

COMM 4311: Advanced Interpersonal Communication
Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Brojakowski
Spring 2022

Porter Henderson Library 320 – MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.

Instructor Information:

Email: Benjamin.Brojakowski@angelo.edu

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Office: Porter Henderson Library 306L

Office Hours: MW: 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.; TTH 12:30-2:30 p.m.; F 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; By Appointment

Readings Required:

West, R. & Turner, L.H. (2020). *Interpersonal communication* (4th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications Inc.

Course Description:

COMM 4311 is an advanced course that explores theory and practice of interpersonal communication across various contexts. In class we will respectfully discuss interpersonal theories, concepts, and personal experiences related to your assigned readings. You will have two major assignments. One assignment is a film review with self-reflexive and research requirements. The other major assignment is a group seminar.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Increase student knowledge about interpersonal communication theories, concepts, and skills.

Challenge students to strengthen their interpersonal communication skills by participating in workshops and class discussions.

Encourage students to apply interpersonal communication strategies to their specific majors and career goals.

Empower students to apply course-related knowledge and skills by collaborating with classmates to research, develop, and present a seminar about a *Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication* subject.

Course Requirements (500 points):

Film Analysis Assignment = 150 points

Students will write an 11-14 page paper that incorporates scholarly research into a film analysis. Students will choose a film and find examples of several interpersonal communication skills, theories, and models displayed throughout the movie. Students will then use scholarly research to analyze the film or scene(s) for effectiveness of the interaction(s), why it was a positive/negative interaction, how the character(s) could have communicated more effectively, etc. Finally, students will write a short reflection of what they learned about interpersonal communication from the film, characters they identified with, etc.

***Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication* Seminar = 150 points**

Working as a team, you will research, prepare, and conduct a seminar for the class. Students will choose a chapter from *The Dark Side of Interpersonal Communication* and work as a team to create an interesting and interactive seminar for their classmates. You will deliver short presentations throughout the semester to explain your progress and ideas for the final seminar. You may also use this time to communicate with your classmates to better understand their current level of knowledge, interests, and concerns with your topic. The presentation may be a class discussion, multimedia work, teaching activity, etc.

Exam = 100 points

Students will demonstrate their mastery of the course material by completing a final exam. The exam will cover material from the textbook & assigned readings. In order to perform well on exams, it is important to complete the assigned readings and be an active participant in class discussions.

Attendance/Participation = 100 points

Students must be in class regularly. Students will be given the opportunity to participate and complete class activities to earn full credit.

Course Grading

A=500-450 points B=449-400 points C=399-350 points D=349-300 points F=299 points and below

Course Policies**1. Attendance**

Regular attendance is required in this course. Attendance will be taken and counted beginning the first day of class. The student is allowed to miss 3 class periods without penalty to the final grade. However, a student's absence will result in a zero for all work/assignments completed on that day. Students will lose five Attendance points for every three tardies (more than 10 minutes late).

To be considered excused for a class absence, the student must be excused through the school as they will be attending a school sponsored event or provide proof of a medical or family emergency. In these cases, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any assignments they will be missing prior to their departure. Please come talk to me as soon as you know you will be missing a class.

2. Late Assignments

Late work will receive a 25% point deduction every day that it is late (including weekends). If students are unable to submit their work on BlackBoard because of technology issues or because a deadline has passed, they should submit the work to me by email as soon as possible.

3. Missed Exams

1. Contact me within 24 hours of the missed exam. If you are aware of your need to be absent prior to the exam, you should contact to me *before* missing the assignment.
2. By the next class session you attend, provide documentation of your absence.
3. I will view your documentation and make a final decision as to whether or not you are permitted to make up the exam.
4. Make-up presentations will only be granted for *documented* absences.

4. Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism in your assignments will result in a zero for the assignment and the instructor may pursue additional measures. All assignments are to be the original composition of each student. Outside sources are required for each assignment with proper citing in a bibliography as required.

5. Class Etiquette

Please be a courteous student and peer.

Laptops and tablets are encouraged for in-class activities and note taking. If any student uses this technology for non-class activities, he/she will lose all attendance and participation points for the day. If any student is disciplined for using

this technology inappropriately three times throughout the semester, they will lose the ability to use their laptops and tablets in class for the remainder of the semester.

Students may not use Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, or any other social media outlet to post pictures or videos of other students or their performance in the classroom. Failure to comply with this rule will result in failure for the semester.

6. Honor Code Policy

Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student's own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

7. Disability Statement

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting:

Mrs. Dallas Swafford, Director of Student Development
325-942-2047 office or 325-942-2211 Fax
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu
University Center, Suite 112B

8. Religious Holiday Observance

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

B. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

C. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence, however; the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

9. Language

Under no circumstance will racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other type of oppressive language be tolerated in COMM 4311. Please think before you speak and use your language carefully. I reserve the right to ask you to leave class with no credit for attendance if your language crosses this boundary.

We must respect one another's opinions, even when we disagree with them. This is not to say that debate is unwelcome. Rather, I expect healthy, reasoned, thoughtful debate that in all ways respects and values the individual person. Be prepared to provide and support your arguments.

10. Social Media

I do not communicate with students on social media. All of my active social media accounts are set to private and I will not accept/request social media connections with students.

11. Title IX Statement

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.

Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 325-942-2022

michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic* at 325-942-2171, *Counseling Services* at 325-942-2371 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Schedule

| Class Dates | Chapter Readings | Due Dates |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Week 1 Jan. 18 | Introduction to Course; Course Assignments | |
| Week 2 Jan. 24 | Chapter 1 | Sign up for <i>Dark Side</i> Chapter BlackBoard – Jan. 30 |
| Week 3 Jan. 31 | Chapters 2 | Film Analysis Submission Open Film Check-In #1 Due – Feb. 6 |
| Week 4 Feb. 7 | Chapters 3 & 4 | |
| Week 5 Feb. 14 | Chapters 4 & 5 | Team Contracts Due Mini Presentation #1 – Feb. 18 |
| Week 6 Feb. 21 | Chapters 5 & 6 | Film Check-In #2 Due – Feb. 25 |
| Week 7 Feb. 28 | Chapter 7 Workshop Day(s) | Possible Conference Travel |
| Week 8 March 7 | Chapters 7-8 Workshop Day | Film Check-In #3 Due – March 11 |
| Week 9 March 14 | Spring Break | No Classes |
| Week 10 March 21 | Workshop Day Smith & Brunner Reading | Mini Presentation #2 – March 23 |
| Week 11 March 28 | Chapter 9 Carr & Wang Reading | Film Check-In #4 Due – April 1 |
| Week 12 April 4 | Chapter 10 Fox, Osborn, & Warber Reading | |
| Week 13 April 11 | Chapter 11 Miller-Ott & Kelly Reading | Bring Research Materials to Class |
| Week 14 April 18 | Workshop Day(s) | Mini Presentation #3 – April 22 |
| Week 15 April 25 | Final Seminars *Last Day to Drop Classes – April 28* | Film Check-In #5 Due – April 29 |
| Week 16 May 2 | Final Seminars & Exam Review | Film Analysis Due – May 6 |
| Final Exam Week | Final Exam | Monday – May 9 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. |