

# Interpersonal Communication

## SPCH 1318 - 001

Texas A-n-M University - San Antonio  
Spring 2026

**Instructor:** Kelly Fouts

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**Office Hours:** M/W 12:30 - 2:00 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 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 provided 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. 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 email unless given prior approval from the instructor. All makeup exams or assignments must be finalized within two weeks of the absence for qualified individuals. Learn smarts

and in-class activities/participation grades cannot be made up on 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 they 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 April 17, 2026.

### **Student Conduct**

Appropriate conduct is essential to the effective functioning of the University. University policy defines unacceptable conduct, both academic and non-academic misconduct, and penalties for such behavior in The Student Handbook and The Student Code of Conduct. Additionally, you are expected to participate in a kind and productive way in this course. Any student who is seen as being disruptive or not paying attention in class will be given one warning; after which 10 points will be deducted from the attendance final grade with each subsequent disruption.

Cell phones are expected to be in silent mode during class and will only be used for note-taking or in-class activities assigned by the instructor. Any student whose phone rings/dings in class will be confiscated until the end of the class period. If the same student has this issue again, 10 points will be deducted from the FINAL GRADE. No one should be calling or texting you during class. If you have an emergency and need to answer a call or text during class, please communicate that with me prior to class starting.

Additionally, ***I expect full academic integrity with every assignment:***

- I have a ZERO tolerance policy on cheating and/or plagiarism of ANY kind, including the use of AI or Chat GPT to complete your work.
- Academic integrity is a fundamental principle in higher education. The use of AI without proper attribution or ethical considerations constitutes academic dishonesty, which is a violation of the TAMU Academic Integrity Policy. Using AI to complete your assignments is not permitted and may be subject to failing the assignment, this course, and/or disciplinary proceedings.
- I utilize TurnItIn software for our submitted assignments, so any student found plagiarizing, cheating, or utilizing AI is subject to failing the assignment, course, and/or other disciplinary actions. This is non-negotiable.
- The best way to avoid plagiarism is to *properly* cite the sources you utilized with the appropriate citation method (using APA format) every time, and to include a References or Works Cited page. Remember, you must also put the information you gathered from your sources into your own words- ***you CANNOT copy and paste from a source directly into your paper and claim it as your own.*** We will discuss this thoroughly in class, including proper citation methods and what constitutes plagiarism.
- AI or Chat GPT may ONLY be used with instructor permission on certain in-class activities. Using AI or Chat GPT for anything else can lead to an automatic zero and is subject to other disciplinary actions as is deemed by university policy. I WILL KNOW if you have not used your own words!

### **TAMU Academic Integrity Policy**

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, violating known safety requirements and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to the same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy, which may be found in the [Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook](#).

University policy prescribes serious consequences for acts of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, a grade of 'F' on that one paper or assignment, a failing grade in the course, or possible expulsion from the University. Considering the potential consequences of academic misconduct, it is obviously in students' best interests to avoid even the appearance of such behavior. If a student is ever unclear whether a specific act might constitute academic misconduct, please contact the instructor for an assessment of the situation. All student term papers and other written

assignments are subject to analysis by anti-plagiarism software. The instructor will report ALL instances of real or perceived violations of Academic Integrity.

**Instructor Integrity Policy:**

At TAMUSA, 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 university and instructor policies on 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!

**Course Schedule\***

<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>
Jan. 21		Introduction/Syllabus
Jan. 26 & 28	Ch. 1/Comm. Model Activity	Ch. 3
Feb. 2 & 4	Colors Activity	Ch. 4
Feb. 9 & 11	Cartoon Analysis Activity	Ch. 2
Feb. 16 & 18	BINGO Activity	Ch. 5
Feb. 23 & 25	Ch. 6	Nonverbal Activity
March 2 & 4	Ch. 12	Lie Detection Activity
March 9 & 11	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
March 16 & 18	Ch. 7	Listening Activity
March. 23 & 25	Ch. 11	Conflict Management Activity
March 30 & April 1	Ch. 9	Ch. 10
April 6 & 8	Relationship Activity	Relationship Activity
April 13 & 15	Movie Analysis	Movie Analysis
April 20 & 22	Analysis Presentation	Analysis Presentation
April 27 & 29	Game Workday	Game Day
May 6	Final Exam on Connect	

\*subject to change without warning!

## IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES

University Email Policy and Course Communications: All correspondence between professors and students must occur via University email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

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 at the [website](#) or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 academic accommodations with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

Academic Learning Center: All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Appointment Times and Days		
	Appointments available	Walk in Tutoring – No appointment needed
MONDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
TUESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
THURSDAY	8 am – 6 pm	9 am – 5 pm
FRIDAY	8 am – 5 pm	11 am – 4 pm

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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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. *Crisis support is available 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.* The TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including 24/7/365 support for in-the-moment distress, crisis support, 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 system. 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 the Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found [here](#). Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (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.

Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC): The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing 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. The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real-time with a tutor can schedule an "Online Appointment." Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an "eTutoring" appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our [website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

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 report](#) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources. A food pantry is available on campus; click [here](#) for hours and contact information.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcome and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any questions 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](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

Religious Observances: Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the wide variety of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their traditions. Under the policy, students are provided an

opportunity to make up any examination, study, or coursework 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 accommodations to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is 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](mailto: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 if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) or call (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, 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 student 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, 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 that 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 academic misconduct.

For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures, please review the [Student Code of Conduct](#) or visit the resources available on the [OSRR website](#)

Important Spring 2026 Dates:

Important Dates	
Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition & Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. – No Classes
January 20	First day of class
February 4	Census date
February 23-March 6	Midterm grading period
March 9-March 14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
May 4	Last day of classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-May 12	Final exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [academic calendar](#) is available online

**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.

**Option 2 – Use of Generative AI Permitted Under Some Circumstances or With Explicit Permission**

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

### **Option 3 – Broader Use of Generative AI Permitted Within Guidelines**

Use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for students who wish to use them. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work (this includes in-text citations and/or use of quotations, and in your reference list). Using an AI tool to generate content without proper attribution qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

### **Option 4 – Customized Policy Generative AI Policy**

Faculty may create a customized policy that is unique for a specific course with consultation from the department chair. Faculty are encouraged to view *Texas A&M University's Generative AI Syllabus Statement Considerations* when preparing a customized AI policy.

**NOTE:** Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>