

SYLLABUS SPCH 2333 DISCUSSION AND SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Analysis of small group communication. Experience participating in small group situations. Interaction, leadership, conformity, feedback, and other concepts viewed in theoretical and practical contexts. The goal is to improve communication competence in small group settings. Skills: E

COURSE SKILL LEVELS

In accordance with H.B. 2183, students who enroll for ACC Speech courses are expected to demonstrate competent English speaking and listening skills:

- “Competence in speaking is the ability to communicate orally in clear, coherent, and persuasive language appropriate to purpose, occasion and audience.”
- “Listening at the college level means the ability to analyze and interpret various forms of spoken communication.”

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the characteristics of competent communication in groups
- Understand the theories that explain small group interaction
- Distinguish small groups from teams
- Understand the phases of small group development
- Understand the team-building process
- Understand how group communication climates develop
- Recognize functional & dysfunctional group roles and improve role flexibility
- Understand approaches to leadership
- Practice effective leadership skills and define a personal leadership approach
- Contribute to effective group problem-solving and decision-making
- Identify and manage the sources and effects of power in groups
- Practice effective conflict management techniques in group interaction
- Practice observational skills to assess & improve communication competence
- Evaluate group members’ interaction in a constructive and educated manner
- Recognize the need to self-monitor personal communication competence
- Develop skill in selecting and using a variety of communication strategies and responses based on situational contexts, goals, and human needs
- Enhance understanding of cultural and ethnic diversity

REQUIREMENTS

Group Projects

- A. You are required to successfully complete two graded group projects.
- B. Your instructor may require more than two group projects.

Exams

- A. You are required to successfully complete two written and/or oral exams.
- B. Your instructor may require more than two exams.

Credit Options

- A. You are required to successfully complete any other projects as assigned.
- B. Your instructor may require assignments such as:
 - 1. Speech assignments
 - 2. Analysis of written, videotaped, and live group interaction
 - 3. Written self-assessments of own & other students' communication
 - 4. Analysis of communication concepts in film or television programming
 - 5. Participation during in-class activities
 - 6. Papers or journal entries
 - 7. Instructor's choice

ATTENDANCE

ACC Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend classes in order to progress satisfactorily toward completion of course objectives. Because objectives vary from department to department and from course to course, instructors shall inform students of specific course objectives at the first class meeting. An instructor may withdraw a student who is not meeting course requirements. The student may appeal instructor withdrawals within 10 days. It is the student's responsibility to consult with instructors and seek counseling services when course objectives cannot be met.

Speech Department Policy: Your attendance is crucial to your success in this course. You must be present in order to master the skills needed to achieve the course objectives. The individual instructor shall inform the students of specific attendance requirements at the first class meeting. It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from the course by the official withdrawal date if personal circumstances prevent attendance.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

Acts prohibited by the College for which discipline may be administered include scholastic dishonesty, including but not limited to cheating on an exam or quiz, plagiarizing, and unauthorized collaboration with another in preparing outside work. Academic work submitted by students shall be the result of their thought, research, or self-expression. Academic work is defined as, but not limited to tests, quizzes, whether taken electronically or on paper; projects, either individual or group; classroom presentations, and homework.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical thinking, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. These differences enhance the learning experience and create an atmosphere where students and instructors alike will be encouraged to think and learn. On sensitive and volatile topics, students may sometimes disagree not only with each other but also with the instructor. It is expected that faculty and students will respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Each ACC campus offers support services for students with documented physical or psychological disabilities. Students with disabilities must request reasonable accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities on the campus where they expect to take the majority of their classes. Students are encouraged to do this three weeks before the start of the semester.