

Communication Studies 112: Small Group Communication

Credit Hours: 3

Scheduled hours per week

Lecture: 3

Lab: N/A

Field Experience: N/A

Catalog Course Description: This course focuses on the theories, concepts and skills necessary to function effectively in a variety of group settings. Topics include group norms, rules, roles, conflict management, leadership, problem solving, decision making and team building.

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: N/A

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO):

Upon completion of COMM 112, students should be able to:

1. Explain the importance of the socialization process in small group settings
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how communication traits, personality traits, and diversity play a role in the dynamics of small groups
3. Explain how various group norms and member roles affect the small group setting
4. Describe models of small group development
5. Describe theories associated with the decision-making process of small groups
6. Identify a variety of brainstorming techniques that can be used in the small group decision-making process
7. Understand how to manage conflict in small group settings

CLO Assessment Methods: Instructors will use a variety of methods to evaluate the CLO's listed above. Examples of assessment methods include giving quizzes/tests, requiring students to participate in small group activities/assignments with instructor reviews and peer critiques, engaging in class discussions, and writing reflections on small group experiences.

Topics to be studied:

- Socialization in small groups
- Decision making and problem solving
- Phases of group development
- Leadership in small groups
- Mediated small group communication
- Diversity in groups
- Norms and roles
- Conflict management

Relationship of Course to Program Learning Outcomes (PLO) or Institutional Learning Outcomes:

The Institutional Learning Outcome for Human Communication and Interaction is:

Demonstrate ability to create messages appropriate to the audience, purpose, and context; critically analyze messages; accomplish communicative goals (self-efficacy); and explain the relationship between culture and communication.

This course fulfills the ILOs by developing student's ability to analyze their audience (group members); organize their thoughts to communicate effectively in the small group setting; select the appropriate modes of communication for small group functionality; and improve their confidence when working in small groups.

Check if approved as: Foundational Learning Course Reinforcement Learning Course

Special requirements of the course:

None

Additional information:

(Anything else that may be useful.)

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