

Interpersonal Communication

SPCH 1318 - 001
Texas A-n-M University - San Antonio
Fall 2025
T/TH 11:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Instructor: Kelly Fouts

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Office Hours: M-TH 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Course Description:

This course focuses on the theories and exercises in verbal and nonverbal communication with a focus on interpersonal relationships. Students improve their interpersonal skills by examining issues involving: language, nonverbal communication, culture, listening, conflict resolution, and self-concept. (Excellent for students entering the fields of health care, education or any occupation with a high level of interpersonal exchange.)

State Learning Outcomes

1. Exhibit understanding of interpersonal theories and principles.
2. Demonstrate ability to analyze and critique verbal and nonverbal interactions in mediated and face-to-face contexts.
3. Identify and understand perceptual processes as they relate to self and others.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking ability by effectively researching, evaluating, and applying communication theories in oral and written assignments.
5. Demonstrate understanding of the relevance of cross-cultural, co-cultural, gender, and age influences on human communication.
6. Identify, evaluate, and apply conflict styles and conflict resolution strategies.
7. Identify types of and barriers to effective listening.

Required Text:

Floyd, K. (2025). Interpersonal communication: 2024 release. McGraw Hill, LLC.
Connect Access

Assignments & Grading:

Quizzes #1 - #4	25%	A = 89.45 - 100
Activities	10%	B = 79.45 - 89.4
Participation/Attendance	10%	C = 69.45 - 79.4
Relationship Paper	15%	D = 59.45 - 69.4
Movie Analysis	10%	F = below 59.44
Group Game	15%	
Learn Smarts	15%	

Assignments

You will be expected to turn in three assignments. Each assignment will have its own criteria that must be followed in order for you to receive credit. Several in-class activities will be done in collaboration with your classmates. You **MUST** be in attendance on the day of the activity to receive credit. You will be given four exams the last being the final. Further explanation of each assignment/activity will be given at a later date.

Make-Up Assignments and Examinations - If you miss an exam it must be for one of the following types of reasons: death in the family, severe documentable personal illness, etc. If you have an unexcused absence on a day you are scheduled to turn in an assignment or take a test, you cannot make up that test or turn in late work. Additionally, because of time constraints, the instructor may elect not to grant make-up tests for any reason. In order to make-up an examination or turn in late assignments, you must submit official, verifiable documentation to your instructor. If your request is approved, you may take a make-up test or turn in the assignment on the appointed day. You cannot turn in an assignment through e-mail unless given prior approval from instructor. All make-up exams or assignments must be finalized within 2 weeks of the absence for qualified persons. Learn smarts and in-class

activities/participation grades cannot be made up or any reason.

Attendance

Attendance is extremely important. The evaluation of your participation, class attendance, tardiness or absence is figured after all other course requirements are met. Lack of participation, excessive tardiness or more than 3 absences may lower the final grade by as much as 10%. If you must miss class because of illness or an emergency, it is your responsibility to communicate directly with the instructor. Make-up work will not be permitted without written approval from the instructor. You (the student) are solely responsible for finding out about changes made in the syllabus, schedule, or assignments. Tests will not be made up unless approved by the instructor.

Excessive tardies equal 3 or more (after class has started up to 5 minutes, thereafter it will be an absence.) Absences are limited to 3. For every absence after 3 you will be deducted 5 points from your final attendance/participation grade. **THIS CAN LOWER YOUR GRADE AS MUCH AS A WHOLE LETTER GRADE.**

I will be taking attendance at the beginning of each class meeting. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to make sure I have counted you present (tardy), otherwise, you could have an absence. In the event there is an emergency, absences can be considered excused with official, verifiable documentation. Please visit with me about ALL absences. I cannot help you if you do not communicate with me.

As my own policy, I (the instructor) will NOT drop students after the first week if you have been in attendance. If you attend class the first day, as the case may be, and decide you need to drop the course, it will be your responsibility to drop during the semester. I will NOT drop you for failing grades or not attending class after the first day of class. Last day to withdraw and still receive a "W" is November 14, 2025.

Student Conduct

Common courtesy is expected. All electronic devices, including cell phones, iPads, tablets, etc, must be turned off at the beginning of class (unless being used for class purposes). In addition, since this course relies heavily on class discussion among group members and the entire class, disruptive behavior such as excessive talking or distractive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated.

Additionally, cell phones have become a major distraction to class discussion and group presentations. If a cell phone rings during class, I will confiscate it until the end of the class period. If you are caught with it ringing more than once during the semester, a 10-point deduction will be made to your final grade for each additional phone call. **NO ONE SHOULD BE CALLING YOU DURING CLASS TIME.** There is no leniency with this policy.

NVC Integrity Policy:

At NVC, students and faculty value academic achievement, lifelong learning, diversity, and personal/social responsibility. We embrace our values out of commitment to families, peers, neighbors, and ourselves. Integrity, one of our core values, is characterized by honesty and fairness, and is essential for an open exchange of ideas and for the collaboration necessary for learning.

In upholding integrity, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on assignments, plagiarism, and collusion through unauthorized collaboration are not part of integrity. Penalties for not following NVC integrity in this course are as follows:

1. Any student caught cheating will be given a "0" for the test or assignment for the first offense. On the second attempt by the same student, a grade of "F" will be given for the course.
2. Any student caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" in the course immediately. No exceptions.

Extra Credit

I DO NOT GIVE EXTRA CREDIT. TAKE CARE OF YOUR GRADES FROM START TO FINISH, AND YOU WILL NOT NEED EXTRA CREDIT. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Special Considerations

Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Access Office (486-4466 or email nvc-access@alamo.edu).

Course Schedule*

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Aug. 25 & 27	Introduction/Syllabus	Ch. 1/Comm. Model Act.
Sept. 2 & 4	Ch. 3	Colors Act.
Sept. 9 & 11	Ch. 4	Cartoon Analysis Act.
Sept. 16 & 18	Ch. 2	BINGO Activity
Sept. 23 & 25	Gender Comm. (Gender Quiz)	Ch. 5
Sept. 30 & Oct. 2	Ch. 6	Nonverbal Activity
Oct. 7 & 9	Ch. 12	Lie Detection/Activity
Oct. 14 & 16	Ch. 7	Listening Activity
Oct. 21 & 23	Ch. 11	Conflict Mgmt. Activity
Oct. 28 & 30	Ch. 9	Ch. 10
Nov. 4 & 6	Relationship Disc./Act.	Relationship Disc./Act.
Nov. 11 & 13	Movie Analysis	Movie Analysis
Nov. 18 & 20	Analysis Presentation	Analysis Presentation/Relationship Paper Due
Nov. 25 & 27	Game Workday	Thanksgiving
Dec. 2 & 4	Game Workday	Game Day
Dec. 9	Final Exam Online due by 11:59 p.m.	

*subject to change without warning!

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/DisabilitySupport-Services/index.html> or email us at dss@tamusa.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing tutoring@tamusa.edu, calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

Counseling/Mental Health Resources: As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in-the-moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com>

More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/emergency-management/>

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. NonEmergency (210) 784-1900.

Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance: According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center: The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

Meeting Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/StudentRights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

Office Hours: All faculty with teaching assignments should include regularly scheduled office hours on each syllabus in addition to "by appointment." Please review your appointment letter for the number of weekly office hours you are expected to set. Regularly scheduled office hours should also be posted outside your office door (where applicable).

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at military.va@tamusa.edu or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

The Six-Drop Rule: Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive

course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

Statement of Harassment and Discrimination: Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or titleix@tamusa.edu.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

Pregnant/Parenting Students: Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or

guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

Young Jaguars: can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

Students' Rights and Responsibilities: The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

Students' Responsibilities

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe

environment for learning.

5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-andresponsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academicintegrity.html>).

Insert ONE of the AI policy options listed below in your syllabi – Select the one you believe is most appropriate for your course. Option 1 - No Use of Generative AI Permitted [Insert Course Number] assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates: Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

August 25 First day of class

September 1

September 10

November 14 Labor Day Holiday – No classes
November 25 Last day to drop with an automatic "W" November 25 Last day to withdraw from the University

November 26 Study Day – No classes

November 27-29 Thanksgiving Holiday – No classes

December 4 Last day of classes

December 5 Study Day – No classes

December 6-12 Final exams

December 16 Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academiccalendar/index.html>