

## SPC 307 Group Communication

### Credit Hours: 3

In-Class Instructional Hours: 3

Labs: 0

Field Work: 0

### Catalog Description:

Prerequisite. COM 205

Interdisciplinary approach to examination of theoretical and practical dimensions of communication in small group decision-making and problem-solving situations.

### Reasons for Revision:

(Fall 2005) This course (formerly COM 307, Communication and Group Processes) was last revised in 1985. This new proposal is part of a general program review, through which Communication seeks to update its courses in light of departmental experience with the previous program version, evolving departmental needs, and expanding scholarship in the field. Additionally, the department is undertaking this revision to position itself for accreditation by the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Note: As part of this overall revision, speech and criticism courses are being re-labeled as SPC rather than COM to distinguish between the humanistic base of the newly labeled SPC courses and the applied nature of the courses that will retain the COM prefix.

<b>Student Learning Outcomes:</b> On completion of this course, students will be able to:	<b>Course Content References:</b>	<b>Assessment:</b>
1. Explain theoretical and practical dimensions of communication in various small group settings and situations	I, II, VI	1. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations
2. Demonstrate understanding of the communication process in decision-making and problem-solving group situations or contexts	I, V, VI	2. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations
3. Discuss a theoretical framework for group concepts such as conflict, consensus, leadership and groupthink	I, II	3. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations
4. Exhibit leadership abilities in group settings	I, III, V	4. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations
5. Participate effectively in group activities	I, III, IV	5. Exams, papers, applied projects, presentations

## **Course Content:**

- I. Communication in Small-Group Settings
  - A. Role
  - B. Policy recommendations
  - C. Decision making
  - D. Problem solving
  - E. Evidence and tests of evidence
  - F. Research and preparation
- II. Theoretical Foundations
- III. Managing Conflict in Small Groups
  - A. Barriers
  - B. Group think
  - C. Conflict and conflict styles
  - D. Consensus
- IV. Listening and group process
  - A. Barriers
  - B. Skills
  - C. Techniques
- V. Leadership and small-group discussion
  - A. Orientation
  - B. Norm emergence
  - C. Brainstorming and other techniques
  - D. Win-win and win-lose strategies
- VI. Applications
  - A. Family
  - B. Workplace
  - C. Social groups
  - D. Decision-making groups

## **Resources:**

### Current Scholarship in the Field.

- Barker, L.L., Wahlers, K.J., & Watson, K.W. (2000). *Groups in process: An introduction to small group communication* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Beebe, S.A., Beebe, S.J., & Redmond, M.V. (2004). *Interpersonal communication: Relating to others* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Beebe, S.A., & Masterson, J.T. (2002). *Communicating in small groups: Principles and practices* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Cragan, J.F., Wright, D.W., & Kasch, C. R. (2006). *Communication in small groups: Theory, process and skills* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- DiVito, J.A. (2003). *The interpersonal communication book* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Engelberg, I., & Wynn, D. (2002). *Working in groups: Communication principles and strategies* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Boston: Houghton-Mifflin.
- Fujishin, R. (2000). *Creating effective groups: The art of small group communication*. San Francisco: Acada.
- Knapp, M.L., & Vangelisti, A.L. (2005). *Interpersonal communication and human relationships* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Harris, T.E., & Sherblom, J.C. (2004). *Small group and team communication* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Hirokawa, R., Cathcart, R., Samovar, R., & Henman, L. (eds.). (2003). *Small group communication: Theory and practice: An anthology* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). Los Angeles: Roxbury.
- Hoover, J. (2004). *Effective small group and team communication* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Belmont CA: Wadsworth.
- Renz, M. A., & Greg, J.B. (1999). *Effective small group communication in theory and practice*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.
- Wood, J.T. (2003). *Interpersonal communication: Everyday encounters* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont CA: Wadsworth.

### Periodicals:

Applied Communication Research  
Communication Education  
Communication Quarterly  
Communication Monographs  
Communication Studies  
Critical Studies in Mass Communication  
Quarterly Journal of Speech  
Small Group Research