

A. Heading

University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Undergraduate Program

B. Course Title The Dark Side of Human Relationships
Janet MacLennan, PhD, 012 Pedreira, T&TH 10-11:30AM

C. Code ENGL 4336

D. Credit Hours 3

E. Prerequisites At least one course in Human Communication in Humanities English or permission of the instructor. High fluency in English language required.

F. Course Description Exploratory and critical study of interpersonal communication research that focuses on the role that darker behaviors play in human relationships. The intent is to shed light on the darker side of social behavior (e.g. deception, obsession, addiction, jealousy, infidelity, gossip, conflict, taboos, betrayal, guilt) while redressing the ideology of optimism characteristic of the study of interpersonal relationships from a human communication perspective. Through critical reflection and research, students will consider future directions for dark side research in human communication and pursue study in one topic.

G. Course Objectives By the end of the course, students will:

1. know and understand the major issues related to the dark side of human relationships.
2. situate issues related to the dark side of human relationships within the field of human communication research and theory.
3. identify, analyze, and critique important gaps in our understanding of the dark side of human relationships within the area of human communication.
4. develop an awareness of their own and others' darker communication behaviors and their effects through application of course concepts.
5. develop research and writing skills to contribute to the ongoing study of this area.
6. gain an understanding of the study of interpersonal communication beyond the introductory level.
7. develop communication skills in facilitation of group/class discussion and group presentation.

H. Course Outline

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Time</u>
I. Course introduction and overview Background of the study of interpersonal communication and relationships Addressing the academic and popular ideology of optimism in interpersonal communication	6 hours
II. Classroom discussion of textbook topics	18 hours
III. Negotiation of related topics for discussion and research	3 hours
IV. Presentation of student research projects	18 hours
Total	45 hours/3 credits

I. Teaching Strategies This course will include some lecture (20%) but place heavy emphasis on class and group discussion and facilitation (80%). Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de **Rehabilitación Vocacional** deben comunicarse con la profesora al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimento (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con la profesora.

J. Required Resources Access to all UPR library facilities, electronic search, on-line access, and interlibrary loan services.

K. Methods of Evaluation

Exploratory written assignment	10%
Topic Consultant (textbook chapter)	20%
Application Logs (textbook chapters) (4 x 5 points each)	20%
Research presentation	20%
Research project/paper	30%

Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales.

L. Grading System The following grades will be used for this course: A, B, C, D, F.

M. Selected Bibliography

Adams, C. H. (2001). Prosocial bias in theories of interpersonal communication competence: Must good communication be nice? In G. J. Shepard & E. W. Rothenbulhler (Eds.), Communication and community (pp. 37-52). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

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

Duck, S., & Wood, J. T. (1995). (Eds.). Understanding relationship processes 5: Confronting relationship challenges. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Goodwin, R., & Cramer, D. (Eds.). (2002). Inappropriate relationships: The unconventional, the disapproved and the forbidden. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Kowalski, R. M. (Ed.). (2001). Behaving badly: Aversive behaviors in interpersonal relationships. Washington, DC: APA.

Lloyd, S. A., & Emery, B. C. (2000). The dark side of courtship: Physical and sexual aggression. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Patterson, K. et. al. (2005). Crucial confrontations: Tools for resolving broken promises, violated expectations, and bad behavior. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Wood, J. T., & Duck, S. (Eds.). (1995). Under-studied relationships: Off the beaten track. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Electronic sources: ESCSOHOST for articles from communication journals

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