

COMM-1210: SMALL GROUP COMMUNICATION

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: COMM-1210 : Small Group Communication

Board of Trustees:

2018-03-29

Academic Term:

Fall 2020

Subject Code

COMM - Communication Studies

Course Number:

1210

Title:

Small Group Communication

Catalog Description:

Basic elements of communications and small group theory as employed in typical small group situation. Emphasis placed on individual's responsibility in discussion setting, focusing on development of leadership abilities within each group. Analysis of group interaction in problem-solving process for task-oriented groups.

Credit Hour(s):

3

Lecture Hour(s):

3

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite

None.

Outcomes

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize the elements of small group interaction and apply skills to improve communication in small groups.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Oral Communication: Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal communication for an intended audience that is clear, organized, and delivered effectively following the standard conventions of that language.

Cultural Sensitivity: Demonstrate sensitivity to the beliefs, views, values, and practices of cultures within and beyond the United States.

Objective(s):

1. Define small groups.
2. Explain the nature of Open Systems.
3. Recall and discuss the theories and models of small group interaction.
4. Practice effective verbal and nonverbal communication in a group context.
5. Practice effective listening skills in a group context.
6. Describe and discuss the process of team building.
7. Identify the characteristics of small group and team formation and development.
8. Explore the issues of culture and diversity in a small group context.

Course Outcome(s):

Contribute positively to the decision-making or problem-solving process in a small group.

Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:

Critical/Creative Thinking: Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information in order to consider problems/ideas and transform them in innovative or imaginative ways.

Objective(s):

1. Recognize elements of problem solving and decision making.
2. Apply effective strategies to accomplish group goals.
3. Distinguish between models of decision making and problem solving.

Course Outcome(s):

Utilize effective leadership styles and group and conflict management strategies to lead small group discussions.

Objective(s):

1. Recognize and manage conflict in small groups.
2. Identify group roles and explain their importance to group functioning.
3. List the elements of small group interaction.
4. Identify task, maintenance, and self-oriented roles in a small group.
5. Identify and manage conditions of group think.

Methods of Evaluation:

1. Examinations, Quizzes, and Essays on small group theory and principles.
2. Participation in an ongoing group in which different elements of group dynamics examined: reaction papers to these dynamics
3. Group project
 - a. Joint paper detailing students' findings
 - b. Presentation of a brief paper that describes students' role in the project
4. Group Dynamics Analysis/Application Paper

Course Content Outline:

1. Introduction to small groups
 - A. Defining small groups
 - B. Functions of small groups
 - C. Characteristics of small groups
 - D. Characteristics of small group communication
2. Groups as open systems
 - A. Systems approach to small group communication
 - i. Systems theory
 - ii. Open systems
 - iii. Complex systems
3. Foundation of small group communication
 - A. Communication principles for members of groups
 - B. Verbal and nonverbal communication in groups
 - C. Listening and feedback
 - i. Elements of listening in groups
 - ii. Active listening
 - iii. Feedback and responding to messages
 - D. Communication and technology in small groups
 - i. Computer mediated communication
4. Group formation and development
 - A. Becoming a group
 - B. Challenges in group development
 - C. Norms & roles
 - D. Cohesiveness and groupthink
 - E. Development of group climate
5. Culture and diversity in small groups
 - A. Defining diversity in small groups and teams
 - B. Diverse member characteristics
 - C. Cultural diversity

- D. Making diverse groups work
- 6. Creative and critical thinking in small groups
 - A. Defining creativity
 - B. Barriers to creativity
 - C. Enhancing creativity
 - D. Defining critical thinking
 - E. Improving critical thinking in groups
- 7. Decision making and problem solving
 - A. The stages of decision making and problem solving
 - B. Patterns of decision making and problem solving groups
 - C. Effective decision making and problem solving
- 8. Managing conflict in small groups
 - A. Defining conflict
 - B. Myths about conflict
 - C. Types of conflict
 - i. Task conflict
 - ii. Role conflict
 - iii. Process conflict
 - D. Strategies to manage conflict
 - E. Power in group conflict
- 9. Leadership in small groups
 - A. Defining leadership
 - i. Sources of power and influence
 - ii. Types of leaders and leadership characteristics
 - B. Myths about leadership
 - C. Theories of leadership
 - D. Choosing a leader
 - E. Leadership styles

Resources

Harris, T.E. Sherbloom, J.C. *Small Group and Team Communication*. 5th. Boston: Pearson, 2010.

Adams, K.L. Galanes, G.J. *Communicating in Groups: Applications and Skills*. 9th. McGraw Hill, 2014.

Beebe, S.A. Masterson, J.T. *Communicating in Small Groups: Principles and Practices*. 11th. Pearson, 2014.

Resources Other

1. Textbook selection is at the discretion of the instructor.

Instructional Services

OAN Number:

Transfer Assurance Guide OCM003

Top of page

Key: 1210