

COMM 40001: ADVANCED INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION

TR 3:15 PM – 4:30 PM D301 MSP

Fall 2002 - Jacqueline Fisher, Instructor

Call #: 11737 **Section #:** 001

Office: D207 Music and Speech

Office Hours: TR 11-3 pm or by appointment

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Office #: 330-672-2659

Required Text:

Cupach, W. R., & Spitzberg, B. H. (Eds.) (1994). *The dark side of interpersonal communication*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Spitzberg, B. H., & Cupach, W. R. (Eds.) (1998). *The dark side of close relationships*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Suggested Text:

American Psychological Association. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th Ed). Washington, DC.

Course Objectives: Students will understand how individuals deal with the darker sides of interpersonal communication and close relationships and will be presented with current research trends in this area. In addition, students will engage in the process of exploring interpersonal theory and research. Students will be given the opportunity to think, to evaluate, and to discuss aspects and concepts from the texts.

Grade Breakdown:

Dark side paper	100 points
Dark side presentation	50 points
Research proposal	100 points
Research presentation	50 points
Theory paper	100 points
Theory handout	50 points
IPC journal entries (20 entries worth 5 points each)	100 points
Class contribution	<u>50 points</u>
TOTAL possible points	600 points

Your Grades:

Requirements:

Dark Side Paper: Students will select a topic area concerning the dark side of communication or close relationships and find at least THREE journal articles concerning their topic. DO NOT USE THE TEXT AND DO NOT COPY THE ABSTRACTS of the journal articles. Students will describe the findings of the articles in a paper and present their paper to the class. Presentations will be 3-5 minutes in length. Students must also give their personal critique about each of the articles, and include their personal opinions about the topic. Papers will be 3-5 pages typed (12 font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins), and will follow APA format. The paper and presentation will be due at the beginning of the class that the topic is covered.

Interpersonal Communication Theory Paper: Students will be asked to research an interpersonal communication theory from the list provided below. In this paper you will be asked to explain the theory, describe its use in published research and apply it to an everyday context. The paper should be 5-7 pages typed (12 font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins), and will follow APA format. Two students may be researching the same theory. If so, you will be asked to meet with the student using the same theory and make sure that you are utilizing different articles. In addition to the paper, a 1 page handout (in outline form) will be written. Please make enough copies for each student to receive one.

Possible interpersonal communication theories:

Cognitive complexity	Social exchange theory
Personal construct theory	Equity theory
Communication accommodation theory	Attraction theory
Action assembly theory	Uncertainty reduction theory
Nonverbal expectancy violations theory	Attribution theory
Message design logic	Social construction theory
Nonverbal deception theory	Relational systems theory
Communication boundary management theory	Politeness theory
Interpersonal motives	Relational communication

Research Proposal and Presentation: Students will select an area relating to the dark side of communication or close relationships. There are four sections to this paper. First, write a literature review about the topic (What have other researchers found concerning your topic?). Be sure to include at least FIVE outside sources for support of why this area of research is needed. Second, how you would research your topic (What needs to be done? What would you do differently?). Third, discuss the significance of your topic (What makes your research so important? Why should we look at this area?). Fourth, explain how you would research this area (How would you investigate this area? i.e., who would you ask, would you use surveys or conduct interviews?). The paper should be 8-10 pages typed (12 font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins), and will follow APA format. Presentations will be 3-5 minutes in length. Research proposals will be presented on the last day of class and during the final exam period.

Journal entries: Journal entries will be either assigned or will be your reaction to the material read for that day. (When reading the chapters, ask yourself the following questions: What is missing from this discussion? What are the most important points discussed in the chapter? Does this information trigger new ideas for research? What would be the bright side/the reverse of this issue?). These entries should be typed (12 font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 1 inch margins), 1 page in length, and brought to class **the day of** the topic discussion. You will have 25 opportunities to write these entries, but do not fall behind, as late papers **will not** be accepted.

Class Contributions: This is a participatory course. Your contributions to class discussions are important. Two times during the semester you will be asked to assess your contribution to class discussions for that portion of the semester. The instructor will assign up to 25 points for each grading period on the basis of your attendance, your assessment of class contributions, and her assessment of your efforts. Participation is based on the quality of your statements, not the quantity. Students will be expected to read the chapters before class, and should be prepared to ask and answer questions. Your active communication in class is essential to your success in this course.

Attendance: Due to the nature of this course, attendance is required. Three unexcused absences are permitted per semester. 5 points off of your total possible will be deducted for each additional unexcused absence. Excused absences include University sponsored activities that conflict with class time, family emergencies, and illness. **Written documentation about the absence must be provided for each excused absence.**

Disabilities: In accordance with university policy, students having a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, need to contact me at the beginning of the semester, or before assignment due dates for which an accommodation is required. The office of Students with Disability Services (SDS) is located in the Michael Schwartz Center (330-672-2972).

Cheating & Plagiarism: University policy with regard to plagiarism is applicable and enforced in this course. Plagiarizing another's work will result in a zero for that assignment, lowering of the final grade, failure in the course, and dismissal from the university. For further reference see the student handbook.

Tentative Schedule:

- 8/27: Course overview, syllabus, icebreaker
- 8/29: IC Chapter 1: Stratagems, Spoils, and Serpent's Tooth
- 9/3: IC Chapter 2: The dark side of incompetence
- 9/5: IC Chapter 3: Messages that hurt
- 9/10: IC Chapter 4: Patterns of interpersonal paradoxes
- 9/12: IC Chapter 5: Equivocation as an interactional event
- 9/17: IC Chapter 6: Conversational dilemmas
- 9/19: IC Chapter 7: Social predicaments
- 9/24: IC Chapter 8: Deception
- 9/26: IC Chapter 9 :Relational transgressions
- 10/1: IC Chapter 10: Privacy binds in family interactions
- 10/3: IC Chapter 11: The dark side of normal family interactions
- 10/8: IC Chapter 12: Physical and psychological abuse
- 10/10: IC Chapter 13: Dark side denouement, and **Theory papers & handout are due**
- 10/15: CR Chapter 1: Fatal attraction, and **Class contribution paper due**
- 10/17: CR Chapter 2: The dark side of jealousy and envy
- 10/22: CR Chapter 3: (Mis)understandings
- 10/24: CR Chapter 4: Who's up on the low down
- 10/29: CR Chapter 5: Patterns of conflict in personal relationships
- 10/31: CR Chapter 6: Codependence
- 11/5: CR Chapter 7: Sexual coercion in courtship relations
- 11/7: CR Chapter 8: Obsessional relational intrusion and stalking
- 11/12: CR Chapter 9: Losing, leaving, and letting go
- 11/14: CR Chapter 10: To love or be loved in vain, and **Class contribution paper due**
- 11/19: CR Chapter 11: Disrupted interpersonal relationships
- 11/21: **NO CLASS – NCA CONFERENCE**
- 11/26: CR Chapter 12: Investigating the positive and negative sides of personal relationships
- 11/27-12/1: **NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING BREAK**
- 12/3: **Research Proposal Papers are due**
- 12/5: **Research Proposal Presentations**
- 12/10: **Research Proposal Presentations 7:45AM – 10:00AM**

Sign-up sheet for the dark side presentation

- 9/3: IC Chapter 2: The dark side of incompetence _____
- 9/5: IC Chapter 3: Messages that hurt _____
- 9/10: IC Chapter 4: Patterns of interpersonal paradoxes _____
- 9/12: IC Chapter 5: Equivocation as an interactional event _____
- 9/17: IC Chapter 6: Conversational dilemmas _____
- 9/19: IC Chapter 7: Social predicaments _____
- 9/24: IC Chapter 8: Deception _____
- 9/26: IC Chapter 9 :Relational transgressions _____
- 10/1: IC Chapter 10: Privacy binds in family interactions _____
- 10/3: IC Chapter 11: The dark side of normal family interactions _____
- 10/8: IC Chapter 12: Physical and psychological abuse _____
- 10/10: IC Chapter 13: Dark side denouement _____
- 10/15: CR Chapter 1: Fatal attraction _____
- 10/17: CR Chapter 2: The dark side of jealousy and envy _____
- 10/22: CR Chapter 3: (Mis)understandings _____
- 10/24: CR Chapter 4: Who's up on the low down _____
- 10/29: CR Chapter 5: Patterns of conflict in personal relationships _____
- 10/31: CR Chapter 6: Codependence _____
- 11/5: CR Chapter 7: Sexual coercion in courtship relations _____
- 11/7: CR Chapter 8: Obsessional relational intrusion and stalking _____
- 11/12: CR Chapter 9: Losing, leaving, and letting go _____
- 11/14: CR Chapter 10: To love or be loved in vain _____
- 11/19: CR Chapter 11: Disrupted interpersonal relationships _____
- 11/21: **NO CLASS – NCA CONFERENCE**
- 11/26: CR Chapter 12: Investigating the positive and negative sides of personal relationships

Theory Presentation Sign-up Sheet

Please write your name next to the theory below.

DO NOT DUPLICATE THEORIES if possible.

Cognitive complexity _____

Social exchange theory _____

Personal construct theory _____

Equity theory _____

Communication accommodation theory _____

Attraction theory _____

Action assembly theory _____

Uncertainty reduction theory _____

Nonverbal expectancy violations theory _____

Attribution theory _____

Message design logic _____

Social construction theory _____

Nonverbal deception theory _____

Relational systems theory _____

Communication boundary management theory _____

Politeness theory _____

Interpersonal motives _____

Relational communication _____