

Course Schedule

Course Texts*

Required:

Gastil, J. (2014). *Democracy in Small Groups: Participation, Decision Making, and Communication*, 2nd Edition. State College, PA: Efficacy Press. Available at <http://jgastil.la.psu.edu/democracy.html> Hereafter DSG .

Small Group Discussion Methods Fall 2020 Schedule			
Date	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
Module 1: Fundamentals of Small Group Communication			
8/17	Introduction to Class & Syllabus		
8/19	Intro to Small Groups	SGC (2012) pp 748-753	
8/21	Functions & Types of Small Groups	SGC (2012) pp 754-760	
8/24	Advantages & Disadvantages of Small Groups	SGC (2012) pp 761-774	
Module 2: Relating to Others in Small Groups			
8/26	Group Formation and Development	SGC (2012) pp 761-774	
8/28	Listening & Empathy	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 151- 154	Module 1 Reflection due by 11:59 p.m.
8/31	Listening & Empathy II	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 151- 154	
9/2	Nonverbal Communication	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 155-165	
9/4	Group Member Roles	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 103-107	
9/9	Group Norms	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 108-113	
9/11	Status/Power & Trust	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 114-121	
14	Status/Power & Trust II	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 114-121	
Module 3: Factors Influencing Small Group Communication			

9/16	Influence of Personality on Small Group Communication	Myers & Anderson (2008) pp 45-69	Module 2 Reflection due by 11:59 p.m.
9/18	Influence of Personality on Small Group Communication II	Myers & Anderson (2008) pp 45-69	
9/21	Impact of Technology on Small Group Communication	The Atlantic- Has Technology Destroyed a Generation?	
9/23	Impact of Culture on Small Group Communication	Myers & Anderson (2008) pp 71-87	
9/25	Critical Reflection: What stood out to you?		
Module 4: Managing Conflict in Small Groups			
9/28	Group Pressure: Conformity & Groupthink	SGC (2012) pp 782-786	
9/30	Group Conflict	SGC (2012) pp 786-790	Module 3 Reflection due by 11:59 p.m.
10/2	Majorities vs. Troublemakers: The Art of Persuasion	Troublemakers Part 1	
10/5	Consensus vs. Dissent	Troublemakers Part 2	
10/7	Groupthink vs. Groups of Thinkers	Troublemakers Part 3	
10/9	Critical Reflection: What stood out to you?		
Module 5: Democracy in Small Groups			
10/12	What is Democracy?	DSG Chapters 1	
10/14	What is Democracy? II	DSG Chapters 2	Module 4 Reflection due by 11:59 p.m.
10/16	Democratic Decision-Making in Small Groups	DSG Chapter 3	
10/19	Practicing Small Group Democracy at a Grocery Co-op	DSG Chapter 4	
10/21	Obstacles to Democracy Pursuing Democracy in Difficult Settings	DSG Chapter 6	Watch 12 Angry Men
10/23	Critical Reflection: What stood out to you? Challenges and possibilities	DG Chapter 1-6	
10/26	Writing day: Work on 12 Angry Men Critique	No Class	
10/28	Democracy in Daily Life/ Deliberation	DSG Chapters 7	

10/30	Reshaping Society through Democratic	DSG Chapters 8	12 Angry Men Movie Critique Due 4/6 by 11:59 p.m.
11/2	Critical Reflection:	Class Discussion of 12 Angry Men	
Module 6: Collaboration in Small Groups			
11/4	How to Develop a Discussion Plan	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 76-84	
11/6	Writing day: Work collaboratively with Group Members	No Class	
11/9	How to Formulate Discussion Questions	Beebe & Masterson (2015) pp 84-89	
11/11	In Class Workday: Create Discussion Prompts/Questions		
11/13	In Class Activity: Unpopular Opinion		
11/16	In Class Workday: Prepare Presentation Outline.		Module 6 Reflection due by 11:59 p.m.
Group Panel Presentations			
11/18	Groups A & B		
11/20	Groups C & D & E		
11/30			Final Paper – Panel Discussion Analysis Due by 4:00 p.m.