabus was to the best knowledge of the instructor considered correct and complete when distributed for use in the beginning of the semester. However, the instructor reserves the right, acting within the policies and procedures of UTPB to make changes in the course content or instructional techniques without notice or obligation. The students will be informed about the changes, if any.

Distance Education Policy

Preparation for Emergencies

Computer Crash

Not having a working computer or a crashed computer during the semester will NOT be considered an acceptable reason for not completing course activities at a scheduled time. NOTE: Identify a second computer before the semester begins, that you can use when or if your personal computer crashes. Limited Loaner Laptops are available through the J. Conrad Dunagan Library.

Complete Loss of Contact

If you lose contact with course connectivity completely (i.e. you cannot contact me via Canvas or email), you need to call the instructor, and leave a message regarding connectivity loss and your contact information.

Lost/Corrupt/Missing Files

You must keep/save a copy of every project/assignment on an external drive, UTPB Outlook 365 OneDrive, or personal computer. In the event of any kind of failure (e.g. virus infection, student's own computer crashes, loss of files in cyberspace, etc.) or any contradictions or problems, you may be required to resubmit the files.

Distance Education Courses and Student Identity Authentication Requirements and Policy

SACSCOC defines a distance education course as one in which more than 50 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are not in the same physical place. Distance education courses, therefore, include online, remote, and hybrid courses as defined above. Per SACSCOC and University policy, all distance education courses are required to follow our Distance Education Student Authentication Policy procedures (please see below), and these requirements and policies must be stated in the course syllabus. Further, any projected additional student charges associated with verification of student identity must be indicated on the courses schedule and course syllabus.

The Distance Education Student Authentication Policy does not apply to Hyflex Courses--those in which at least 50% of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place--and Face-to-Face/In-Person Courses--those in which more than 85 percent of the planned instruction occurs when students and instructor(s) are in the same place. Student authentication and identity verification in these courses may be accomplished by in-person attendance monitoring as well as through in-class instructor proctored examinations and other assessments. These same "in-class" authentication procedures also may be employed in hybrid courses, but in the case of these defined distance education courses, they must be documented on the course syllabus as described below.

Distance Education Student Authentication Policy and Syllabus Requirements

UT Permian Basin's Distance Education Student Authentication Policy requires the University to employ processes (documented in each distance education syllabus) to verify that each student who registers for a distance education course is the same student who participates in, completes, and receives credit for the course.

The policy requires faculty members teaching distance education courses to employ at least two methods of verification to ensure student identities. The first method of verification is accomplished by the student logging into Canvas, our learning management system. To access all UTPB courses, students must login to Canvas uniqueness personal identifying username and secure password. This is the primary method of student identity verification. The Distance Education Student Authentication Policy requires at least one additional student identification method within the distance learning course that has been determined and approved by the faculty or academic program. The second method of

authentication must be explicitly stated in the syllabus. The second method of student authentication maybe:

- Proctored exams using an approved photo ID*.
- Presentation of approved photo ID through a webcam and optional levels of proctoring during assessment.
- Field or clinical experiences using an approved photo ID.
- Synchronous or asynchronous video activities using an approved photo ID.
- In hybrid distance education courses, which have an in-person meeting component, the secondary method of student authentication may be accomplished (as is it may be done in hyflex and face-to face-courses) by in-person attendance monitoring as well as through required in-class instructor proctored examinations and other assessments.
- Other Technologies or procedures, etc. (which must be detailed in the syllabus).

If faculty require secondary method of verification for which students are charged a fee(e.g. face-to-face proctoring at an off-campus site that charges a fee), this notification must be stated on the course schedule and in the course syllabus as well.

*Approved photo identifications include passports, government issued identification, driver's licenses, military ID from DoD; dual credit and early college high school students use school district identifications.

Course Schedule

Week	Module	Start/End Days	TOPIC/ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT DUE	REQUIRED READING
1	1	Jan 13 – Jan 19	<u>Amusing and Bemusing</u> Disentangling the Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication <i>DUE: COURSE AGREEMENT // DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS</i>	Chapter 1

Week	Module	Start/End Days	TOPIC/ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT DUE	REQUIRED READING
2	1	Jan 20 – Jan 26	<u>Schmoozing, Choosing, and Confusing</u> The Dark Side of Relational Uncertainty: Obstacle or Opportunity The Dark Side (and Light Side) of Avoidance and Secrets DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapters 2 & 3
3	1	Jan 27 – Feb 2	<u>Schmoozing, Choosing, and Confusing</u> Manipulation of Self in Cyberspace DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapter 4
4	2	Feb 3 – Feb 9	<u>Bruising</u> Communicating Hurt “You’re Bugging Me!”: Complaints and Criticism From a Partner DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapters 5 & 6
5	2	Feb 10 – Feb 16	<u>Bruising</u> Teasing and Bullying DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapter 7

Week	Module	Start/End Days	TOPIC/ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENT DUE	REQUIRED READING
6	3	Feb 17 – Feb 23	<u>(Mis)Using, Accusing, and Excusing</u> The Dark Side of Infidelity: Its Nature, Prevalence, and Communicative Functions Responses to Relational Transgressions: Hurt, Anger, and Sometimes Forgiveness DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapters 8 & 9
7	4	Feb 24 – March 2	<u>Abusing</u> The Communication of Revenge: On the Viciousness, Virtues, and Vitality of Vengeful Behaviors in Interpersonal Relationships Communicative Aggression: Toward a More Interactional View of Psychological Abuse DUE: DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapters 10 & 11
8	4	March 3- March 7 (Friday)	<u>Abusing</u> Explaining Child Abuse as a Lack of Safe Ground Adolescent-to-Parent Abuse: Exploring the Communicative Patterns Leading to Verbal, Physical, and Emotional Abuse DUE: EXAM // FINAL PAPER // DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS	Chapters 12 & 13

Class Schedule

Date	Name	Event Type	Points
	Course Feedback	Discussion	0
	Extra credit- course evaluation	Assignment	20
	Q & A	Discussion	0
	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	3
	Water Cooler	Discussion	0
1/19/25	Introduce Yourself!	Discussion	0
1/19/25	Week 1 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
1/19/25	Signed Course Agreement	Assignment	15
1/26/25	Week 2 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
2/2/25	Week 3 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
2/9/25	Week 4 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
2/16/25	Week 5 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
2/23/25	Week 6 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
3/2/25	Week 7 Discussion Board	Discussion	20
3/7/25	Final Exam	Quiz	75
3/7/25	Week 8 Discussion Board	Discussion	20

Date	Name	Event Type	Points
3/7/25	Final Paper	Assignment	250

Sample Syllabus